

# REPUBLICAN NEWS



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## LONG KESH HUNGER STRIKE

LONG KESH H Block prisoner William Gallagher of Strabane, County Tyrone has now spent more than forty days on hunger-strike. For all these days he has been accepting only liquids to sustain his failing health.

In a 'Downtown' Radio Interview this week his father, Brendan Gallagher, was on the point of breaking down as he described his son's appalling physical condition.

He told of how his weight had drastically reduced, from twelve stone five weeks ago to seven stone today: He told of how heart-rending it is for him to watch his son waste away.

Obviously the decision by Willie Gallagher to mount the ultimate form of prison protest, of refusing food, was not taken lightly, given the grim history of Irish hunger-strikers in British gaols. He has previously been protesting his innocence for two years.

In 1976 he was 'Diplocked' away for twelve years for allegedly bombing the British Legion Hall in Strabane.

Ever since, he has been demanding a fresh trial on the grounds that his original "trial" was a complete farce. The only evidence offered against him was an RUC claim of his verbal admission of guilt; and even the prosecution witnesses stated that he did not look like any of the men involved.

In a statement Belfast Comhairle Ceanntair of Sinn Fein have demanded the immediate release of Willie Gallagher and have pledged support for his hunger strike. The statement went on to point out that Gallagher's case was only unusual in the arrogant blatancy of the frame-up:

"In the past three years hundreds of young men, with no real evidence against them, have passed under the rubber-stamp of the Diplock Courts to be consigned to a living death in the concrete tombs of H-Blocks".

The imperial arrogance of the British seems to have no limit.

Last Saturday Brendan Gallagher (Willie's father) travelled over to Britain to further highlight the terrible plight of his

son. As he set foot in England he was arrested under 'The Prevention of Terrorism Act'.

In such ways do the hypocritical Brits heap injustice upon injustice; and all in the name of "keeping the peace".

Then last Tuesday the slavish BBC kept true to form by censoring the much-delayed play about Gallagher's trial: 'The Legion Hall Bombing'. Caryl Churchill, the play's author, protested bitterly that the BBC had "distorted" the play and that this is a "more dangerous form of censorship" than banning it.

At a London press conference 'The Defence of Literature and Arts Society' claimed that this distortion "amounts to a new and sinister form of Orwellian censorship, the perversion of art to serve the purpose of political orthodoxy without reference to the artist whose creation has been altered to produce a message opposite to that which was intended".

In fact the BBC seriously changed the play's introduction and totally omitted the closing remarks.

Where the original opening said that the Diplock Commission was set up "to find ways of dealing with terrorists other than by Internment without trial which was causing widespread disapproval" the BBC commentary said that it was set up "to find ways of bringing terrorists to justice".

Where the original version had said that the rules of evidence had been altered so that a confession was allowed as evidence "even if it was obtained by force" the BBC revised version said: "A judge may admit as evidence a confession obtained under intense interrogation".

To hear of British torture is obviously considered too "offensive" for English ears!

The banned closing commentary concluded that: "If courts can accept unsigned statements put forward by the police with no corroborative evidence and reject the evidence of a defence witness without explanation, it is reasonable to ask whether it is worthwhile

## DERRY SINN FEIN ATTACKED



Johnnie Johnson, Sinn Fein chairman, arrested in dawn swoops in Derry.

IN A MAJOR combined operation during the early hours of Tuesday morning over two-hundred RUC men backed up by Brits, raided the houses of leading Sinn Fein members in Derry arresting seven of them.

Among those arrested are Johnny Johnson, Chairman of Derry Comhairle Ceanntair; Barney McFadden, Sinn Fein organiser; Mickey Hassan, Education Officer, Ulster Executive; 74 year old Martin McLaughlin; and Sinn Fein members Danny McDonagh and Sean Doherty.

Simultaneously Sinn Fein advice centres in the Creggan, Shantallow, Bogside and Brandywell were raided.

During these raids in which the centres were ransacked the RUC/Brits confiscated documents which carried details of numerous social problems brought to the centres by local people. Also taken was expensive office equipment, not long replaced after the last raid.

This latest attack on Sinn Fein comes only days before this Sunday's mass march from Coalisland to Dungannon for which Derry Sinn Fein have played a prominent part in building support.

One of those arrested, Johnny Johnson, was expected to speak on Sinn Fein's behalf.

Although the timing of the arrests is obviously designed to upset Derry Sinn Fein's contribution to the march, the main Brit-thinking is to continue their ongoing attack against Republican political opposition to their rule.

The Derry raid follows the same pattern as those which occurred in Belfast during December 1977, the arrest and charging of Ard Comhairle member, Gerry Adams, in February 1978, and the arrest and charging of leading members of Belfast Sinn Fein in April last.

The frequent raids against "Republican News" are also part of the Brits plan to stifle the political voice of the Republican Movement.

The smashing of Sinn Fein becomes all the more imperative for the Brits as they pursue their plan of "normalisation" (which includes the criminalisation and

eventual Ulsterisation of the struggle).

Their attempts to portray the situation here in terms of a "community conflict" and their role as one of an "international policeman" necessitates the suppression of any political movement for Irish independence and unity.

If the Brit propagandists are to be believed about fighting against the "criminals", who have no political objectives, then they must remove those people who argue the political demands of these "criminals"; in this instance Sinn Fein.

The claim by the RUC that they are investigating a "link" between Sinn Fein and the Irish Republican Army provides a cover for the Brits to suppress a legitimate political party and escape criticism that they use political repression.

Their objective is to ban Sinn Fein in practice, by intimidation, but not through an open legal ban.

These constant attacks on the Republican Movement show clearly that we are on the correct path, pursuing the correct strategy.

In the tenth year of our struggle for freedom we are more determined than ever that there will be no compromise with British imperialism, no matter what the cost.

## MASS MARCH

Coalisland  
to  
Dungannon  
3p.m. Sunday  
August 27

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for the defence to put up a case at all".

The same evening as the censored broadcast the United Troops Out Movement held a picket outside the BBC TV centre in London. They correctly claimed that if Gallagher died as a result of his hunger strike it would be the respon-

sibility of not just Mason but also of the BBC; because if the uncensored play had been shown earlier this year, as originally planned then something must have been done to draw attention to his case without him having to resort to a hunger strike.



# SMASH H-BLOCK!



## MASS MARCH: Coalisland to Dungannon

Central Relatives Action Committee have organised  
Buses leaving Belfast 12.30pm Sun. August 27  
From the following venues  
Andersonstown . . . . . Busy Bee  
Turf Lodge . . . . . The shops, Monagh Road  
T.U.C.A.R. Bus leaves 52 Broadway Falls Road  
Falls Road . . . . . Dunville Park  
New Lodge . . . . . Felon Club New Lodge Road  
Ardayne . . . . . Brompton Park  
Short Strand . . . . . Thompson Street  
Seats £1.50 each. Enquiries should be made at  
85b Falls Road  
**SUPPORT THIS MARCH IN SUPPORT  
OF POLITICAL STATUS**

## Solidarity from Crumlin Road Gaol

THE Republican prisoners of war, Crumlin Road jail, send greetings of solidarity to the organisers and participants of Saturday's 10th anniversary march from Coalisland to Dungannon.

This march is a further manifestation of the continuing support by the Nationalist section of the working class in the occupied Six Counties for the struggle of Republican political prisoners to resist the 'criminalisation policy' of the British war machine.

A decade of struggle has seen the important shift from reformist to revolutionary struggle, the decapitation of the unionist monolith and decay and disintegration of British Imperialism in the Six Counties.

With our people mobilised for a fresh push against the tottering edifice of the British war machine, the Republican political prisoners in Crumlin Road jail, remain confident of a successful conclusion of the peoples' war.

## SOLIDARITY FROM DUNGANNON RAC

Dungannon RAC expresses their solidarity with the men and women "on the blanket" in their courageous fight for their right to be treated as Political prisoners. We ask everyone to support the March and Rally from Coalisland to Dungannon on August 27. Their fight is your fight.

**"Political  
Status will  
be won"**

## Brit campaign against Lennon family continues

LAST week's issue of Republican News carried the horrifying story of how young Damien Lennon was viciously assaulted by Brits and held for nine hours by the RUC after having had his jaw shattered by a plastic bullet. Young Lennons' experience was the latest in a line of attacks on members of the family since the murder of Volunteer Danny Lennon on August 10th 1976.

Since our article last week we learn that the RUC, in a despicable effort to cover their inhuman treatment of the wounded boy, have charged him with 'disorderly behaviour'. This

## Another attempt to stop truth

FOR two weeks now the prison administration have really gone out of their way to try and stop our statutory monthly half hour visit with the use of degrading, dehumanising search procedures i.e., bending men over forcefully and examining their back passage and other private parts of the body, as well as the hair, beard, mouth armpits and soles of the feet.

Today we faced a further phase in this attempt to stop visits when men who receive a visit of 15 minutes (due to the fact that they are appealing their cases), found a screw sitting beside them in their visiting box taking notes while two other screws looked on from outside the box.

When the visitors or prisoner spoke about anything

other than their appeal case the visit was terminated by the watching screws. Some families came over a hundred miles for a fifteen minute visit. One mother said to her son: "Your father is not well" and she was about to describe the illness when the visit was abruptly brought to a halt by the screws who stated that this did not concern the prisoners' case.

It was pointed out by the prisoners that they could not discuss their cases as the screws were listening and taking notes. This is only another blatant attempt to stop the truth of what is going on behind the closed doors of the H Blocks reaching the outside world, what next?

P.R.O. H5 BLOCK

## SHORT STRAND MARCH

THE Short Strand Relatives Action Committee organised a march and rally in the area on Sunday, 20th August. This march is part of the ongoing campaign to mobilise support for the political prisoners in their fight to defend political status.

The rally was addressed by representatives of the Central Relatives Action Committee, Short Strand Relatives Action Committee, and the mother of an 'H' Block prisoner.

The chairperson in opening the rally condemned the continuing harassment of members of the Short Strand RAC by the sectarian R.U.C., but the large turn out at the march showed that people would not allow themselves to be intimidated off the streets.

The speaker of the Central R.A.C. stressed that daily people saw the absurdity of the British propaganda, for would Britain have sent thousands of troops here, if they were only faced by a few criminals. No the very presence of the British troops on the streets proves that Britain is involved in a political struggle in Ireland. Therefore the people who have participated in this struggle against British Imperialism have a natural right to be recognised as being motivated by a political ideal.

The speaker for the Short Strand RAC said that the case of William Gallagher, who has been on hunger strike for 37 days exposes the fraud of the Diplock Courts, he was convicted merely on the allegation that he made a verbal admission to the RUC. This shows that the Diplock Courts were glorified sentencing Tribunals, whose only object—was to give a legal stamp to the brutal interrogation methods of the RUC Special Branch at Castlereagh.

The Diplock Courts are an integral part of the British Criminalisation Policy. The mother of an 'H' Block prisoner said that the 'H' Block prisoners had showed by their sacrifices that they are not criminals, but are soldiers involved in a War of National Liberation. The chairperson in ending the rally appealed for mass support for the march from Coalisland to Dungannon on August 27th.





## WAR NEWS

IN SUPPLIED STATEMENTS THE IRISH REPUBLICAN ARMY CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE FOLLOWING OPERATIONS:

Thursday, August 17

### SOUTH ARMAGH

A member of the Royal Marine Commandos, (The "Spearhead" Battalion) was killed, in Forkhill, when he was blown up by a remote control bomb detonated as he passed by a booby-trapped car.

He was the 283rd British soldier to be killed during this war.

### TYRONE

In a carefully planned operation the East Tyrone IRA carried out an attack on a Chief Inspector in the RUC. The attack took place outside Cookstown at Dunamore on the road to Omagh.

In a supplied statement the IRA claimed: "This RUC man was, up until twelve months ago, a special branch interrogator at Omagh barracks."

The RUC man was wounded several times during the attack.

### COALISLAND

A member of the UDR was wounded when a mobile active service unit of the IRA opened fire on him.

Friday, August 18

### NEWRY

An IRA unit planted several bombs in the Newry Bus Depot. All the bombs exploded destroying seven buses and seriously damaging several others.

Saturday, August 19

### ARMAGH

The IRA shot dead a UDR man in the main street of Keady.

In a supplied statement the IRA claimed "that the dead man was still connected with the UDR. He had been seen at roadblocks in the area."

The IRA statement denied deliberately shooting at the UDR mans' girlfriend, pointing out that she was injured by ricocheting bullets.

### Sinn Fein

### Third Annual National Seminar

"The Transition to the New Ireland"

The Annual National Education Seminar, organised by the Department of Education of Sinn Fein, is to be held this year on the weekend of the 9th and 10th September. The theme will be "The Transition to the New Ireland."

The purpose of the conference is to examine in depth some aspects of the past, present, and possible future developments in the political and social life of the Irish people. Lectures will be given on a wide variety of subjects. Most of the speakers this year will not be members of the Republican Movement.

Each Comhairle Ceantair has been invited to send two delegates to the Seminar. Further details and programme will be forwarded to Comhairle Ceantair Secretaries in due course.

Admittance to the Seminar will be by invitation only. Information is available from the undersigned.

Christine Ni Eilias, Stiúrthoir Oidreachais, Sinn Fein, 2a Lower Kevin Street, Dublin 8, Leighlin.



## ANOTHER BRIT CRACKS UP!

A startling public display of low Brit morale was given in Belfast's Queen Street last Saturday afternoon. A berserk Brit opened fire in a street crowded with shoppers.

Five shots thudded into the building (opposite the barracks) which houses the American Consulate, causing damage to the door and a radiator. It was a miracle that numerous civilians were not massacred.

Normally the raving antics of the Brits who crack-up are kept hidden from public view. But on this particular occasion no cover-up could be effected; a Brit was later reported "to be helping the RUC

with their enquiries".

Doubtless he will be shipped discreetly back to Britain - another useless piece of flotsam casually jettisoned by his former lords and masters.

## Sponsored walk THANKS!

Belfast Comhairle Ceantair Sinn Fein wishes to thank all those who once again contributed so generously to our Annual Appeal for the Prisoners Childrens Sponsored Walk.

The huge success of the Childrens Party was due entirely to your generosity.

## THE JOLLY OLD PROVO TOWN!

by Seamus Power

(Sung to the air of 'Let Him Go Let Him Tarry')

• • •

Tough old road to Crossmaglen when they meet the I.R.A.  
Up in the barrack they've no sleep at night,  
'Cause they fear the stormy and deadly Armalite.

And here's to brave old Crossmaglen,  
The jolly Provo town,  
Swears never falter to the forces of the Crown

•

When the Brits see an Irish flag  
It really makes 'em sick  
They know they dare not touch it 'cause  
There's booby in the stick  
Oh there's booby in the stick  
Yes there's booby in the stick

And here's to brave old Crossmaglen  
The jolly Provo town  
Swears never falter to the forces of the Crown

•

And all around the border town  
There's danger everywhere  
And the Brits go shaking in their shoes  
When dodging round the square  
And the war 'twill continue  
The time is coming fast  
The downfall of Roy Mason  
And his henchmen in Belfast.

And here's to brave old Crossmaglen  
The jolly Provo town  
Swear never falter to the forces of the Crown.

•

Some servile politicians  
They handed in their names  
To serve a foreign master  
A salary to gain  
Unborn generations those lackey names disown  
And they'll honour those who fought and died  
As we'll honour Pearse and Tone

And here's to brave old Crossmaglen  
The jolly Provo town  
Swears never falter to the forces of the Crown

•

Then support the cause of freedom  
From city town and glen  
And the Provo lads from God knows where  
Whack the Brits at Crossmaglen.

## \*\*\*\*\* BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

McAllister (H 4 On the Blanket)  
Congratulations Harry on this your 19th Birthday. No morning dawns, no night returns that we don't pray for you and all your comrades. God bless you always. Love Granny.

McAllister (H 4 On the Blanket)  
Greetings Harry on your 19th Birthday. May God and his holy Mother bless you and give you strength in your fight for Political Status. Thinking of you always. Love Aunt Irene, Uncle John.

McAllister (H 4 On the Blanket)  
God Bless you Harry on this your 19th Birthday. They have you in their keeping but we have you in our hearts. Love from Aunt Phyllis and Family.

McAllister (H 4 On the Blanket)  
Happy Birthday Harry on your 19th Birthday. Not just today but always we remember you. God bless you and all your comrades. From Aunt Rita and kids.



NEWS ★ DERRY NEWS ★ DERRY NEWS ★ DERRY NEWS ★ DERRY

## SAME CHARGE AGAIN!

RUC repression is nothing new to the Curran family of Lecky Road, Brandywell. One son, John, was interned for thirteen months from 1973 to 1974. From 29 December '77 to 25 May '78, he was interned on remand on a 'no-evidence' charge of hijacking.

Since his release in May '78 he has been constantly harassed by the Brits and RUC. His brother, Bernard, was lifted along with Gerry Meehan and Denis Heaney in May, this year. The torture of young Denis Heaney caused an SDLP doctor to come out and condemn RUC torture in the local press. This young man was later shot dead by a SAS murder gang.

After being lifted and threatened on several occasions since his release in May, John Curran was again lifted in the early hours of Thursday morning, 10 August, and taken to the notorious RUC Torture Centre in Strand Road, Derry, while his wife was out of the house, awaiting a visit with him; Special Branch Detectives including Branchman Martindale, one of his interrogators, raided his empty house and took away his clothes for forensic tests.

On Friday afternoon, his family was sent a message to be up at Bishop St. Courthouse for 4.30 p.m. John Curran was again being charged with hijacking, the same charge he was released on, due to lack of evidence in May.

# THE PERSECUTION OF A BOGSIDE FAMILY

The following are eleven documented incidents of Brit harassment of one Bogside family, the Griffiths of Lower Bennett Street. Mr. Griffiths prosecuted the British Army for its personnel assaulting his daughter in April 1977. (Incident one below).

From the incidents recorded here, it is clear that his daughter was not the victim of just this one incident of harassment, but she was subjected to an entire campaign of persecution, both verbal insults, degradation, and finally just before the case came to court, a four-man Brit army patrol fired a shot at Deirdre, her mother, and another woman.

When the case finally came to court in June (1978) the British Army were found guilty of assaulting Deirdre Griffiths — at the age of 13 — and fined a trivial £10. The length of time it took for this case to come to court and the trivial fine meted out to the guilty Brits are typical of British/Orange 'justice'.

### Incident One:

Between 6.30—7.30 p.m. on 3rd April 1977, Mr. Griffiths sent his daughter Deirdre to Little's shop in Hawkin Street for some razor blades. As she was going through the checkpoint at Carlisle Road, a British soldier shouted to her, "Get your knickers off" (She was then 13 years old.) She told him to shut his mouth. He said that he would shut hers, when she came back.

Returning from the shop, the same soldier was seen coming from Wapping Lane Checkpoint. He said to Deirdre, "so it will take a man not a shirt button, will it?" She said, "Yes". He then grabbed her by the throat and hit her across the face.

### Incident Two:

On Saturday (August 1977) there was an Orange march in the town. Mrs. Griffiths, and her daughters Deirdre and Debra were coming over from the

Waterside. When they got to the city end of the Bridge they heard shouting from the British Army base. On looking down into the base, they saw three Brits. (One of them had got hold of the front of his trousers and was making indecent gestures at them. They called an RUC sergeant over and he told them to go straight to the base and see the officer about it. They did this but nothing was done about their complaint.

### Incident Three:

On 21st (or 28th) January 1978, Mrs. Griffiths and Deirdre were going through the Carlisle Road checkpoint when a woman searcher said to Deirdre, "Have you been down to the boats lately?" ("Down to the boats" in Derry refers to the practice of loose women in the town, who regularly visit the merchant boats from various countries docked at the quay, to drum up their own kind of "business." Mrs.

Griffiths complained to the searcher about it and another searcher said to her, "Fuck off", and called her abusive (sexual names).

### Incident Four:

On 3rd February '78 at about 6.30 p.m. Mr. Griffiths came down Carlisle Road on his way home with his wife, his daughter Deirdre, and their three young children — and also with a fellow named Raymond Brown. Mr. Griffiths had had a few drinks and was singing. A male searcher shouted something at him so he went across the road to ask him what he said. He started to push Mr. Griffiths in the ribs with the heel of his hands, causing Mr. Griffiths to lose his temper and hit him. Mr. Griffiths was then dragged to the ground by two Brits who kicked him about the body and head. Raymond Brown tried to stop them and was kicked flying across the street by one of the Brits.

The RUC arrived and Raymond Brown and Mr. Griffiths were arrested.

### Incident Five:

At about 11.15 p.m. Wednesday February 22nd, a soldier stopped at the window of the Griffiths house and shouted, "Griffiths, the S.A.S. are going to get you."

### Incident Six:

On the 28th February, Deirdre was walking down Carlisle Road at about 11 o'clock. She had a parcel from the chemist's. A soldier shouted to her from the checkpoint across the road at Orchard Street: "Is that a bomb you have? If so I hope you fucking will go up with it."

### Incident Seven:

At 12.30 a.m. on March

1st, a British Army patrol came down the street and kicked in the Griffiths front door, and then went off down the street laughing.

### Incident Eight:

At 4.30 p.m. March 2nd a soldier shouted at a member of the family from the bottom of Abercorn Road, "When are you coming down to the camp for another cup of tea?"

### Incident Nine:

At about 4.15 March 8th, Deirdre was coming from Kelly's supermarket at the bottom of Abercorn Road. A Brit sergeant had stopped some young fellows. She knew one of them and said hello. The sergeant told her to wait there as he wanted her. He came over to her and asked her name and address which she gave. One of the lads told her that the sergeant had said to them, "See this scrubber? She will drop her knickers to anyone. If she will drop them for us, she will drop them for you."

Deirdre then went home to tell her mother.

### Incident Ten:

This next incident is clearly the most threatening incident, although by this time, from the worry caused to Deirdre by previous harassment, she had already left school and had to be hospitalised. It is significant that this incident occurred just prior to the court case against the soldier who assaulted Deirdre in Incident One.

This court case, had been postponed from January to late June 1978, although the incident happened in 1977. The family believes this postponement and the subsequent harassment was designed to coerce them into dropping the case.

On Wednesday, 14 June 1978, Mrs. Griffiths and some friends were alarmed to hear from their daughters that three men in a car had pulled a gun and had followed them. As Mrs. Griffiths stood with friends near the spot where the gun suddenly said, "Oh, look, there's the Brits across the street." Four Brits, (in

(Continued on page 10)

## Children of the Revolution



Bogside children at play outside the Republican Information Centre in Cable Street.

NEWS ★ DERRY NEWS ★ DERRY NEWS ★ DERRY NEWS ★ DERRY



# COLONEL W.W.B. TOPPING

## An appreciation by the Brigadier



MANY amongst you must have been as saddened as I to learn last week of the death of Colonel Topping in Italy. Stoical folk that you are, you have controlled your grief. Spontaneous mourning did not break out on the Falls Road; black flags did not proliferate; death notices in the 'Irish News' were remarkably few; but, nonetheless, I know that your quiet silence was, in its own way, a wonderful tribute to this outstanding bigot.

In these days of shilly-shallying, backsliding and splitting of the Unionist ranks Topping was a refreshing breath of prejudice. I well remember standing in the field at Doagh in 1948 and hearing his oration.

*"In every Protestant district of N. Ireland a fighting fund should be set up to combat the menace of Roman Catholic infiltration. The Protestant religion has two great enemies. Firstly, the Roman Catholics and the communists."* Stir-

ring stuff, and how fitting that this great man should snuff it in Italy, a country noted for its high numbers of both. And what about his Twelfth speech of 1947?

*"The enemy today is the same as it was 257 years ago — popery!"* In 1955 he urged loyalists *"to ensure that no believers in Sinn Féin are given positions that matter."* In 1957 he demanded that the Free Staters introduce internment in the South. They did. The same year he

warned that the N.I.L.P. — those wellknown commies were a grave threat to the Union. In 1959 he commended the B Specials and said that he *"had never known a better, more disciplined or more respectable body of men"*.

When he stood down as Minister of Home Affairs his contribution to his country was not at an end however, for, with his usual sense of public zeal, he appointed himself a high court judge and later, recorder for

Belfast. It was on the bench that he found his true vocation. Here was a man who took real pleasure in his work — a quality all too rare in these mercenary days — How well do I recall the look of glee that came into his beady little eyes when he got the chance to increase the sentence of some Republican or to suspend the sentence of some Loyalist assassin. Truly, it was a joy to see him at work. I know of many men and women

who had tears of gratitude in their eyes after his wonderfully partisan summing ups. The ten years or so they were to spend in jail were but a small price to pay to hear real prejudice and venom, delivered by an expert.

And now he has gone from us, leaving us only our memories and our grief. How cruel it all is! Rest in peace, Toppers! Slan lat,

THE BRIGADIER.

# THE RETURN OF OPTION TWO

by Vindicator

OVER 2 years ago 'Republican News' published an article entitled "What is Option 2" which outlined the three options then open to the British Government. They were 1) maintenance of the status quo, 2) an 'independent' six counties supported by the British and Free State governments, 3) a 32 county neo-colonial united Ireland based on a federal system of government (six plus twenty-six). Last Monday's 'Daily Mirror' editorial catapulted the option of a 6 county independence back into the forefront of political discussion.

This Editorial however had been quietly prefaced the previous week by a statement from the U.D.A. which came out strongly in favour of an Independent Six Counties. The statement was almost totally ignored by the mass media.

Following the publication of the Editorial, Glen Barr, (generally recognised as the political spokesman for the U.D.A.) issued a brief statement welcoming it. There was no immediate response from the British or Free State governments.

The only British comment predictably came from the Colonel Blimpish Airey Neave. Although the 'Daily Mirror' Editorial did advocate withdrawal of the British Army, it also contained certain subtle statements which project option two.

As has already been stated, an Independent Six Counties would require the support of the Free State as well as the British government. In the face of opposition to the Independent 6 County idea by the I.R.A., the support which the Free State government might have to lend to any new "government" formed

by establishment and pro-British elements in the occupied Six Counties might be of a military nature.

Over the past few years the Free State has been steadily building up its military forces diverting a gradually increasing amount of resources to such an objective. The development of this increased potential has been to supplement the efforts of the British war machine.

Military support for the British war effort has recently been combined with political support. Under the guise of cross border economic co-operation within the E.E.C. a growing number of Free State government ministers have been coming north to "familiarise" themselves with the "situation" in the 6 Counties.

Apart from the pandora of ultra-bigoted Loyalists such visits have become part of the "normalisation" where military and political co-operation becomes "natural" is illustrated by one of the subtle statements referred to in the 'Daily Mirror' Editorial.

*"Withdrawal by Britain would be a cowardly act, some would say. On the contrary it would be courageous. It would not mean defeat by the gunmen, but it could lead to defeat of the gunmen. A government of Irishmen is more likely to achieve that than any British one"*.

There is certainly historical precedent for such speculation — the civil war which followed the Free State settlement of 1921 when pro-treaty forces backed and supplied by the British government savagely crushed the Republican forces.

There is little doubt that the establishment

politicians and Loyalist paramilitants confident of such military and political back-up could be easily convinced that an independent Six Counties would fall within the definition of "devolved government", and little coaxing would be required to bring the various shades of Unionist opinion together whether they are, official SDLP, Alliance, UPNI, or DUP.

A second significant statement emerges from the 'Daily Mirror' Editorial, *"our final task should be to help Northern Ireland create a stable government to succeed us. To that end the troops should be the last to withdraw"*. Contrary to popular political opinion the 'Daily Mirror' Editorial offers little comfort to Republican revolutionaries, as the Irish Republican Publicity Bureau stated *"the Mirror has merely called for a change in the way Britain props up Loyalism"*. The Editorial relaunches the concept of option two with all the dangerous implications there entailed.

It is interesting to note that when the Editorial refers to *democracy is nearly dead too* it makes no mention of the continuing abuse of human rights in the occupied Six Counties, the torture techniques of the Brit war machine, the Castlereagh "shuttle service", the non-jury diplock courts or the horror of the H-Blocks.

Whatever the motive for the 'Daily Mirror' Editorial, Republicans are clear in their own minds of the one thing which the British establishment understands and will respond to — a boot on its throat, and the muzzle of an Armalite pressed firmly against its head.





WE EXAMINE HERE PROPOSALS OUTLINED IN A NEW BRIT BOOK ON 'COUNTER-INSURGENCY' WHICH WAS PUBLISHED LAST MONTH. THE BOOK IS CALLED "PEACE-KEEPING IN A DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY: THE LESSONS OF NORTHERN IRELAND".

IT GIVES AN INSIGHT INTO TYPICAL BRIT-THINKING (INCLUDING INTERROGATION TECHNIQUES) AND SPELLS OUT THE REPRESSIVE DIRECTION THE BRITISH STATE IS DEVELOPING IN.

SOME OF OUR READERS WILL REMEMBER THE BOOK'S AUTHOR; FOR IT IS WRITTEN BY COLONEL EVELEGH WHO COMMANDED THE ROYAL GREEN JACKETS WHEN THEY WERE BASED IN THE SPRINGFIELD ROAD BARRACKS IN THE AUTUMNS OF 1972 AND OF 1973.

EVELEGH, THE SIXTH GENERATION FROM

FATHER TO SON "TO MAKE HIS CAREER" IN THE BRITISH ARMY, IS A REAL SMOOTHY WITH A CAREFULLY CULTIVATED CIVILISED 'IMAGE' TO GLOSS OVER HIS EMPIRE-LOYALIST 'NATIVE-BASHING' ACTIVITIES IN BORNEO, CYPRUS AND IRELAND.

AFTER "SERVING HIS TIME" IN BELFAST, HE WAS SENT BY THE BRITS TO OXFORD UNIVERSITY TO WORK ON "PROBLEMS OF THE LAW AND THE ARMY." THIS BOOK IS THE PUBLIC RESULT OF HIS STUDIES.

ACCORDING TO HIS PUBLISHERS HE HAS NOW OFFICIALLY "RETIRED FROM THE ACTIVE LIST", PRESUMABLY TO DO MORE 'SPECIALIST WORK' FOR MILITARY INTELLIGENCE UNDER THE (TYPICAL) COVER OF BEING "A DIRECTOR OF AN INTERNATIONAL TRADING AND TRANSPORT COMPANY".



THE purpose of this book "Peace-keeping in a Democratic Society" is quite clear. It is a British army intervention in the arena of current British establishment discussion on "suppressing internal disorder." The book is intended to shift Brit political and military thinking in an even more repressive direction; it is intended to combat any tendencies towards 'slippage' English liberal thinking.

Colonel Evelegh wants the British state to learn lessons from the past mistakes of the Irish war, and to apply these lessons to "the maintenance of public order in mainland Britain", as well as "suppressing" Republicans in Ireland.

His contempt for Westminster politicians is clear and typical of his breed; interviewed last month on Belfast's 'Downtown' radio he made openly derisive references to their "devious politicking" and their fragile "cardhouses". (e.g. power-sharing).

His personal determination for the military to play a direct political role is not new. In his book Evelegh describes how five years ago "in the late summer of 1973 one battalion commander in Belfast... set up in his own battalion a 'political intelligence' cell in a separate office with the task of discovering current (secret details of) British government policy".

The combined circumstances of the officer's rank, the place and the date make it obvious that Evelegh is referring to his own attempts to interfere with British government policy (the only potential use of such an intelligence-gathering operation would have been to change the existing political direction).

A consistent theme hammered out by Evelegh is his frustration at limitations placed on military repression both by "interfering politicians" and by the need for good Brit "public relations". He echoes the well-worn Tory theme of the British army having "one arm tied behind their back".

#### COMPLAINTS

Exposing his true (blood-thirsty) colours, Evelegh considers that "on 'Bloody Sunday' there was an insurrection at which the 1st Battalion, the Parachute Regiment were guilty of failing to enforce the law rather than of exceeding it."!!

He gives numerous examples of politicians' supposed 'softness' making military repression less effective. He complains of 'no-go' areas being permitted; of not being allowed to take down street barricades; of periodic blanket

orders of no arrests in certain areas; of specific orders not to arrest certain people; of allowing salutes at Republican funerals to go ahead; and of allowing "illegal uniformed marches" to proceed.

Evelegh is too rigid and short-sighted to grasp that the 'limits' which give rise to these complaints were either dictated by political manoeuvres or by the need not to stir up further popular resistance.

He also complains of "troops standing helplessly in rows, letting themselves be stoned by rioters without response". A ridiculous suggestion which he uses to justify powers to shoot rioters dead. He wants to "revive" the riot act of 1714 and considers the repeal of this act to have been a "grave error". He goes on: "any rioter killed or injured after that (formal warning to disperse within one hour) could only be considered to have courted his fate... to have been able to say, as the riot act would have allowed, 'Disperse in one hour or be shot dead', would have quickly put an end to all rioting."

#### ST. PAT'S AND THE RVH

Another complaint is of foot patrols in uniform being sitting ducks for snipers. But this is just his justification for wanting one in every five Brits "operating out of uniform" so that they can carry out "precise terrorist-observing and -destroying activities"; his particular polite phrase for these "destroying activities" (such as the Ballysillan slaughter) is that "the security forces can then arrange reception committees".

As well as supposed 'softness' he bemoans the lack of coordination of the Brit campaign. He cites the "situation that allowed juvenile terrorists to abscond year after year from St. Patrick's Training School" (just outside Turf Lodge) because it "had no bars, and was run by monks without any warders or policemen".

Similarly writing about injured or ill Republicans being held in the R.V.H. he complains that "there were, inevitably, escapes from this hospital". For "the wards were separated from the Falls Road by a glass swing door". Yet he admits that even then (five years ago) there were more than forty Brits

permanently stationed in the hospital.

#### KITSON

Evelegh is very much a Kitson-man, both in his stress on the importance of "intelligence gathering" and in his general proposition that "to counter terrorism successfully, the government must conduct a coordinated campaign bringing into harmony its economic, political, social, legal, military, police and public relations efforts against terrorism and insurrection so that each reinforces the others".

He is worried by the current "potentially dangerous state of the legal and constitutional arrangements for dealing with terrorism and disorder".

According to Evelegh, constitutionally and legally the British military are 'officially' allowed to implement only a certain level of repression but in practical terms they carry out a much higher level; what is needed is to bring constitutional and legal regulations into line with practice; but, importantly, this limit should be much higher than either current theory or current practice.

For example, he complains that "the military have continued to be subject to the civil laws" (although in practice of course this is a joke). In order not to unnecessarily curtail the Brits' brutal enthusiasm for killing he wants total legal exemption from prosecution for Brits "suppressing civil disorder".

The central core of his practical proposals are for a series of legal measures of which "the two vital powers are those to identify the population and those to produce informers from among the terrorists".

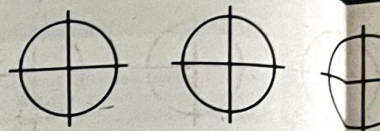
#### SURVEILLANCE

He recommends three requirements for effective "population surveillance".

The First is for "statutory authority for the police or army to conduct a census and in doing so to be able to compel all citizens to attend an interview of, say, no more than two hours" and "it would probably be best if the security forces were allowed to compel attendance at such an interview only once every six months"!! to identify each person "the physical features concerned are photographs, signatures, a few lines of handwriting and fingerprints".

As a step towards this he readily admits that "widespread photography of the population of

# "DISPERSE OR BE SH



the Republican areas of Belfast was carried out from 1971 onwards" although "there appears to have been no specific legal authorisation for this".

His second requirement for effective "population surveillance" is that the whole population should carry identity cards.

However he recognises that "the most trenchant argument against identity cards is that there is no way of countering a mass refusal to carry them".

But he goes on: "The way to ensure that people carry identity cards, even if they are totally opposed to the government, is to make it impossible for them to obtain any government services and many private ones without producing it. For example, the purchase of a railway ticket or the drawing of supplementary benefits should be made dependent on the production of an identity card...the system

in Northern Ireland whereby state benefits are paid by post should be ended. The drawing of all such handouts and as many contracts with the state as possible should have to be carried out in person at a government office with the individual's identity card being scrutinised by a soldier or policeman...life would therefore become extremely difficult and expensive for anyone without such a card. In order, moreover, to encourage citizens to safeguard their identity cards, the process of replacing lost ones should be made slow, demanding and difficult".

(A similar system of harassment by-delay already seems to apply to those on the Buro!)

The third requirement for "developing an effective system of population surveillance" would be to link all these identities and identity cards into a computerised intelligence system" and "to link private

ROBINE EVELEGH  
Peace-Keeping  
in a Democratic  
Society  
The Lessons of Northern





# IN ONE HOUR HOT DEAD"



and other government department information into the security forces' intelligence data system".

## POLITICAL COST

He considers these '1984'-type measures "to build up an accurate knowledge of every individual in the population" to be a basic necessity for defeating "subversion". But he exposes his lack of understanding of (both nationalist and loyalist) people by arguing that the political cost (for the Brits) of internment was higher than would have been paid if these measures had been implemented.

Yet to have implemented such a system would surely have kindled massive anti-Brit fires (even more so than did internment) by the very fact that every single individual would have been directly affected. Now according to Eveleigh:

"while a security census of the population in a rebellious area is the basis of all effective and precise security force action within that population as a whole, the only weapon that can destroy a subversive organisation in the end is information given to the government from within the terrorist ranks."

This brings us to the second "vital powers" Eveleigh proposes which are those "to produce informers from among the terrorists". He argues that: "inside informers seldom appear of their own volition. They have to be consciously created, usually from among members of the terrorist organisation who have been arrested."

## INTERROGATION

Eveleigh explains that the Brits decided on a policy "to arrest widely in Northern Ireland in order to contact people, because otherwise it would have been impossible to develop informers." (He admits "the legal authority for doing this ... is dubious".)

He stresses that "it is almost impossible for a questioner to interrogate successfully unless he can build a psychological link, a sort of empathy, between himself and the suspect" ('soft-soaping').

He describes how "one successful interrogator was a private soldier who can, with respect, only be described as a young 'tearaway' from East London. He used to be put to guard younger members of the IRA who had been arrested since they were sometimes prepared to say things to a boy of their own age that they would never have said to an older man. On one occasion a young member of the IRA had resisted all blandishments from older, more formal interrogators to talk, and had kept his mouth shut; he was then put on a chair to await his release guarded by this bored-looking young soldier. Clearly the relief felt by this terrorist at having successfully resisted his questioning compelled him to talk with someone. He opened the conversation with his guard by asking 'what's it like in your army?' He and the young soldier then got into conversation about what it was like in their respective armies. After an hour or two, the terrorist volunteered six foolscap pages of personal confession..."

While this particular story may seem ridiculous it does give a good indication of one type of approach Republican 'suspects' should guard against.

According to Eveleigh "there

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# MASON TRIED TO BAN IT

DESPITE this book having received approval for publication from the Brit "Ministry of Defence", Mason tried to ban it. He was unsuccessful; but there are at least four reasons why he tried.

Firstly he is opposed to anything (however innocuous) being written or spoken about the Irish war, when it is aimed at a British audience, unless it is his personally approved propaganda. A wall of silence occasionally broken with IRA 'atrocity stories' is all that he requires from anyone else.

He certainly does not want to see in print admissions like Eveleigh's that "ultimately these Catholic areas could only be governed by the British by the methods, however mollified, that all occupying nations use, to hold down all occupied territories", and that "in South Armagh, the area containing Forkhill and Crossmaglen, the ratio of deaths between the two sides at the time of writing is forty-three soldiers killed to one IRA member".

## DIRECT INSTRUMENT

Secondly, because in true Kitson style the book does attempt a 'scientific' approach to counter-insurgency. It spells out some of the grim realities of their present and future repressive plans.

Eveleigh details "the wide gulf that has developed between the theory for the control of the military and the practical realities" and how "the army, when operating in the suppression of civil disorder within the United Kingdom, acts generally as the direct instrument of the government of the day". An open admission that the Brits, far from playing the Mason-projected role of a 'neutral' law-enforcement body acting against 'criminals', in fact act as a political instrument against political dissidents.

## NO AUTHORITY

Thirdly, in order to make his case for bringing constitutional and legal frameworks into line with the practical necessities of counter-insurgency, the

book gives specific examples of the Brits breaking their own rules (or systematically doing things for which they have no authority).

For example, they have no authority to carry out a house-to-house census ('headchecking') but according to Eveleigh the practice "continued, with the army half pretending that it did not".

Also, although individual Brits have no official waiver to avoid prosecution for 'unlawful acts' he recognises that in practice they are rarely prosecuted and even then there are ways out. For example, when there were juries, he claims that "it was usually possible through the Northern Irish challenge system to procure a jury of the religious persuasion that would approve of whatever act the soldier was charged with". Hardly 'cricket'!

## HARMLESS

Fourthly, although this particular book is relatively harmless to the Brit cause, future Brit memoirs exposing, say, as Assassination activities, might be more damaging. As well as examples already given the limit of Eveleigh's embarrassing admission is such as: "the RUC have not policed the Republican areas of Northern Ireland to any significant extent since August 1969. Unfortunately it was deemed necessary at times to keep up a fiction that they continued to do so." He reveals that "a few brave constables were prepared to accompany army patrols themselves, frequently disguised as soldiers in military combat suits to avoid being singled out".

In conclusion Eveleigh claims that while Westminster understood the need to suppress the Republican viewpoint on T.V. and in the popular press, the "great strength" of effective Republican propaganda through a paper such as "Republican News" was less generally appreciated on the government side".

Obviously this is one of the lessons the Brits have learnt, as evidenced by the raids against 'Republican News' last December and this April.

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seem to be five reasons why suspects are induced to think that it is in their own interests to inform and defect: because they are tortured, because they are induced to do so by cash, because they are blackmailed into it as the lesser of two evils, because they lose their nerve, and because they are genuinely converted from their terrorist beliefs to supporting the government cause".

The degree of torture, that he is personally prepared to admit he approves of, is 'suspects' being made to suffer "a degree of physical discomfort, confinement and fear significantly greater than one would accept as appropriate in a normal civilian prison for non-subversive criminals." He claims that by using solitary confinement "the real pressure of interrogation comes from inside the suspect's own head, from his own fears, doubts, guilt, and need to discuss his problems". Obviously the brutal torturers of Castlereagh think such pressure is insufficient! (as the many bruises on their victims go to show).

## SAY NOTHING.

The importance of Republican advice to 'suspects' not only to sign nothing but also to say nothing is spelt out by what Eveleigh describes as being after torture "the next principal reason why suspects 'sing' and perhaps turn informer - namely, loss of nerve".

He goes on "the way this usually happens is that a suspect is in reality a terrorist and has a cover story which he has learned by heart and for which he has supporting documentation and witnesses. This is gone over again and again in interrogation, and

perhaps some small inconsistency appears, perhaps the story changes a little, or more probably some physical fact on being checked is found to be wrong and to invalidate a significant part of the story.

"The suspect is then confronted with a demonstrable impossibility or discrepancy in his story. He is compelled to invent an alternative lie to explain the inconsistency; but his new story is likely to reveal even more obvious lies. The suspect then has to lie again and again, until eventually he can stand it no longer and, with the obvious relief that is one of the stranger aspects of even the most incriminating confession, admits defeat and tells all.

"What is needed to achieve this breakdown by loss of nerve is time to question the suspect, time to check on every detail of his story, and time to re-question him over and over again."

## SOME COMPROMISE?

He considers that the seven day interrogation period provided for by 'the prevention of terrorism act' was "an improvement" but "it is still short."

He goes on "it is worth looking at the compromise reached in the Netherlands ... the Dutch allow a total possible period of detention for investigation of 106 days and 6 hours". Some compromise!! He concludes that "a period of investigatory detention of the order permitted by the Dutch penal code must be authorised".

He sums up this section "the key to smashing a terrorist organisation is the development of inside informers and the infiltration of their ranks. The law must make this possible and easy by a recognised and well-publicised system. The

fundamentals of this system are the right to interview, plenty of time to interrogate and persuade, and the ability to 'indemnify' defectors for their crimes committed while in the terrorist ranks."

## BRIT HYPOCRISY

For Eveleigh, everything needs to be cut-and-dried with numerous detailed public regulations for this and for that act of repression. In this way his supposedly 'legal' approach to counter-insurgency becomes a self-imposed barrier; he fails to grasp that British hypocrisy is a necessary part of their imperial rule; their soft velvet glove (shown to the world) deliberately hides their iron fist of repression.

Not surprisingly the way Eveleigh thinks is totally lacking in humanity or flexibility; his imperialist and racist attitudes also act as a barrier to his political understanding, preventing him from getting to grips with what motivates Republicans and with the grievances of the Nationalist people. (For example he describes the RUC as "extraordinarily brave hard-working and fair"!!)

Such imperial blindness is a continuing source of Brit weakness which we can continue to exploit along the road to victory; the measures Eveleigh and his breed propose might well take us straight into the '1984' era of 'big brother' but they would provoke massive armed resistance from the risen people.

Although this book is worthy of the examination carried out in this article, overall it is not worth reading in full especially as it is written in a boring style and reads something like a British army manual, and is nearly as dry.





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# POST BAG

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

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## H-BLOCK REMANDS

Editor,

Reading "the plight of remand prisoners" in "Republican News" on August 5th prompts me to write. A friend of mine, Sandy Lynch 'C' Wing H6, has told me what he does in an average day.

He jokes about his 'old beard' and says: "We've been three months or more without a wash. Sure what the neck, I don't care". He says he can't do me a hankie as he's lost all privileges. His spirit shows when he says: "That means we will never get them". His other words were "we're not giving in".

His day starts when he gets up, looks out the door and gets slopped out. He's then locked up for ten minutes until breakfast is ready. He's locked up after breakfast for about 25 minutes. "We get out at 10.00 a.m. to the yard for an hour and get locked up again. At 12.00 noon we get out for dinner. In another 25 minutes we get locked up again till 2.00 when we either get out to the yard or up to the canteen for an hour. We're locked up until 4.30 p.m. Then we get slopped out once again then we're locked up until 5.00 p.m. out for tea - 25 minutes - until 6.45 p.m. when we go up to the canteen for a cup of tea. At 7.00 p.m. we are locked up for the night." He's been doing this every day for 15 months - this, as you know, is British justice. He's not sentenced yet. "Innocent until proven guilty". It seems it does not apply to Irishmen. He tried his best to appear happy saying, "tell the gang - no problem".

H6, like the boys on the blanket can take it, but the mental strain must be terrible.

Sandy says about the men in prison in England: "I feel an awful pity for the lads in English jails, it must be terrible. I heard about the lads having a protest on the roof over there. All I can say is, how can you beat them?" Most of the time he says "It's boring" but "Morale is high". I can understand how the mothers and families of remand prisoners in H6 feel. But I try for his sake to be cheerful in all my letters. He never mentions the condition of the cell, only his "old beard" and not washing for three months or more. He is very concerned for his Mother.

I think he can tell when he sees

## THE PENTONVILLE SEPARATE SYSTEM

Dear Editor,

It has always been the case that Irish political prisoners when demanding political status have had to involve themselves in a campaign of self denial and self sacrifice, with in some instances the supreme self sacrifice - hunger strike to the death - being used.

Just over 100 years ago Fenian prisoners were being held in Ireland and England. Many were imprisoned under what was called the "Pentonville Separate system". This system of confinement was described by a contemporary of the period; "The prisoners are not allowed to see their friends outside the prison, nor are they allowed to see them inside the prison; nor are they allowed to see each other."

Each prisoner has a solitary world of his own, thirteen feet by seven. A portion of this cell is occupied by a water closet, and within 2 yards of this he takes his solitary meals, performs his solitary task work, and rests at night.

If he omits to scrub and clean out his cell every morning, or if he breaks any other law of his little world, the directors can order him to be flogged and put on bread and water for 28 days in another little world where there is no light." What was the effect of such a system?

Mr. Meador the Deputy Governor of Chatham Prison stated; "Yes, I have seen men who have come from separate confinement to whom I should be sorry to talk upon any subject with the expectation of getting any reasonable view from them. They appear as if they had been undergoing something which had so utterly depressed their system that you would no more think of treating them as reasonable beings capable of being strongly remonstrated with, than you would a man,

who was almost at the door of death."

In one year out of 852 prisoners held in Chatham under the Pentonville Separate System 85 had to be transferred to Broadmoor Lunatic Asylum.

Considering that that was 100 years ago is that system so much different from that imposed on our comrades in the H Block today? Republican POWs today in a few cases receive on 30 minute visit per month (Most receive none at all) yet Gladstone (who was British Prime Minister 100 years ago) complained when foreign political prisoners were "only" receiving one half hour each week!

Our comrades are separated from each other constantly and are allowed nothing with which to pass their confinement, e.g. books, radios, newspapers etc. While flogging is no longer practiced beatings are all too common, as is the use of bread and water diets for as long as 4 weeks.

Irish political prisoners throughout history have had to use extreme means to demonstrate their determination to be recognised as political, as opposed to criminal prisoners. Our comrades in the H Block are unfortunately no different than our many predecessors. In order to highlight the justice of their cause they have been forced to engage in a protest of self sacrifice, a protest which must rank at the moment as one of the worse ever witnessed in Ireland or indeed the world.

Republican POW,

Page 12,  
Long Kesh.

**"Political  
Status will  
be won"**

her that the strain of it all is beginning to tell on her. I keep telling him to carry on as long as he can. All we can do is protest for him and all the boys in the prison, to let them know that we care and we're right behind them, all the way!

Sandy says: "We're the risen people, we're going to win, keep telling yourself that kid". I do keep telling myself, but I already know we're going to win!

— Alison Logue,  
Corby, Northants, England.

## THREE MPs BACK BIRMINGHAM CONFERENCE

Dear Editor,

I went on a visit to Long Kesh to see for myself what the conditions were like in H-Block. When I reached the outside of the Prison it reminded me of an extermination camp. The Nazis used in the last war, with look-out towers at every corner manned by armed British Troops, wire mesh 30ft. high, with barbed wire on top, Prison officers with swinging batons and British Troops with saluting dogs.

After being searched we were ferried by bus to the inner part of the camp, after a half an hour wait we were brought to see the Prisoner. His condition was frightening, he had not washed or shaved for the past several weeks. He had grown a beard and his hair was below his shoulders. The cells in which these men are kept are saturated with urine and excrement. The prisoners have to eat their meals off their knees because there is nothing clean to put the food down on.

Wrapped only in a blanket these men are continuing to protest for Political Status. For 2 years now these men are living under the most degrading conditions. These conditions have become acceptable to everyone except Republican People. Why is it so few men of God, (the clergy) speak out against this? Why

are the politicians North and South silent. Is it that they too are all part of this rotten system! These young men are fed up with being 2nd class citizens in their own country. They want Brits out to make way for Eire Nua.

— Yours faithfully,

Tom Kenny,  
Rathvilly,  
Co. Carlow.

## FIRST IMPRESSIONS

Three Labour MPs are among the sponsors of a conference on Northern Ireland which takes place in Birmingham on November 11th.

The MPs, William Wilson, Geoff Rooker and Tom Litterick, join various other prominent Labour, trade union and socialist representatives in backing what aims to be a broadly based conference the theme of which will be "Britain's Involvement in Ireland."

Speakers at the conference will include Bernadette McAliskey, Desmond Graves, Katherine Scorer, and Karan Margolis.

Other speakers will represent the Better Life for All Campaign, Relatives' Action Committee, United Troops Out Movement, Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association, the International Tribunal on Britain's Presence in Ireland and the Women and Ireland Group.

In order to guarantee a broadly based and representative conference, we are asking all sympathetic organisations and individuals to sponsor this initiative, and participate in the planning committees, where they will be welcome to put forward any ideas they may have for making the conference a success. Sponsoring bodies/individuals will be notified of the date and time of future planning committee meetings. A pooled fare system is being adopted to help supporters from outlying Midlands areas wishing to attend planning meetings.

More information on the conference can be had by writing to the Planning Committee care of myself.

— Mary Pearson, 65 Woodville Road, Kings Heath, Birmingham 14.

## OLD SYSTEM STILL APPLIES

A Chara,

In these days of the Fair Employment Act, it's not supposed to happen - but it's no news that in Derry it still happens. A young Bogside went to the Buro to seek a job. There was one job available, Labouring, up in Creggan. The clerk at the desk was honest: "You've no chance of that job," she said.

But the young Derryman persisted, and eventually was told, "All right, if you really want to try for this job, you can go to see the boss about it." He was then given an address which was in the Loyalist stronghold of Irish Street! — No wonder he had "no chance" of the job.

— Derry Observer.

## Anti-recruitment picket in English garrison town



Members of the Colchester Troops Out Movement staging a demonstration (reported in last week's Republican News) in the garrison town of Colchester. The protestors distributed literature about the British Army and anti-recruitment material.



# ANTI-NUCLEAR PROTEST BIG SUCCESS

LAST weekend saw the first national gathering at Carnsore Point, Co. Wexford of the anti-nuclear opposition in Ireland. It was, as the 'IRISH TIMES' wrote, a "jamboree", with "the hippies and the hairy'os" combining their tone of music with the strong protest of personal attendance.

The media agreed that "5,000" attended throughout but we are convinced there was twice or perhaps three times that number billeting there, with thousands of others visiting during the day. And had not local support for the demo been so strong then the Fianna Fail Government would have almost certainly written it off as a gathering of outsiders, foreigners, subversives and freaks!

All day Saturday the "fall-out" came in the form of continuous heavy rain which sent almost everyone into their tents or the packed marquee for entertainment.

The Dublin-based "Bread and Roses" performed a brilliant play about a small Japanese fishing village's way of life (as well as life) being destroyed by a fertiliser factory which polluted the ocean and marine life with mercury. The ignorant villagers were ecstatic when tons of dead fish, easily netted, floated on the surface of the sea.

The play centred on one 9-year-old girl Aorka, who became paralysed after eating the fish and eventually died along with 14 other poor people.

During the play the audience became involved with the action and there was a big degree of empathy with the protesting families when, at a shareholder's meeting they confronted the company directors with a sample of the polluted sea-water, and demanded that they "Drink the Mercury, Drink the Mercury!"

The play showed how ordinary people are only pawns and victims in a capitalist society.

During the intervals one of the organisers said that a "rip-off merchant" outside had raised the price of his chips to 25p. He said, "We got the price of ham-burgers brought down and now we'll do the same with this

exploiter. We'll refuse to pay more than .....[audience prompts "15p"].....15p and we'll stick together. Do you agree?" And thousands of hands showed in a direct, democratic decision. The boycott worked; the price of chips fell to 15p!

The Profile Theatre group from Sligo then performed "The Cheviot, the Stag and the Black, Black Oil", which was performed in Ireland four years ago by 7-84 Theatre (7-84 means 7% of the people own 84% of the land). There was tumultuous applause for this Scottish Nationalist play. Throughout the performances and intermittent speeches a man called Pablo continually insisted on reading his "poetry".

It was with good temper and patience that he was tolerated, though masochists at the back of the marquee who weren't listening shouted "More, More!"

A duo by the name of MacMurrough sang folk and rebel songs, among them "Boalavogue".

Brian Trench of the Socialist Labour Party said that "the determination of the Fianna Fail government to implement the nuclear programme cannot be resisted by meetings and rallies...It has to be organised and can only be organised in a disciplined way". He then went on to call for support for his party, a party theme which other speakers (including the Chairman of the



A symbolic cairn. Thousands laid a stone each to commemorate those who have died as a result of atomic radiation.

by PETER ARNLIS

meeting, a member of Revolutionary Struggle) also duplicated, but which received the cold shoulder from one of the demo organisers at the Sunday meeting.

However, it is obvious that inside such a mass movement, which brought together diverse political (and cultural) groups there's going to be a toing and froing "recruiting" and "power" struggle. But the level of agreement and commitment to opposition to nuclear power was such that last weeks issue was defeated without any sectarianism - among the participating, political groups; and the courtesy augurs well for the future.



Richard Behal, Sinn Fein Foreign Affairs Bureau, speaking at Sunday's mass meeting.

Sinn Fein President Ruairi O'Bradaigh, spoke at Saturday evening's session and outlined the Republican Movement's opposition, quoting from our pamphlet "The Quality of Life". He said that "Even if nuclear power was economically viable, and we doubt it, we would still be opposed to it on life, health and environmental grounds."

Ruairi went on to congratulate the organisers of the meeting for the good job they had done.

At the Sunday session Richard Behal (Sinn Fein Foreign Affairs Bureau) addressed the outdoor meeting. He stated that in the Basque country, guerilla attacks against a nuclear power station was used by

the Spanish occupation as an excuse to draft in more soldiers.

He developed the theme that it was irrelevant if Fianna Fail was persuaded into an awareness of the dangers of nuclear power and the disposal of radioactive waste: "We are now in the EEC, like it or like it not. Fianna Fail cannot stop a nuclear station from coming to Ireland, since the construction and proliferation of nuclear stations is dictated by EEC directives. It is part of a conditioning of the Irish people to an acceptance of the EEC nuclear programme, then for joining NATO and an end to our neutrality."

Richard Behal went on to state that only a Sovereign Ireland with revolutionary power would ultimately prevent a nuclear Ireland. He said that an "anti-imperialist" war was being waged against the British-imperialists and that the struggle of the Blanket Men in H-Block deserved everyone's support. He quoted from a speech which English Tory Airey Neave had recently made: "Britain's role in NATO depends in part on having ports and bases in Northern Ireland."

He said that the armed struggle was being waged so that Irish people would be liberated and have the sovereign powers of decision making themselves. He concluded:

**NUCLEAR OUT BY BRITS OUT, AND THEN PEACE IN!"**

The Sinn Fein Leinster organiser, the notorious Brendan Goulding and his dog had a display of books, pamphlets, records etc, which he was sold out of on Sunday night. Now and Radio Na Gaetachca with a personation of RTE's coverage of the Down/Dublin All Ireland GAA Semi-Final at Croke Park. Thousands left Carnsore believing that Down had a victorious win of 3.13 over the Dubs!

Among the camp organisers were members of Wexford Comhairle Ceanntair. Bargey Cumann members also acted as traffic stewards and attendants. Sean Hartigan distributed thousands of H-Block leaflets and explained Sinn Fein policy to the many enquirers.

The final act of protest came on Sunday evening when David Nolan, Chairman of the Nuclear Safety Association led thousands of people over to the proposed sighting of the power station. Each person carried a stone which was then placed on top of a symbolic cairn to commemorate those who have died as a result of atomic explosions and atomic contamination and radiation.

There we all pledged that we would be back to resist the structure of a nuclear monster if the Fianna Fail quailings go ahead with the project.

— And we will.

## Dublin Anti-EEC lecture

PROFESSOR JEAN PIERRE VIGIER, LEADING SCIENTIST AND RADICAL ACTIVIST, WILL BE ADDRESSING A PUBLIC MEETING AT THE CENTRAL HOTEL, DUBLIN, MONDAY 28th AUGUST AT 8 p.m.

THE LECTURE WILL INCLUDE THE DANGERS WHICH THE EEC POSES INCLUDING THE EEC NUCLEAR PROGRAMME. SPONSORED BY SINN FEIN FOREIGN AFFAIRS BUREAU.



Malaya

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Malaya

# PART TWO—The role of the British army and why the insurgency failed

NOW for the role of the British Army itself. It should be clear that the role of the army was a limited one, of doing what was necessary for the physical elimination of the guerrillas. In the early years the police and paramilitary forces were too weak to cope with the guerrillas, so a lot of troops were taken down to defensive positions like safeguarding power plants, estates and mines. It was only in the later stages that they were able to move up into the jungle and take offensive action against the guerrillas.

The relative size of the army was rather small. It was only about one tenth of all the armed personnel used against the guerrillas. Altogether the total armed personnel numbered at least 300,000 out of a population of 5 million. For intelligence the military depended heavily on police and Special Branch information. Control of the military was from a joint civil and military command.

Of the three services, the army was the main one. Within the army most of the fighting was done by the infantry, because it was largely a matter of jungle warfare on foot. The use of artillery, armoured cars and so on was fairly minimal. Air support was also on a modest scale because of jungle terrain and the wide dispersal of small groups of guerrillas.

## NAPALM

In twelve years of emergency only about 30,000 tons of bombs were dropped, which is really a drop in the ocean compared with what the Americans did in Vietnam. However, air supply, as opposed to air strikes, was quite vital. This gave the British a tremendous advantage over the guerrillas who had to move from one place to another on foot through very heavy jungle, whereas the British were able to send reinforcements and to bring about casualty evacuations fairly swiftly. Planes were also used for photo and visual reconnaissance, and I have mentioned the use of napalm and chemical defoliants.

As to the tactics of the British Army, although they were organised along conventional lines, they had to adjust to jungle warfare. This was in fact forced on them both by the terrain and by the tactics of the guerrillas. Though apparently this wasn't too difficult for the British Army to do because a large proportion of the commanders and troops in fact had jungle warfare experience in Burma during World War II.

Most of the fighting was done by fairly small-sized, mainly platoon-sized units and ambush patrols, relying largely on the intelligence of the Special Branch.

By 1953, five years after the start of the Emergency, the main basis of army activity

Last week we printed Part I — The Main Elements of Brit Counter-Insurgency — of 'Britain's War against the Malayan People'. This article is a printed version of a speech given to a recent United Troops Out Movement conference in London. This week we print the concluding part of the speech.

Between 1948 and 1960, in a vicious war, Britain crushed the Malayan freedom movement.

Today Malaya is a country where the workers and peasants suffer chronic poverty and malnutrition. Draconian laws prevent any form of protest. Meanwhile a small minority grow rich, and a few foreign companies — mainly British — control some 70% of the economy, robbing Malaya of her wealth.

## THE ROLE OF THE BRITISH ARMY AND WHY THE INSURGENCY FAILED

was the food denial campaign to starve the guerrillas out so that they would become easy targets for ambushes.

### WHY FAILURE

I'll go into a very brief assessment of why the insurgency failed, or why the British strategy appeared to have succeeded.

The main reasons for the failure were, I think, political, and not primarily because of the brilliance of the British strategy. Although because of the inherent political weaknesses of the anti-colonial movement, a more enlightened counter-insurgency strategy could be applied with considerable effect.

The first reason is that since the guerrillas were adopting a strategy of encircling the countryside from the cities, a prerequisite for success is the support of the rural dwellers. Unfortunately for the guerrillas, the main support which they got from people staying in the countryside were mainly the squatters on the jungle fringes, who were of Chinese

ethnic origin. So that when the British completed their resettlement campaign of settling all these people into so-called new villages, or what were in Vietnam called "strategic hamlets", this effectively deprived the guerrillas of their basic supplies, recruits, intelligence and so on.

### DIVIDE AND RULE

The second factor — and this is a corollary of the first — was the lack of participation of other elements in the population, especially the peasantry, who were mainly Malay. There was in fact a fair bit of Malay participation, contrary to the establishment sources, and one estimate put the proportion of Malays in the guerrilla movement to be as high as 25%.

But British policies over the preceding decade had brought about an effective occupational and residential segregation of the various races in Malays. So that given the segregation there was an inevitable wall of mistrust, of suspicion, of misconception. And all this laid the basis for manipulation of racial sentiments both by the British and especially by the Malay feudal ruling class, which instigated the Malay populace against the guerrillas.

At the political level, the granting of citizenship to the immigrant races, the Indians and the Chinese, and the grant of elections, self-government and eventual independence, did erode the basis of the anti-colonial guerrilla struggle.

Lack of external support was another factor, notably from Britain. And there were no safe sanctuaries from which the guerrillas could operate.

Finally, the Korean war jacked up by a great deal the prices of raw materials that Malaya exported — the tin and the rubber. And this filled up the coffers of the British administration, without which, some people think, the British resolve to go on with the war would have weakened considerably. Because for the first four years, from 1948 to 1952, it wasn't clear which side would win. It was only after six years, by 1954, that the backbone of the insurgency was broken.

I will just make a final note that despite the official end of the emergency in 1960, over the last several years there has been a resurgence of guerrilla activity in Malaya, and the number of guerrillas has actually grown perhaps tenfold since 1960. Britain has a military treaty with Malaysia and it is possible that one of these days this treaty might be invoked to bring the Brits back. Perhaps not on the previous scale, but nonetheless bringing them back to fight another insurgent war.

Malaya

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Malaya

## PERSECUTION OF-FAMILY

(Continued from page 4)

uniform), were standing just below Long Tower Chapel, crouched on their hunkers. Despite the late hour, (nearly 1 a.m.) they were clearly visible because of a powerful street light directly over them.

Immediately afterwards, a shot was fired at the women by these Brits. The women ran for cover, diving

into the nearby entrance-way to the Dove Gardens flats.

The shaken women — (the group included young Deirdre Griffiths) — were even more frightened due to the history of threats against the Griffiths family, including the sinister "The S.A.S. will get you." Such threats cannot be "laughed off" — as jokes in poor taste

— particularly since just the day previous thousands of mourners laid Denis Heaney, the latest S.A.S. assassination victim, to his final rest in the City Cemetery.

### Incident Eleven:

On Friday night, June 16, the Griffith family were subjected to a sudden intrusion of the kind they have come to expect but not welcome: a British Army raid. Mr. Griffiths

went out to see if he could get the registration number of the vehicle — and found that there was no registration number plates.

Inside, his wife noticed that the Brits had no insignia markings on their uniforms — neither rank nor regiment. She was about to comment on this, when she recognised one of them as possibly being one of those who fired on them two nights previously. Mrs. Griffiths pointed this out

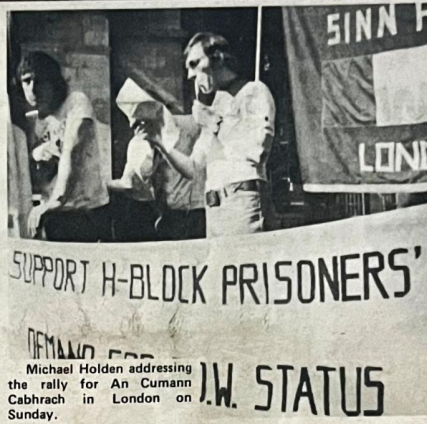
and the Brit in charge turned pale, and immediately ordered his men out and they left as suddenly as they had come. Obviously, this raid was part of the continuing vendetta against this family.

Such tactics against an entire family, with the consequent disruption and anguish inevitable, are typical British Army policy: intimidation and coercion of the nationalist population.





Kevin Colfer, Chairman of London Sinn Fein, speaking for London Sinn Fein.



Michael Holden addressing the rally for An Cumann Cabhrach in London on Sunday.

## AMSTERDAM H-BLOCK PICKETERS CHARGED

AFTER an occupation of the British Airways office in Amsterdam by members of the Ireland-Netherlands Solidarity Committee, Dutch police arrested the protesters.

They held them for 77 hours before eventually charging them with "taking hostages, like the South Moluccans" (to quote a policeman). The actual charge is holding people against their will. The evidence for this is that a small chain and lock held the entrance door of the Airways office closed while the picket lasted.

During the picket the Airways personnel became very aggressive. One of them broke the chain and ran for the police.

When the police arrived the picket was almost over. But they were very hostile and man-handled the protesters into the back of protesters eventually appeared in court.

The judge granted bail with great reluctance. The picket was staged to draw attention to the H-Block prisoners struggle.

It is obvious from the reaction of the British Airways personnel, the police and the judge that the establishment are going to use sterner measures to try and silence those protesting on the continent of Europe about British torture in Ireland.

## London rally commemorates internment

LONDON Sinn Fein held their Annual Internment Commemoration on Sunday August 13th.

The rally, which assembled at Hyde Park Speakers Corner, was attended by Sinn Fein Cumann from all parts of Britain, including Halifax, Manchester, Birmingham, High Wycombe and St. Albans. Supporters also travelled to London for the rally from Watford, Hemel Hempstead and Walsall.

The James Connolly Flute Band with one hundred supporters from Glasgow, also marched. Before setting out from Hyde Park on the six mile march through central London to the Thames Embankment, the rally was addressed by supporting speakers from several British Left Wing organisations, and also the Irish Republican Socialist Party.

Having assembled at Hyde Park, with banners and placards, the marchers set off down Oxford Street led by the James Connolly Flute Band.

Several hundred London police lined the route and in Hyde Park infiltrating the crowd were plain clothes policemen. Police Inspectors ordered the Connolly Flute Band to remove their dark glasses and green berets before setting out. One elderly grey haired man was

dragged from the crowd by three policemen for refusing to remove his sunglasses.

This attitude was in stark contrast to a march held several weeks ago, by members of the fascist National Front, who wore dark glasses and uniforms.

On the Thames Embankment the Rally which had now grown to well over 2,000 strong was addressed by London Sinn Fein Chairman Kevin Colfer, who introduced the main speaker Niall O'h-Aogain, Ard Comhairle, Sinn Fein, who flew to London to attend.

Other speakers who addressed the Rally from the platform were Jackie Kaye, Secretary of the Prisoners Aid Committee and Michael Holden, Secretary and National Representative of Cumann Cabhrach in Britain.

A speaker from the United Troops Out Movement in

London, also addressed the meeting. He promised that the prisoners will not be forgotten in the expected Westminster October election. He claimed that U.T.O.M. will be organising a march in Barnsey to remind Mason's constituents that he is a murderer.

All the speakers attacked British government policy on Ireland, particularly the case of the prisoners in H Block, Long Kesh and the ill-treatment of political prisoners in British gaols.

Throughout the meeting, the speakers detailed the campaign of terror the British army had waged in occupied Ireland over the years.

Niall O'h-Aogain outlined the horror of the H-Blocks and the systematic brutality meted out to Irish Republican prisoners in British gaols.

Jackie Kaye for the PAC said the men on the blanket were spearheading the campaign for political status for all Irish Republican prisoners. Their campaign was a just one and would be victorious. She called on all present to give their total

support to their demands.

Michael Holden speaking for An Cumann Cabhrach said 'That because of the censorship of the British press and television networks it could be argued that people could not be blamed totally for not being aware of the full horrors of H Block and the victimisation inside British prisons. The very presence of so many British organisations at the rally showed their support and solidarity with the men in H Block and the prisoners in gaols in Britain'. He continued 'We are proud to have you with us. We cannot promise any of you in the year ahead that you will not suffer if you champion our cause. You may be imprisoned, you may be deprived of your employment. It has happened to us. You may be next. This comrades, is the terrible price we must pay for our freedom. We need your support. British colonial policy has always been to divide and conquer. Together, comrades, we can beat them at their own game'.

During the rally a collection for An Cumann Cabhrach totalled the sum of £331.



A member of the Brittany solidarity group handing leaflets to French tourists going to Ireland through Roscoff (Brittany). The leaflet informed the French visitors that Ireland wasn't only a country of good music, scenery and Guinness, but also a country where a war for freedom was being fought.



Part of an exhibition, displayed at a wine tasting competition at Pontivy. Many hundreds took a keen interest in the 'H' Block prisoners struggle.

**SOLIDARITY  
IN  
BRITTANY**



British tourists passing through Port St. Malo in Brittany are reminded about their governments policy in the occupied Six Counties.



# GREEN CROSS 73

**SUPPORT  
GREEN CROSS 73  
COLLECTION**  
Sunday 27th. August

**SUPPORT  
GREEN CROSS 73  
COLLECTION**  
Sunday 27th. August



ALL ENQUIRIES TO: THE SECRETARY  
GREEN CROSS 73  
11A SPRINGFIELD ROAD  
BELFAST

TELEPHONE.....29635.

## IN MEMORIAM

Volts McNulty and McGorrian (4th anniversary)  
*We love them yet  
We'll not forget  
The Felons of our land*  
McNULTY AND MCGORRIAN  
CUMANN, CASTLEWELLAN

## Goss and Gaughran Commemoration

THE Annual Commemoration took place in Dundalk on Sunday 13 August. With very bad weather the crowd was exceptionally large. Chief Marshall was Pat Duffy, Chairman was Fra Browne UDC & MCC. Oration was given by George Lynch Ard Comhairle Siúin Fein. The march was headed by Na Fianna Éireann, Cumann na mBan and Cumann na gCailíní. The Wolfe Tone Band provided the music.

In his oration George Lynch called for continued support for the men on the blanket in H Blocks, who he said fought the same enemy as Ritchie Goss and Liam Gaughran.

## An Cumann Cabhrach

Belfast Comhairle Ceanntair Sinn Fein, calls on the people of Belfast to show their solidarity with the Republican PoWs struggling for political status by attending the Mass March from Coalsisland to Dungannon this Sunday August 27 a 3.00pm.

The An Cumann Cabhrach Committee in England wish to acknowledge with thanks the following financial contributions from supporters at home and abroad.

Halifax Sinn Fein	£5.
Manchester Sinn Fein	£10
Éire Nua Club (Australia)	£60
Alaskan Support Group	£25
Padraig O Droighneain	£5
Isabelle Lazic (Scotland)	£5
"Anonymous" (London)	£5
Nottingham Sinn Fein	£60
Is mise Michael Holden (Cisteoir)	

## NOTES BY CORMAC

WE'VE HAD TOO MANY COMPLAINTS, INSPECTOR, ABOUT YOUR TREATMENT OF SUSPECTS! ALLEGATIONS OF TORTURE! BRUTALITY!

BUT YOU TOLD ME....

SILENCE! THE SECRETARY OF STATE IS UNDER PRESSURE! THERE IS GOING TO BE A THOROUGH INVESTIGATION OF THESE CHARGES!

I HAVE NOTHING TO HIDE --- MY HAND ARE CLEAN!

MM-M... BUT WHO WOULD BE BEST FITTED TO CARRY OUT SUCH AN INVESTIGATION?

IF I MIGHT BE SO BOLD, SIR... I, MYSELF, AM WELL EQUIPPED TO

GOOD THINKING, INSPECTOR!

SOME DECADES LATER....  
HERE WE ARE, SIR. A COMPLETE AND DETAILED REPORT SHOWING THAT WE ALWAYS ACT WITH KINDNESS AND LOVING SYMPATHY!

WHAT A RELIEF!

A THOROUGH INVESTIGATION OF COMPLAINTS OF ALLEGED ILL-TREATMENT OF EVIL-TERRORISTS HAS SHOWN THAT THE COMPLAINTS ARE THOROUGHLY WITHOUT FOUNDATION BLAH BLAH THOROUGHLY BLAH