

an gíall

DEERRY BRIGADE

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM THE

Derry Brigade Oglach Na hEireann takes this opportunity to extend their thanks and good wishes to all our supporters and everyone who helped our struggle for freedom in the past six years. To our comrades in prisons throughout Ireland, England, America, we send our eternal praise for your courageous stand against all the odds. The prisoners and their families are deserving of all our admiration for the particularly hard burden they have to bear, especially at Christmas time when families should be together. Their strength is an inspiration to us all and typifies the determination of the Risen People in their fight against seven hundred years of British Rule.

This past year has seen a mighty effort, by the British to defeat our struggle for independence, they have tried every possible means, by using massive military force which included murder, raids on homes, intimidation, beatings to name but a few, by using their Propaganda machine to its full capacity at a cost of hundreds of thousands of pounds in an effort to slander and degrade our cause, by using the dregs of society to torture young Irish boys and girls in the safety of their fine new R.U.C. barracks on the Strand Road and other R.U.C. barracks throughout the six counties.

By using layabouts to hold our volunteers in the most degrading of conditions in various prisons in England and Ireland.

By using foolish women who allow themselves to

be used as part of Britains effort to show the world that it's not Britain's fault what is happening in Ireland and that if the I.R.A. would surrender then jobs would soar, foreign investment would improve and everything would be rosy in the garden, forgetting of course that there never was work, that the B.S.R. came and went leaving thousands unemployed, that in our own city a unionist minority could rule over a Nationalist Majority when will these women ever learn, or maybe the rewards are worth it as in the case of Margaret Doherty who seen to it that her son got a job....In the R.U.C. Training depot in Enniskillen. We know Margaret's reason for wanting peace.

All these tactics have failed miserably as they have failed consistently from year to year. They have failed because Irish freedom fighters refuse to yield to all attempts by Britain to rule our land, and will continue to make British rule impossible, no matter how long it will take and despite all the tactics new and old that the British have tried so unsuccessfully.

For the past six years Oglach Na Heireann have shown consistently that they will not allow themselves to be diverted from the main objective of a declaration of intention from Britain. That she will leave our country militarily and politically. We are confident and totally convinced that our Liberat-

ion Struggle can never be defeated, or capacity to continue the war is unlimited our volunteers are totally dedicated and committed to Ireland's fight for freedom and have proved to the world that armed struggle in Ireland will never cease while Britain stays in Ireland. We find Roy Mason's predictions that 1977 will be the year that the net tightens on Oglach Na hEireann so typically stupid of the attitude of previous British Politicians, we ask sincerely who do you think you are kidding, Roy Mason, are you really living in your own little world of make believe, where like all other British Politicians you think you can defeat us militarily, you can never defeat this new breed of Freedom Fighters, we shall not allow you, we shall fight on, we do not care how long it or what measures you use against us, Britain has tried them all before, so we ask you seriously to face the fact that your Security Forces are defeated your willpower to stay is no longer as strong as you claim, pack up all your influences in our country and get out of Ireland. Failure to do this means prolonged Guerilla Warfare against your troops which will lead eventually to British withdrawal anyway. We believe in Ireland united, Gaelic and free, we shall continue our war against Britain's interference in our country with the knowledge that Britain can never defeat this new breed of Irish volunteers. To all our comrades and supporters, God Bless you all, victory is in sight.

'H' BLOCK! T THE BURN ON YOUR CONSCIENCE

SEAMAS KEENAN
Cage D.
Magilligan Camp.

Now that the first three Derry men imprisoned for their political activities have been denied political status, is it too much to expect that the people of Derry will make their opposition to such an inhuman decision forcibly felt?

Because of their idealism and abhorrence of injustice, Gerald Deery, Denis Nells and Hugh McCann now find themselves at the mercy of vicious Prison Officers who delight in inflicting gratuitous punishment. These three young lads, with many of their comrades, have already suffered unduly in Crumlin Road Gaol where a virtually unchecked reign of terror exists, and that is not idle speculation, the facts of prison brutality, and especially that practised in Crumlin Road, have been well documented by, among others, Fr. Denis Faul.

Now, after sentence, these three Derry men have been handed over to the tender administrations of Long Kesh warders, who are among the most violent and bigoted prison officers serving in the North's prisons. These three prisoners will endure further indignities, brutalities, and evils in the Long Kesh cell-blocks. Absolute solitary confinement, seeing only hostile prison officers, hearing only hostile prison officers, totally alone, in an empty cell.

It is indeed ironic that such calculated violence against defenceless prisoners has yet to receive a mention from the many peace platforms. All those marching ladies have consistently ignored the daily violence meted out to young men and women in the North's prison camps.

Are the peace people

unaware of such violence, or are they merely duplicating the Brits propaganda that there can exist an "acceptable" level of violence" in the community. In other words, Establishment violence is justifiable and as such can be tolerated. Only those who struggle for freedom are deserving of condemnation. Oppressive violence is unacceptable, liberating violence is wrong.

Our so-called representatives steadfastly repeat the old cliché that our young people are misled. But if that were the case, would not the very thought of the barbarities of prison life in the North make these young people change their minds. And yet, all the horrors and torments of prison life cannot weak-

en these young peoples' determination and commitment to the cause of freedom, a fact which should shame the weak and silence the cynical.

While all the globe-trotting Peace People and their camp followers jet from Europe to America and back, young Irishmen lie naked in Long Kesh, their heads forcibly shaved, in constant fear of unprovoked brutalities, denied every human right, including family visits, without even the minor solace of peace from aggression. Totally alone, in an empty cell, cold, hungry and frightened, yet determined not to submit to Britain's dehumanising terror. Is this to be the lot of these young prisoners? Must they

endure such inhumanity? Conditions that if they existed in any other part of the world, would have all the clergy, politicians, and assorted liberals clamouring for redress. But then, Ireland is Britain's colony, and if those "respectable" Irishmen

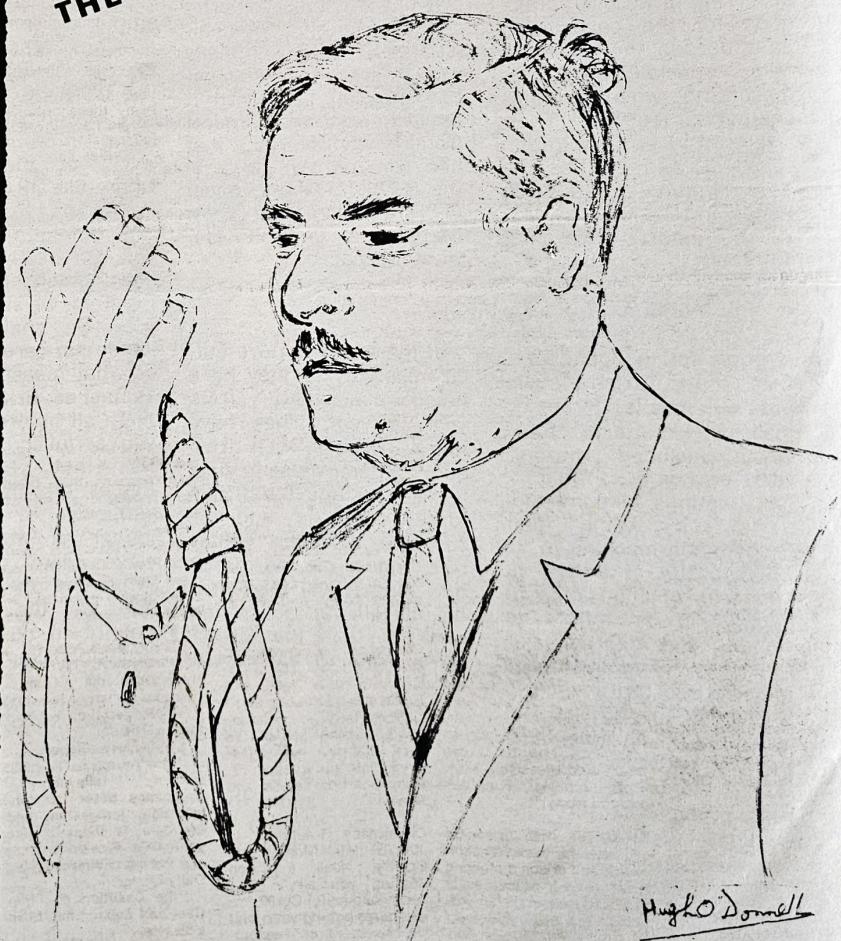
were to call in question British responsibility for political prisoners, then the whole question of Brit occupation would arise, and that would never do. For Britannia still rules the waves of 'Peace' marchers who flock unto our streets at the drop of a British army publicity hand-out.

The young men and women who suffer in prison are the true seekers of peace, of peace with justice, and it is the recognition of their heroism and dignity in the face of overwhelming cruelty which should inspire the Irish people. They have suffered, and will continue to suffer, for the sake of the people of Ireland.



MY FAVOURITE
FAMILY
HEIRLOOM

THE MURRAY JUDGE



Mac Pherson's Farewell

James McPherson, whose tragic death was to give rise to such a wealth of legend, was recruited into the service of an affair between a Scottish gentleman and a gypsy woman.

After his father's death, he joined his mother and her roving companions and over a number of years acquired a reputation as a man with the men of property over a wide area would like to interview.

In the autumn of 1700, he was seized at a market and, in tribute to his reputation, was kept under exceptionally strong guard. Charged with the terrible crime of "going up and down the country armed" though no single instance of causing bloodshed could be laid against him, he was condemned to be hanged. And, in order that the maximum number of people would witness justice taking its course, he was to be hanged during an afternoon market.

Tradition tells that before he was executed on November 16, 1700, he played a lament on his fiddle. Then, holding up the instrument high, he offered it to the gallows, anyone who would think well of him. Nobody spoke up and, smashing the fiddle, he threw it into the open grave beside the gallows.

A number of versions of "Mac Pherson's lament" have been claimed to be the original tune played by him on the gallows.

A 32 COUNTY SOCIALIST REPUBLIC

*A Sleighful
of Good Wishes to Friends
Old and New*

CHRISTMAS

Magilligan Political Prisoners Welfare Committee extend sincere Christmas greetings to all Irish political prisoners incarcerated in Irish, English, and all foreign gaols to our brave prisoners of conscience in your fight for political status we pledge our support.

We love them, yet, We can't forget, the fellons of our land.

Special Christmas Greetings.

To Shane Paul O'Doherty, Wormwood Scrubbs. Of the Finest and true there are many. Shoulder to shoulder with your comrades. Irish hearts support you ever.

Victory is yours. And Irelands.

From Five friends who are joining the struggle U.T.P.

Doherty, Johnny. (Hospital wing, Crumlin Goal P.O.W) Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

"We declare the night of Irishmen to own their country....its parliament... Its throne."

A happy and free New year - from Carmel.

Christmas Greetings. To Martin Connolly P.O.W. (Cage F). Magilligan. Wishing you a very happy Christmas. Hoping to see you soon. Love from Christine, Patrick, John, and Mary. (U.T.P.)

Christmas Greetings to Fra McCann Magilligan P.O.W. Camp. A felons cap is the noblist crown an Irish head can wear. U.T.P. Chas.

Christmas Greetings. To all the lads in Cage F Magilligan. They can break our bodies but never our spirits. Hope you all will spend you next Christmas in freedom.

From Mary and Bella (U.T.P.)

Christmas Greetings To Marie McGuire political Hostage, Armagh Gaol. 'Take it easy this year and don't BANG no doors. See you soon. Charlie, Teresa and family.

Christmas Greetings to Alan Patterson H. Block Long Kesh. We stand by you all the way in your fight for political status.

Joe Bridgeen and family.

Christmas Greetings to Kevin and Matt Campbell. Long Kesh and Crumlin Road. Ireland unfree shall never be a peace.

Mother, Father, Rosin, Michael and Veronica.

Christmas Greetings to Kevin and Matt Campbell. Long Kesh and Crumlin Road. When the war is over and the Provos they won. You can hang your head up high for the part that yous have done. U.T.P. Mary and Jackie.

Christmas Greetings TO Mickey, Hugh, Tony, Patsy, Danny, Jim, political hostages. Magilligan POW. Camp. Merry Christmas and freedom soon to us all From Lynn.

Christmas Greetings to All the girl's A company Armagh Gaol thinking of you's and wishing you's a Happy Christmas and Freedom '77.

From Lynn and Nuala and Sheila and Rosemary.

Christmas Greetings to Noel, Jim, Charlie, Eamon, Political hostage Crumlin Road Gaol. Merry Christmas and Freedom '77.

To Denis Mc Feeley Magilligan P.O.W. Camp. Very best and warmest greetings. For a JOYFUL Christmas Denis - We are proudly behind you and your gallant comrades God Bless and keep you all. Freedom is being won. By good men and true. Dannie.

To Marian Coyle Rose Dugdale. Rita O'Hare. Marie MURRAY: Marie Murray. Angela Duffin. Ann Boyle. Wishing you all a very joyful and peaceful Christmas from the Coyle family. Liberty '77.

Christmas Greetings to Alan Patterson, Hostage H-Block Long Kesh. Concentration Camp. A felons cap is the noblist crown an Irish head can wear - God Bless you Alan. From Johnny, Kathleen and children.

To all the Irish prisoners of war in concentration camps and prison dungeons. Keep up your proud hearts at Christmas we are with you all the way - Freedom 77 from Ma. Sheils and family.

Christmas Greetings to political hostages and prisoners of war. Best wishes of the Christmas season to all you brave men and women. Irelands cause is firm and true. From Eileen Collins. (Nee Sheils).

To Seamus Keenan, Giddgy Hagen Jim Greene. Wishing you all the very best for Christmas and throughout the New year. From Philip and Paul.

To all the girl POW's in Armagh Gaol. You are always in our hearts and in our thoughts. A very happy Christmas to all you brave courageous Girls. From-Neil, Marge, and family.

To Paul Dudd political hostage H-Block Long Kesh Merry Christmas and a Happy New year Paul. May your next be spent celebrating in Freedom. From-Mum, Dad, Brendan and Noel.

To Paul Dudd political hostage H-Block Long Kesh Happy Chrismas Paul, and best wishes in the New Year - who knows but you could be spending you next in Freedom.

From-Susan, Maurice and family.

To Patrick Coyle, C Wing Crumlin Road Gaol. Wishing you all happiness at Christmas and political status in the New Year. We are right behind you all the way. From all the family.

Christmas greetings to Martin Connolly POW. Cage F Magilligan concentration camp. Hoping fondly you will be here with us for next Christmas. God Bless you Martin. Love and best wishes Mary and Bella. U.T.P.

Christmas Greetings to Matt Campbell C wing Crumlin Road Gaol, and Kevin Campbell Long Kesh Concentration Camp. Merry Christmas and a very happy new year to you both and freedom 77. from Charlie, Teresa and family.

Christmas Greetings to Jim Begley, Marcus Mc Crystle Noel Ferguson wishing you all a very happy and joyful Christmas and heres hoping your next will be spent in freedom. From Charlie.

Recently we have seen an 'Independence' document drawn up by the ULCCC; which consist of various Loyalist Para-military groups excluding the UDA. Question; can we accept the policies drawn up by this organisation?; the answers is a definite no, by even thinking that their policies may work, is accepting total defeat at the hands of Loyalist bigots. We must take into consideration the type of State they say that they shall run, and the type of State they would actually create.

Most of our older generation have existed under Orange rule for the past 50 years but our younger generation have only witnessed the past few years of Orange power, so they can only imagine what it would be like living here with such people in full control of the regular army, namely the Protestant UDR, and also the regular police force, the Protestant RUC. How can we trust people who have given total backing, orally and financially to these forces, who since 1969, have beaten and murdered the Catholic people in mass numbers, backed up by forces such as the UDA, UVF, UFF, etc.

Without the Irish Republican Army these organisations would have invaded the nationalist areas of the 6 Counties long ago and annihilated the people within them. Only their strong respect of the ability of the Republican Movement has kept them from doing so.

The ULCCC now knows that Mother Britain is on her knees and time will send her back across the Irish sea to where she belongs. Now they are trying to set up a State where we would be neither Irish nor British but just plain nobodies. Britain is doing the same to the 6 Counties as she has done in so many other countries in the past. She is backing out leaving a majority in the minority, who in reality have nothing to fear, but because of the carnage they have indulged in over so many years, hard and bloody years, will not yet accept their true national identity - Irish. The road they now wish to tread is the setting up of a Rhodesian style State which shall be resisted by all the forces of the Republican Movement, and having beaten Britain, we shall most certainly beat them. The war shall remain active for as long as the British remain, and the forces of the Republican Movement will defeat the imperialist Government of Britain. Then the task of reunification will begin. The removal of the Free State Government is a must.

The message to the people is to brace yourselves and carry the struggle. Then your children will live in peace, the peace you never had the chance to see or enjoy.

JOHN TOHILL,
Cage 'D'.
Magilligan POW Camp.

Comment

"The government were saved by a man whose only discernible political ambition is the severance of one part of the United Kingdom from the rest."

Conservative MP commenting on Mr. F. Maguire's vote which saved the Labour government from defeat.

"A South-African missionary said last week that Provisional IRA men have been fighting alongside black guerrillas in Rhodesia and South Africa."

Sunday News Report.
"Recently the UVF [who have been on a ceasefire for many months] have pledged their support for the RUC."

Sunday News Report.
"The American Political system, following pregnancy beset by constipation, indigestion and boredom, is about to give birth to a President Jerry or a President Jimmy."

Daily Mirror.
"The Coalition of Fine-Gael and Labour has been a disaster."

Sunday World.
"I have a lot of time for the people who were making allegations about the army in the area at that time. The army refused these allegations saying that they were IRA propaganda. They were not; there was a lot of truth in them. I think these people should be listened to more."

"the UVF are bar-room gangsters who are not real loyalists."

UVF statement.
"I am out of the Parliamentary circus now. It was the lowest level of politics."

Mrs. Bernadette McAliskey.

"I have a lot of time for the people who were making allegations about the army in the area at that time. The army refused these allegations saying that they were IRA propaganda. They were not; there was a lot of truth in them. I think these people should be listened to more."

Mr. Christopher Hendley the ex-Para who served in Ardoyne in 1973.

Christmas

Christmas Greeting to Patrick McGlinchey P.O.W. Magilligan Camp. We may have great men but we'll never have better. From Richard Kay. You're always in our thoughts.

Christmas Greetings to Peter Harte. P.O.W. Magilligan Camp. From Carmel and Kay Nash Our thoughts are with you and your comrades at Christmas.

Christmas Greetings to Gary Page P.O.W. Magilligan Camp. Wish you a happy Christmas. God speed the day When you're on your way. To your home in the Brandywell. From Rosie Cathy and Isobel.

Patrick McGlinchey POW Magilligan Camp. Christmas Greetings to our son Patrick. Out of the ashes rose a provisional and he fought. Love from Mum and Dad.

Patrick McGlinchey POW. Magilligan Camp. We'll be thinking of our big brother at Christmas. You're a brother in a million one that stands out in a crowd we're proud of you. Love from Eileen and Eamon

Patrick McGlinchey POW. Magilligan Camp. Christmas greetings to Patrick. We never will forget them. The felons of our land. Love from Tommy Marian and Joseph.

Paul Duffy H-Block. Long Kesh A very merry Christmas and a happy new year - We hope your next Christmas will be one spent in freedom. God Bless You always. From Bernie and Seamus.

Desmond Walmsley Cwing. Crumlin Road. A merry Christmas and a very happy new year Desmond to you and your comrades. God grant that your next one will be celebrated in freedom. We are very proud of you all. From Bernie and Seamus.

Christmas greetings to Matt and Kevin Campbell P.O.W. Long Kesh and Crumlin. A felons caps the noblest crown all Irish heads can wear. Madeline, Johnny, Joanne, Charlotte, Ann Marie.

Christmas greetings to Alan Patterson H-Block Long Kesh. Keep on the fight for Political Status. Johnny.

Christmas greetings to Matt and Kevin Campbell P.O.W. Long Kesh and Crumlin Road. When the war is over and the Provos they have won You's can hold your heads up high for the part you have done - Johnny.

To ALL THE LADS IN CAGE D have a merry Christmas from Pat McCarron.

To Marie Maquire Eve Brady and all the girls in Armagh from Cathy, Brian and Son.

Christmas greetings to Frankie Doherty and all. Irish P.O.W. from Lynch Moyne McDaid Sinn Fein Cumann.

To Alan Patterson H-Block Long Kesh. Christmas and new year greetings we support you in your fight for Political Status.

Love Kathleen and Micky Tina and Jim.

Christmas Greetings to Billy Brady. Cage D Magilligan Camp. From all at 31. We love them. Yet we can't forget the felons of our land.

Pat Lynch Hut 13 Cage D. Magilligan P.O.W. Camp. A happy Christmas Pat. We are thinking of you. Aunt Annie, Dan and Mary

Pat Lynch Hut 13 Cage D. Magilligan P.O.W. Camp. A happy Christmas and new year. From Mary, Seamus and family.

Pat Lynch Hut 13 Cage D. Magilligan P.O.W. Camp. Happy Christmas Pat and may the new year bring freedom From Betty, Joe and Family.

Christmas Greetings to Kevin Campbell Long Kesh P.O.W. Camp. When the war is over and the Provos they have won you can hold your head up high Kevin for the part that you have done. Veronica and Willie.

Christmas Greetings to Willie Taylor and Phil O'Donnell. Portlaoise Prison. It will not be long until another August wedding eh Veronica and children.

Christmas greetings to All political hostages in English and Irish gaols. From Veronica and Willie.

Christmas Greetings to Matt Campbell C wing. Crumlin Gaol. A felons cap is the noblest crown an Irish head can wear U.T.P. from Veronica and Willie.

Patrick Doherty P.O.W. Magilligan P.O.W. Camp. Christmas greetings from Aunt Helen deprived of the many joys of Christmas but you have deeper joy which will sustain you and bring you great happiness. God bless you.

Patrick McGlinchey POW. Magilligan P.O.W. Camp. Christmas greetings from Helen. God bless you with happiness this Christmas your kind of happiness.

Paul Duffy H-Block Long Kesh. Merry christmas happy new year Hope your next one is spent in freedom. From Martin, Mary and family.

Desmond Walmsley Cwing Crumlin Road. Merry Christmas an happy new year hope your next one is spent in freedom from Martin, Mary and family.

Michael Devine C wing Crumlin Road. Merry Christmas and a happy new year hope your next one is spent in freedom from Martin, Mary and Family.

To all political hostages, particularly those from the Shantallow Carnhill Area. Happy Christmas, We'll have a drink for you. From Margo, Geraldine, and Bridget. The ardmoyles tea maid.

To the prisoners who have no one to greet them you are not forgotten - you have friends you never knew you had - a soldier of Ireland is never alone in the land of the Gael. Happy Christmas and God bless you all. Gilees Robbie. Cage 2 Long Kesh P.O.W.

From the glen came brave young men to answer Irelands call. Merry Christmas and a free new year. From Carmel. xxx

Christmas greetings 1976 To-all or fellow Irishmen and women who are prisoners of war. To our proud fighting comrades who daily engage in combat against the forces of foreign occupation and oppression.

We wish you all the true spirit and blessings of Christmas - for yourselves and for Ireland and we say thank you from our hearts for your noble and enduring sacrifice in the cause of freedom. Hugh and Muriel.

To Alan Patterson etc. Christmas and new year greetings we support you in your fight for political status. Love Marie and Roisin.

To Alan Patterson H-block

Long Kesh. Christmas and new years greetings to my darling husband and our dear daddy. We support you in your fight for political status. Love Margaret, Johnny, Cathy, Lorraine, Joseph, Alexandra.

CAGE (G)

Christmas greetings to Geraldine and the Conrod family, Ardroye. Hope you have a merry Christmas and a happy New Year. All the best, Jamesy Toal.

Christmas greetings to the Feenan family, Ligoniel. From Micky, hoping you's have a merry Christmas and a happy New Year, thinking of you always. Micky Feenan.

To Alan Patterson etc.

Christmas and new year

greetings. We support you

in your fight for political

status. Love Mother and

Father-in-law.

To Shane Paul O'Doherty P.O.W. hostage Wormwood Scrubs Goal.

Christmas and new year greetings to a splendid soldier of Ireland. We are proud to have you as a friend - you are in our thoughts and in our prayers daily. The gallant Provo's are Marching to victory. "And we are young. And God has given us strength and courage a council. May He give us victory". (P.H.Pearse) From all at No. 7 God bless you.

Christmas greetings to all his friends in Derry - Long Kesh - Magilligan Crumlin Road and in gaols in England.

From a naked comrade Shane P. O'Doherty Wormwood Scrubs London. To all the P.O.W.'s in British Concentration camp Especially THE boys in the H-Block Long Kesh.

Always in our thoughts and prayers wishing you all as happy Christmas as possible - remember Christ also was a prisoner and they stripped him of his garments.

From Liam Bris Pleimeonn Doire.

Christmas greetings to the Crilly family. Armagh. Wishing you all the best at this Christmas time and may you have a happy New Year. From "Chubby-Tubby" Malachy. Ha-Ha. Christmas greetings to my ever-loving girl Margaret. Hope you have a good time, it won't be long now until the big day. From the big fellow himself. "Hound-Dog."

Christmas greetings to my Mother and Father and all of the Harte family. Hope you's have a merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. From your loving son. Peter (Harte).

Cage D

To Kay, Richard & family a very merry Happy Christmas from Aidan.

To Colette, Arthur Carter a very Happy Christmas from Larry.

To Minnie, Jim & Family a Happy and Merry Christmas from Aidan.

THE EDITOR
AND STAFF OF
AN GIALL

WISH ALL OUR READERS AND
THEIR FAMILIES
A
HAPPY, HOLY AND JOYFUL
CHRISTMAS, 1976

MAY GOD HOLD YOU EVER
IN THE PALM OF HIS HAND
AND EVER STRENGTHEN YOUR RESOLVE
IN YOUR DUTY TO OTHERS.
Nollaig Mhaith Duit.

GREENINGS

To the Feeney family a very happy Christmas and prosperous New Year. From Aidan.
To Pat & Tilley Happy Christmas from Tony.
To Molly, Armagh Gaol. Wishing you a Happy and Holy Christmas from Tommy.

To Mother and father wishing you a merry Christmas and a happy New Year from Tommy.
To Mr. and Mrs. McCool wishing you a merry Christmas and Happy New Year. From Tommy.

To all our friends and comrades in the Republican Movement. Wishing you a happy Christmas and a Happy New Year from Molly and Tommy Roberts.

To Joe, Johanna, Terence and Kieran. Merry Christmas. From Tommy.

To Megan, Tommy, Gerard and Peter. Merry Christmas from Tommy.

To John, Myra and family Merry Christmas from Tommy.

Happy Christmas Mum and Dad, Love Paddy.

Merry Christmas Mum and Dad and all the family from Patrick (McGlinchey).

Happy Christmas to all the family at No.52. from Jim. (Greene).

Happy Christmas to Mum, dad and all the family, from Martin. xxx

Happy Christmas to Mum, Dad, and George and all the family, from Patsy.

Happy Christmas Maureen from John.

Happy Christmas Mum, dad and family, From John.

Happy Christmas Mum, Dad and all the family. From Hugh. (McFeely).

Happy Christmas Mum, Dad and all the family, from Mickey.

Happy Christmas Mum, dad and all the family, from William Doherty.

Happy Christmas Mum, dad and all the family, from Martin (O'Neill).

Congratulations to Dicey O'Donnell and Teresa Smith on their engagement from all the lads in Cage 'F'

A merry Christmas to Carol O'Connor from Thomas (O'Hagan).

A merry Christmas and a happy New Year to Katie from Paddy (McGlinchey).

Happy Christmas to Mum, dad and all the family from Charlie (Lamberton).

Happy Christmas Mum, dad and all the family, from Eddie (O'Hagan).

Happy Christmas Mum, dad and all the family from Gerry (Doherty).

Happy Christmas Mum, dad and all the family, from John (Harkin).

To the Millar Family, Brandywell, best wishes and god bless you with a happy Christmas from Charlie.

Happy Christmas to my wife Lily and son Michael xxx from James (Connolly). Happy Christmas to all the lads in Clady from Joe (Lafferty). Happy Christmas to Gerald and Winefred from Joe (Lafferty).

To Mum, dad, Terence, Damien, Christopher and Brendan, Happy Christmas from Gary (Page).

To Bridie Chambers, happy Christmas and hope to hear from you soon, all my love, Stout xxxx

To Anne Irvine, wishing you a happy Christmas, see you in March. All my love Patsy (McIntyre)

Happy Christmas to Leo, Vera and family from Colum (McCauley). Merry Christmas to Tommy Pete and all the family, from Colum (Carey).

Merry Christmas to Dad, Harry and Veronica from Colum (Carey).

Happy Christmas to Mum, Ann, Paul and Pauline, love Sean (Arbuckle).

Happy Christmas to Noel, Ray and family, Leo, May and family, Eileen & Gerard, Davy, Sadie & family. From Sean (Arbuckle).

Have a Happy Christmas all the McGillicuddy family. From Jamesie McIntyre.

To my father wishing you a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year, also to my brothers and sisters wishing you the best in the New Year. Michael (Gallagher)

CRUMLIN ROAD GAOL To my dearest wife Ann and children, wishing you a happy and holy Christmas.

I'll be thinking of you all. From Charlie (Millar) xxxx

CAGE D, Christmas greetings to all our comrades in Long Kesh, Armagh Gaol, Crumlin Road, Portlaoise, H-Block and English Jails, from Tommy and Molly.

Christmas Greetings to Shane, hope you are repatriated soon. From Curly, Seamus and Tommy (Cage D). 29th December, 1972 4th Anniversary.

MEMORIAN, Staff Capt. James [Junior] McDaid in proud and loving memory of our friend and comrade.

Ard Dheis De Go Raibh a Anam. From Tommy (Magilligan) Molly (Armagh Gaol)

To my wife Peggy and daughter Tara, a happy Christmas, from Billy. To Mrs. Gilmore, wishing you's a happy Christmas, from Dicey.

To Raymond, Gemma & Family a merry Christmas from Dicey.

To Mark, Tubes, Mona & Barry, a happy Christmas from Dicey.

To Mr. & Mrs. Casey, and Relatives, merry Christmas and happy New Year. From Frankie.

To Mother, Father & family wishing you's a happy Christmas. from Yantie.

To Kathleen, Jimmy & family, a Happy Christmas from Yantie.

To Doreen, Tony & family wishing you's a happy Christmas from Yantie.

To the Cunningham family & Enda a Happy Christmas and a happy New Year. From Davy.

To Dymphna, Happy Christmas, from Patrick.

To all my loyal Derry fans a happy Christmas, from Daddy "Daddy Dose."

To my wife Una & children Patricia, Aidan, Marie and Roisin, Happy Christmas, from Artie.

To Mother & Family, Happy Christmas U.T.P. from Tony.

To the Fleming Family, Happy Christmas, from Tony.

To the Fleming Family, Happy Christmas, from Tony.

To Mother, Father & family a Happy Christmas. from Myles.

To Mother & family, happy Christmas, from Seamus.

To Mother & Father, Happy Christmas from Richard.

To Mother & Father, family and friends wishing you all a happy Christmas.

From Dicey.

To Mother & father, family & friends wishing you all a Merry Christmas from Michael.

To Donna & Sinead, merry Christmas & Happy New Yearxxx U.T.P. from Frankie.

To Mother & Family a happy Christmas from Mousey and Anthony.

To Mum & Dad & Family and all friends and neighbours merry Christmas and a happy New Year, best of luck. U.T.P. from Frankie.

To Marie, Merry Christmas and a happy New Year. Lots of LOVE xxxx from Mousey.

To the McFeely Family, merry Christmas, from Mickey & Tony.

To Mother & father a happy Christmas, from Jim To Joe & Moira a happy Christmas, from Tony.

To Gary & Phyllis, merry Christmas, from Tony.

To Charlie Parkinson & whispering Bob, from all the lads in Cage D.

To Charlie, Marie & family, happy Christmas from Myles.

To Paddy, Joan & Deborah a happy Christmas. From Myles.

Happy Christmas to Mum, dad and family, from Bobby. Happy Christmas Rosemary and George and congratulations on your engagement. From Bobby. Happy Christmas Sadie, from Bobby.

Happy Christmas to "Big" Duffs, Paddy and Mickey Reavey, from Martin.

Happy Christmas to the Fisher family, from Billy. Happy Christmas to the Coyle family and Ann, from Martin.

To all the Natives, Merry Christmas, from Tommy Collins.

Happy Christmas to Mum, Larry and family Auntie Mary and family, from Tommy.

Happy Christmas to Kevin and Geraldine, Tommy and Christy.

Happy Christmas to all at No. 8 & 9. God Bless, from Willie Doherty. Happy Christmas to Mum and family, from Joe Lafferty.

Merry Christmas Mum, Dad, Andy, Anne, Celine, Eunan, Mary Barbara and Sean. Love Jamesie.

Merry Christmas Trisha, Lots of love, Jamesie.

Happy Christmas to Murn, dad and to all the family and friends at home, Laurence.

Happy Christmas to Mum, Dad & Family, love Eamon xxx To Mother and Father and family wishing you's a happy Christmas and a Happy New Year, from John.

To Tess, David & all the Coyle Family especially wee Perpetual, a Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year, from Davy & Yantie.

To Paddy & Christy McAnee a very Happy Christmas from Larry.

To Brian & Christine O'Reilly a Merry Christmas, from Larry

To Colette, Arthur & family a very happy Christmas from Aidan.

KEEP UP THE STRUGGLE... SEE YOU IN 1977!



SONGS OF PEACE

Dreams of Terror

The repressive reality underlying the honeyed words and genial smiles of the Peace mob is finally revealed in the paranoid outburst from Mrs. M. D. and Mrs. J. K., condemning the Provisional I.R.A. for its attacks on members of the security forces.

The wolfish mentality cannot conceal its nature for long, and now the teeth are bared, and all the fine talk of peace is seen for what it really is—a deliberate attempt to deny the legitimate aspirations of the Irish people for liberation. It's not the British Army, the political and social Establishment, the foreign industrialists, the torturers and sadists paid by the N.I.O. that the Peace mob find offensive. It's not the fact that the much praised 'security' forces have murdered and brutalised countless thousands of decent and innocent Irish men and women that disturbs the Peace mob. It's not the social inequalities, the desolate, soul-destroying housing estates, the total denial of creativity to the working class, the mindless boredom of the few jobs available, the planned destruction of the future for the children of the poor: none of these are condemned by the Peace mob. But the freedom fighters, the revolutionary army of the people, the Provisional I.R.A., reviled and attacked at every opportunity. And not because of the use or nature of violence. The Peace

mob's attitude to violence is indeed selective and ambiguous; their constant diatribes against violence as a revolutionary method of struggle have become absurd - revealing both their ignorance of history and their calculated decision to side with the Oppressor.

When the Peace leaders talk of the 'new' society, do not be misled. This will be no society built upon the recognition of man's essential dignity. The society envisaged by Margaret Doherty and Joyce Kelly will not change anything. All the evils of occupation, exploitation, alienation will remain. Nothing will change. Except for one little detail. You will not protest. You will not have the opportunity to build a truly free, truly peaceful, truly just society. While the ladies in their fur-coats sing of peace, they dream of total slavery, total repression. In their 'peaceful' society all forms of protest will stifle, the grim wardens of peace will stalk our streets and our environment will be clean, careful, clinical, reminiscent of the shining hall of execution, the spotless interior of the gas-chamber. The brave new world where the mediocre rule, where the willing slaves press all the buttons, where the guileless artificial smile replaces truth, and the glorification of deceit stands supreme.

The initial deceit that the Peace movement was a spontaneous outburst of

popular feeling against violence has been quickly unmasked. It is illogical to imagine Kieran McKeown propounding his new pseudo-philosophy. In silence, in a self-sought vacuum. No. The decision to create a Peace movement was a calculated move, designed for maximum publicity value at a time when British influence, authority, and credibility were under severe pressure due to a variety of circumstances, including the reluctance of the Protestant people to believe the utterances of British ministers, and the never-ending saga of deliberate 'accidents' and 'accidental discharges' by the British Army. It is obvious that British theorists have recognised the age-old revolutionary axiom that in the immediate conflict between oppressed and oppressor, there exists another group, the apparently passive uncommitted onlookers who must be won over before either of the protagonists in the freedom struggle can attain to victory. But what the Brits have not recognised is that popular support is not necessarily equitable with middle-class support.

The Peace movement, due to its reactionary thinking, its profound fear of antagonising the bourgeoisie, is aping of official British Government policy, cannot appeal to the working people. The British terror campaign has been directed solely against the working people. The Britishing people throughout the North of Ireland. There are no Foot Patrols, mobile patrols, nor troop saturation exercises in our respectable areas. Company directors, Chartered accountants, business-men are not harassed, intimidated or imprisoned. The class element in the Irish struggle is self-evident.

The middle-class can offer no solution to Ireland's problems. The singing, prancing, posing ladies paid by British institutions offer no solution. The fallacious condemnation of revolutionary action offers no solution. Liberation wars are not fought for gain, for greed or for self-aggrandisement.

The Irish Republican Movement will win this country, and institute a social, economic and cultural revolution. And all the empty vindictiveness and irrelevant outbursts from a bunch of fame-bedazzled ladies will not deter the march of Irish freedom.

Seamas Keenan.
Cage D.

THE BIG ADVERT LIE

Recently there has been a spate of what could only be described as propaganda advertisements in newspapers and on televisions on behalf of the Northern Ireland Office. This is a relatively new addition to their propaganda armoury and is designed to degrade the Republican Movement in some cases while in others to glorify the security forces. This upsurge in the use of propaganda advertisements plus the frequent releases of fresh facts and figures shows a change in British policy in this country. They now 'realise' that they have been defeated militarily and are now trying to salvage some sort of victory by going all out for propaganda. Thus we have all the talk of 'criminals and gangsters' by the British as they try to wipe out political status. Also a lot of advertisements have appeared in newspapers recently so as to condition and brainwash people into supporting the British policy. The British are masters of propaganda as has been amply proven in all their past wars.

One of the recent full page advertisements shows a ragged bare-footed child sitting amongst the rubble of a wrecked building. What's this supposed to represent one asks. I presume, bearing in mind that the whole tone of the advertisement is anti-Republican, that this is supposed to be a child who has been left ragged and barefooted and homeless because of the war for Irish freedom. As a Republican I examine my conscience here and come up with the conclusion that the only children that I have ever seen ragged and homeless were so, not because of the actions of the freedom fighters but due to the inaction of successive Stormont and Westminster governments in failing to alleviate the atrocious social conditions and improve the lives of the people living in the ghetto areas of the 6 counties. In the State which the Freedom fighters will set up there will be no deprived or homeless children and there will never be any attempts to shun these problems.

Below the photograph in this advertisement is a paragraph telling us that for the past seven years the 'men of violence' have given us 'nothing but more violence.' It goes on to give us the numbers of people dead, injured and in prison because of the present troubles. Then comes the crunch of the whole

advertisement. We are told that the security forces are doing all in their power to deal with the aforementioned men of violence. This suggests immediately to anyone who might not know better that the security forces are the 'goodies' in this affair and are not themselves responsible for most of the dead and injured. That they are fighting on the side of justice against evil. Of course this is not the case. We don't need reminded just how many people have been killed and injured at the hands of British gunmen and gangsters posing as an army. Neither do we need reminded that millions of our people have died at the hands of the British in the past seven hundred years. The hypocrites of the Northern Ireland office ignore these facts when they condemn killing and brand people as criminals. In their warped thinking killing is justifiable if it is their thugs in uniform who do the killing. However the people of Ireland know in their hearts and minds that there would be no killing in this country if it were not for the illegal presence of the British on our soil.

The advertisement then goes on to exhort the community to reject the so-called 'criminals.' What 'criminals' are there to be rejected? Criminality is negligible in Republican areas, except that involving the armed intruders of the British Army. It is they who run amok, murdering and assaulting innocent men, women and children. It is such so-called protectors of law and order who burn down the premises of citizens. It is they who steal, plunder, and pillage while conducting house searches. You will recall that five members of the British Army were recently charged in Derry with this very thing. It is they who are perverting justice, by planting bullets as evidence on innocent people, and by perjuring themselves in court. Remember the case where five members of the infamous 'Black Watch' were charged with planting bullets on people taken in for screening in the Belfast area, and also the case, of the ex Para, who admitted that he lied in a court case which ended in an unjust conviction. In the past two months alone, the record of the British Army reads as follows:

- a). Two innocent children (Majella O'Hare, and Brian Stuart) murdered.

Continued on Page 7



- b). Four people wounded seriously in 'accidental' shootings.
- c). Three people have been slaughtered in road 'accidents' involving these licensed killers.
- d). A total of 26 British soldiers have been charged with an assortment of crimes, involving murder, arson, wounding, theft, and attempting to pervert the course of justice.

This particular advertisement finishes off by

asking a series of questions. It asks how long our children are to be raised in and suffer the effects of violence. I would say that the Northern Ireland Office and its overlords in the British government would be in the best position to answer these questions. It is not the desire of Irishmen to bring up their children in an atmosphere of violence, but as long as the British insist on keeping their presence here then our children will be raised in violence, the violence

caused by the British Army directly and the violence caused by it indirectly.

The ability to end violence is not in the hands of the Irish people but in the hands of the Northern Ireland Office and the British government. It would have been better if the writers of the questions on this advertisement had asked themselves for how long and previous generations of Irish children grown up in violence be to the

British who have so often in past centuries brought violence and death to so many other Irish children.

The last few lines of this advertisement increase in size so that no-one can miss what the writers want to get across to the people. It '7 years is enough.' If the Northern Ireland Office really believed this and were prepared to do something constructive to end violence then all would be well. However they are not prepared to budge an inch or admit

that the British have no right to be here. They call obstinately for surrender on the part of the Republican Movement, who are fighting a just cause. This surrender is not and will not be forthcoming. The Northern Ireland Office will come to realise that Ireland will be free because Ireland unfree will never be at peace, and all their weapons both propaganda wise and military wise will not stand in the way.

LABHRAS, Cas F.

A CHRISTMAS STORY

Little Tommy wasn't asleep! He couldn't sleep on a night such as this! He had patiently waited for a whole year to catch a glimpse of Santa and maybe, if time allowed, he would even get to talk to him. He slid down the bed, clothes still wrapped around his 8-year-old body and retrieved the little note from his Christmas Stocking nailed to the footboard. Outside, the snow tumbled from the night sky as he turned to read his personal message in the dim light of the gas-lamp which bordered his window.

Dear Santa, I don't want a cowboy suit or football boots like other little boys. All I want is my Daddy to come home from that old hospital where the doctors look like Policemen. And we can play and he can give me piggy-backs just like Paul Smith and his daddy. And maybe if I'm a good boy he'll take me to the Zoo on Sunday afternoons just like Jimmy Brown and his father. Santa, I know you have hundreds of letters to answer, but please try and answer mine. Tommy.

An inaudible prayer escaped his lips as he carefully refolded the letter replacing it in its former position in the stocking making sure its edge protruded as he didn't want Santa forgetting it. He had just settled his head on the pillow when the door opened softly. Feigning sleep, eyes shut tightly breathing evenly, his heart thumped as he felt the bedclothes being tucked in and his mother's soft kiss lingering on his forehead. With extraordinary will-power for one so tender in years, he retained his fake sleep until his bedroom door closed quietly behind his mother, leaving him alone again with his thoughts. Vague memories such a long time ago, of a day at the beach where the cool water lapped around his tiny feet, the strong comforting hands on his waist, the proud gutsy laugh, affectionate embraces; vague memories? It was the only one!! It's a strange hospital, Tommy thought, I have never seen any beds, just a row of tiny boxes with tables nailed to the ground and the funny doctors dressed like policemen standing in the doorway,

listening, watching and come to think of it, never smiling. All the same, he loved going to visit, sitting on Daddy's knee, drinking coke and eating chocolate, and it's funny how Mammy seems so young and happy, smiling and laughing, then the tears, nervous farewell kisses, and the quiet depressing journey home.

Tommy fought unsuccessfully against the sleep which was rapidly overcoming him and his eyelids laden with tiredness closed, it was one minute past midnight, it was Christmas Day!

It was a still, peaceful night now that the snow had ceased, the gas-lamp flickering, cast an eerie shadow on the bedroom wall. Tommy wakened with a start causing the aged mattress to creak in pain, relief creased his face as he noticed the untouched letter in the stocking, "thank goodness" he whispered, his hot breath cutting the coldness in the air, "I haven't missed him." The aged old lady scuttled noiselessly from the corner of the room towards Tommy's bed, and he, suddenly aware of her presence, screamed in fright, but no sound

escaped his lips. "Tommy," said the old lady soothingly, "Don't be afraid. Santa had so many calls to make and he asked me to pay you a visit, so don't be frightened son," and with that the old lady seated herself on the bed. Tommy, consoled by the soft lyrical voice, no longer frightened, just curious, nestled down below the covers with eyes riveted on the aged lined face beside him.

"I hope you don't mind son but I took the liberty of reading your letter which you were sleeping as I didn't want to disturb you."

"Can you bring my Daddy home?" the boy asked pleadingly.

"I don't know son," the old lady answered pulling her shawl tighter around her frail shoulders, pausing momentarily, she continued warmly, "It's important Tommy that you should know why your Daddy hasn't been here to play you with you and watch you grow this past five years. So make yourself comfortable and I'll tell you a little story...."

"A long long time ago she began, and the boy noticed the sparkle in her eye, "In the days of my youth, everyone was happy the men worked on the land bringing home food for their families, the women worked in their homes singing gaily in their toil, little children played in the streets, all happy, all contented, no worries about food or money."

The old lady paused in silent reflection and Thomas watched spellbound as the sparkle left her eyes. She sighed, memory fresh, and continued, "Alas son, the good-times ended abruptly. Many soldiers came from across the sea in big wooden ships and invaded our land, killing our men-folk, burning our homes and ruining our crops. The homeless children fled from the wreckage to the marshlands surviving only on wild berries and the occasional deer or wild boar. Thomas, my son, they were cruel days and to add to the hardships the soldiers hunted our people relentlessly slaying them where they were found. But as the years rolled by we grew strong and plentiful, for we had learned to adapt to life in the bogs, and we struck back, many times. Each time struck at the sold... were forced to retreat further into the marshes and then came

the day when a soldier's son, a noble learned man, spoke out against the injustice and cruelty." stopping in mid-sentence the old lady cleared her throat. Her eyes were glazed as she sadly continued, "He dedicated his life for our cause and he even travelled to a land far across the sea and returned with soldiers to help us, all to no avail." Her head bowed in sorrow she whispered, "He died in prison. Dead, but his memory lives on. Thomas sensing the sadness slipped his hand into the old lady's consoling and she responded appreciatively welcoming the boys' gesture. Dawn was breaking on the snow-topped streets, as the old woman concluded the story.

"Tommy," she said, "Since that day we've struck back many times gaining more ground with each new strike. Many true sons and daughters have been killed along the way, many have been injured and many have fallen into enemy hands. Your Daddy," the old lady declared lovingly, "is a good man. He saw the oppression, the centuries of wrongs, the many evils and he fought to rectify them, risking his life so that others might benefit." The tears welled in young Tommy's eyes, brimmed over and trickled in streams down his flushed cheeks; so young yet he still understood what the strange old lady had said. Such a sad story!

Rising to her feet the old woman bent and brushed a kiss on Tom's wet cheeks, leaning still closer she whispered, "You Daddy will be home soon."

"Thomas, Thomas come on, get up," his Mother's voice boomed waking him from his deep sleep. "Come and see what Santa Claus left for you." Tommy excitedly jumped out of bed and ran down the stairs oblivious of cold oilcloth on his tiny feet. The toys were everywhere; the cowboy suit, football boots, train set strewn round the floor awaiting his arrival. Tommy marvelled at all the gear, unsure which to try first, on the television set in the corner. "announcer said:

"We interrupt this programme for a Newsflash. A 32 year-old man escaped from Long Kesh....

I like happy endings. "HANS" Campstacht B Cage 1

Santa sent a Screw

Christmas is coming and the screws are getting fat! Here we are again with Christmas just around the corner and I am still in prison. Imagining this will be my fourth Christmas inside and I still have two more to go. Ah well suppose it could be worse, after all I could be in a H-block with nothing on and the screws really getting behind a bit of harassing.

Of course they are not beyond a bit of harassing in this camp either. Even after four years the screws still enjoy messing about with your letters. Some times it is so bad you could post five letters before one would arrive at its destination. Then you get the smart boys on the raids who just for a laugh tears up one of your photographs or spits into your bag of sugar. With habits like these it makes you wonder what kind of homes they come from.

Then of course there are the visits. The most precious thing in the world to a prisoner. When passes

are sent out some times the screws forget to post them probably so that they can keep the stamp. So when the visiting day comes around no one arrives as they didn't receive the pass. This is a regular occurrence in prison life. The visitors themselves are harassed when they do arrive. The searches are really degrading and several times my visitors have been refused visits because they wouldn't remove clothing.

Of course the harassment is stepped up around Christmas. The screws just can't bear the thought of prisoners, especially Republicans, having any kind of a happy Christmas. So when you are busy opening your presents and eating your turkey spare a thought for the prisoners especially those lying naked in cold cells with out any of the comforts you take for granted. Its going to be a cold and lonely Christmas for those in the H-blocks.

John Hogan Cage 'D'

SPARE A THOUGHT THIS CHRISTMAS

JOHN HOGAN REPORTING

The British and Irish Capitalist clique went to a deal of trouble and expense recently to put on a feature in the TV programme Nationwide which tried to make out that the Co-Operative Movement in the North was styled on the Mafia. It was a shabby attempt to blacken the record of an organisation which has over the past few years provided good employment for local people, and the supply goods and services to the ordinary people at a cheaper rate than charged by the only real gangsters, the Capitalists.

Vague accusations were made about protection rackets and extortion when it should be obvious to every one who the racketeers are. Who at this very moment in time is using threats to extract rent arrears from the people who were on Rent

Strike? Who extorts taxes to provide an armed Police Force to protect the Capitalists? Who extorts taxes to provide an Army to keep the people down? Just try refusing to pay these taxes and see what happens you.

The truth of the matter is this. The Co-Operative movement has been so successful that the Capitalists are beginning to feel the pinch because of lost profits and are worried in case the Co-Operatives simply desire to prevent the Co-op's from expanding with this latest slur campaign.

Any one who has been made up by the lies of the Capo's should contact a member of Sinn Fein who, I am sure will put them straight about the aims and objectives of the Co-operative movement.

'OPEN NOT THINE EYES ...'

Recently the UDA admitted they don't allow their men in Magilligan to read Communist or leftist literature. They even go so far as to censor the parcels of their own men to ensure that they don't get any of this literature sent to them. These are the same men who claim that they would allow freedom of expression and political belief in an Independent Ulster. When they won't even allow their men to read about Che Guevara or the teachings of James Connolly how do they expect us to believe that they will be any more tolerant towards people of a differ-

ent political belief if they ever get their Independent Ulster.

At the moment UDA men are serving sentences for the murders of people who where killed simply because they were of a different religion. I suppose they look on this as a form of censorship. It is obvious that the UDA Staff are afraid to let their rank and file read leftist literature in case their men see the error of their ways and realise that their real enemies are the Capitalists and Exploiters and not the IRA or the Catholic Working Class.

"DICEY" Cage D.

A THOUGHT

Rich and rare were the gems she wore
And a bright gold ring on her wand she bore;
But Oh! her beauty was far beyond
Her sparkling gems, or snow white wand.

"Lady, dost thou not fear to stray,
So lone and lovely through this dark way?
Are Erin's sons so good or so cold,
As not to be tempted by woman or gold?"

"Sir Knight, I feel not the least alarm,
No Son of Erin will offer me harm;
For though they love woman or golden store
Sir Knight! they love honour and virtue more!"

On she went, and her maiden smile,
In safety lighted her round the Green Isle;
And, Blest for ever is she who relied
Upon Erin's honour and Erin's pride.

ON CHRISTMAS DAY — in the midst of your family — spare a thought, for a few moments, towards the Irish Prisoners of War. In many homes, the absent kith and kin — sons and daughters — brothers and sisters — nephews — nieces.

For others — the living memory of a dear life, given willingly in the cause of Ireland and her people. They are your proud countrymen — Flesh of your Flesh — Naked and Tortured in the cold prison cells of a brutal sadistic enemy.

Remember them this Christmas, 1976

'RIGHTS' AND WRONGS

I heard some one on the television say the other day that the Irish Republican Army had no mandate to fight the present war. This is a piece of propaganda which has been used so often it must be nearly worn out. The facts I would put up against this are as follows.

Is it a man's right to give up his Freedom? Is it a man's right to give up the Freedom of others? Again is it a man's Right to allow his Country to be occupied by a foreign Army and controlled by a foreign Government?

It is not, I say it is a man's right to fight for his freedom, for the freedom of others and most of all to fight for his freedom, to fight to free his country regardless of the feelings of fellow country men. No one will deny that our country is occupied and controlled by a foreign powers. Therefore it is the right and indeed the Duty to remove these powers by what ever means available to him.

Just as the Union Army fought against the Southern States of America to free

the Black Slaves and the Algerians fought the French to free their country then the Irish Republican Army must fight to rid Ireland of the British and British influence.

Any man who does not fight has forsaken his rights and neglects his duty but this will not prevent the braver and more courageous of our countrymen from continuing the War regardless of the spewings and ramblings of traitors and slave master.

JOHN HOGAN CAGE "D"

ANOTHER STORMONT PARTY

Mr. Paddy Devlin launched a bitter attack on the leaders of the so-called Peace Movement, in which he claimed that the Movement was being "subtly converted" into a political party. In a vicious tete a tete, on television, between himself and Betty Williams, Fr. Devlin claimed that the Peace Movement was "an embryonic political party," financed by certain "Social Democrats" in Europe. Mr. Devlin's belated criticism of the 'Peace Movement' is in my opinion extremely hypocritical, considering his condemnation of the Provisional Republican Movement who have continually and consistently asserted (right from the initial stages of this so-called Peace Movement) that Betty Williams, Mairead Corrigan, and Kieran McKeown were using his movement to make a dramatic entrance into the bloody arena of Northern Ireland politics.

What I find particularly galling about Mr. Devlin's statement is the acclaim it has received as a 'revelation.' The various arms of the media conveniently forget the hundreds of statements issued by Sinn Fein cumain,

and the Provisional Movement as a whole, which exposed the antics of Williams and Co. for the facade that it really is for a new political party. The same media conveniently omitted to publicise the fact that Kieran McKeown openly stated that he and his friends "from the very start had made no secret of the fact that they were political" (Irish Press Nov. 5th, '76).

And Mr. McKeown was not speaking in jest, when he said that the Peace Movement was in essence political. This seems to be borne out by the recruitment of former Unionist M.P., Peter Mac Lachlan to the melodic ranks of the 'Peace Movement.' The track record of Mr. Mac Lachlan in Ulster politics could certainly not be described as 'moderate,' and by no stretch of the imagination be construed as having been conducive to peace. Mr. Mac Lachlan's open declaration s of 'brotherly love' included statements such as:

"Coalition with the SDLP raised real difficulties and doubts" (Whilst that statement is certainly understandable when one

considers the turn coat, sell out politicking of the SDLP, it is certainly not the type of sentiments expressed by the genuine seeker of peace).

If I could borrow from

Claud Gordon's article (Sunday Press Nov. 7th., '76) to illustrate this point further that Mr. Mac Lachlan's commitment to peace must be regarded with grave suspicion.

"....After the executive had collapsed, MacLachlan in an open letter to Harold Wilson, and Liam Cosgrave published in November some two years ago said: 'The majority view must prevail, and those holding minority views must consent to work within the framework desired by the majority. Until that principle is accepted violence will continue to erupt.' Again if I might quote Mr. Gordon "A quare mouthful for anyone trying to lay down conditions for peace."

I might be forgiven for thinking that the Devlin versus Betty contest is a classic example of 'the kettle calling black ass to the pot.'

M.M.
Cas F'