



IRELAND'S BIGGEST SELLING  
POLITICAL WEEKLY



# AN PHOBLACHT

## Republican News

Sraith Nua Im 13 Uimhir 30

1 Lúnasa

Thursday, 1st August, 1991

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# PARAS CHARGED WITH MURDER

THE BRITISH government's shoot-to-kill policy which has claimed the lives of hundreds of nationalists over the last 20 years is set for a very rare judicial exposition with the appearance by six members of the British army's Parachute Regiment in a Belfast magistrate's court charged with murder, attempted murder and attempting to pervert the course of justice.

The charges which were laid against the soldiers on Wednesday afternoon arise out of the killing of two teenage joy-riders, Karen Reilly (18) of Twinbrook and Martin Peake (17) of Lenadoon and the attempted murder of 16-year-old Markievicz Gorman from the Falls Road.

The killings took place last September on Belfast's Glen Road when a foot-patrol of Paras opened fire without warning on a stolen car being driven by Peake who was accompanied by Reilly and Gorman.

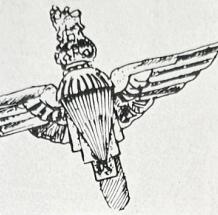
Private Lee Clegg of the Parachute Regiment is charged with the murder of Karen Reilly and, together with Private Barry Aindow and Lance Corporal Stephen Bouston, with the attempted murder of Martin Peake. Lieutenant Andrew Oliver, Private Andrew Tracey and Corporal Robert Wood are charged with perverting the course of justice. Aindow is also charged with fabricating evidence — allowing himself to be struck on

the leg by another soldier to give the impression that he was struck by the car.

At the time the killings provoked a major controversy for a number of reasons: those killed were car thieves, not republican activists, the usual target for such treatment; it was obvious that "excessive fire-power" was used and it was crystal clear that the Paras had casually broken their own already liberal guidelines for shooting. Furthermore, the speed with which the survivor of the shooting dispelled the Paras' account deepened the widespread anger. She firmly and convincingly stated that there was no checkpoint, no soldier knocked down, and that she didn't even see a British soldier. Her version of the incident was backed up by several independent witnesses who were in the vicinity of the incident when it occurred.

### CAR RIDDLED

Without any explanation the soldiers had riddled the car as it drove (Continued on page 4)



## CELEBRATION OF RESISTANCE

20TH ANNIVERSARY  
OF INTERNMENT  
& 10TH  
ANNIVERSARY  
OF THE H-BLOCK  
HUNGER-STIKE



3pm Sun 11th Aug  
MARCH TO DUNVILLE PARK, BELFAST  
Main Speaker: GERRY ADAMS MP



## RECLAIMING THE CITY

NORTHERN NATIONALISTS won a significant victory when 1,000 people joined a demonstration by the Right to March campaign which proceeded from the nationalist Ormeau Road area to Belfast City Hall. It was the first time in 70 years that a nationalist march was allowed to go to the centre of Belfast city.

This victory was not achieved on behalf of Northern nationalists by the Dublin government or the SDLP through the provisions of the Hillsborough Treaty but in the same

manner that all victories for the nationalist population of the Six Counties have been won — by their own persistence and determination.

The march, on Sunday, July 28th,

underlined the fact that Belfast belongs to all those who live there and that Irish nationalists will not allow their identity to be erased in Ireland's second city.

The victory is another milestone on the road to breaking the sectarian stranglehold that the Orange state has had, since its foundation, on all aspects of Irish nationality. Nationalists are no longer content to be confined to the ghettos, out of sight and out of mind for the comfort of their British and unionist rulers. They are back to the streets and will remain there to demand their democratic and civil rights.

— See story page 3

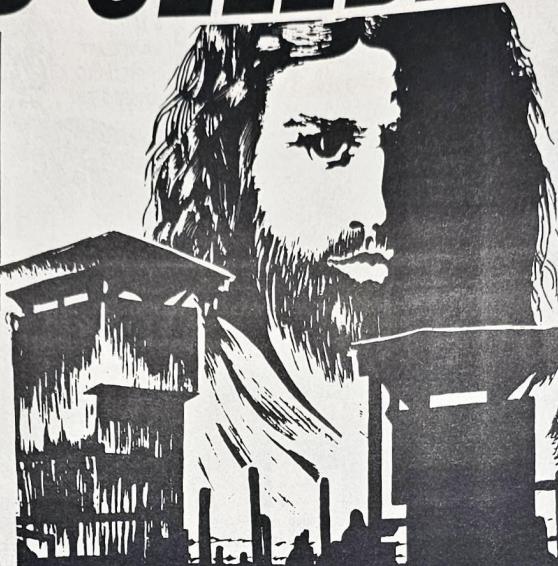
# CALL TO REMEMBER AND CELEBRATE...

**THE FAMILIES** of the ten hunger strike martyrs of 1981 and their comrades who were on hunger-strike with them have called on people to remember that historic year and its place in the Irish struggle and its rally in Belfast on August 11th in celebration of the resistance that carries on. These are their messages.

## From the former hunger strikers

On Sunday, August 11th, in Belfast there will be a march and pageant to commemorate the sacrifice made ten years ago in this prison by ten republican Volunteers. This march and pageant will be organised on a national basis and it provides an opportunity for all the oppressed people in Ireland — and especially those who were a part of the mass mobilisation in 1988-'81 — to show that the sacrifice of 1981 has not been forgotten and that the hunger for freedom amongst the Irish people is as great now as it was then.

As people who took part in the hunger



### FOR LOCAL BUS ARRANGEMENTS SEE PAGE 12

strikes of 1980 and '81 inside the H-Block we understand better than anyone the significance and impact of thousands of Irish people marching for freedom. For this reason we would like to take this opportunity to call on all those people who supported us in 1980-'81 by marching on the streets to once again march for us on Sunday, August 11th. And for those too young to march then, August 11th is your opportunity to show now that you too wish to resist

the British oppression still on our streets and in the prisons.

Is sinne  
Barney Fox  
Pat Sheehan  
Lorney McKeown  
Raymond McCartney  
John Pickering  
Leo Green  
Jackie McMullan  
Gerard Hodgins

## From the families

Ten years ago this year our sons died on hunger strike to prove that the cause of Irish freedom was a just and noble cause and not a criminal venture as claimed by the British government.

The Irish people rallied behind the prisoners in their tens of thousands on the streets and in the privacy of the polling booths in several elections. They showed throughout the prison protests, on many occasions sacrificing their own lives, that they believed the prisoners were political and entitled to political status.

For us, for those other people who died on the streets, and for the friends and supporters of the prisoners these were agonising years. The passage of time in no way diminishes the turmoil brought to the Irish people by the British government's obstinacy during the prison crisis.

To show that the Irish people remember the sacrifice made by our sons there is a national demonstration and rally in Belfast's Dunville Park on Sunday, August 11th, at 3pm. It is important for all those who supported the prisoners to be on the streets and to peacefully show that their cause lives on ten years later.

We ask you to support this event by attending.

Is sinne,  
The families of the ten hunger strikers who died —  
Sands family, Hughes family, McCreesh family, O'Hara family, McDonnell family, Hurson family, Lynch family, Doherty family, McElwee family and Devine family.

# LOYALISTS BOMB SOUTH AGAIN

BY LIAM O COILEAIN

THE WEEKEND'S spate of firebombings by the UDA in the 26 Counties and DUP Councillor Rhonda Paisley's apology for the bombers on Monday was responded to by Sinn Féin's Director of Publicity Rita O'Hare. Paisley said that the attacks were "perfectly understandable" in light of the "betrayal" of loyalists by the British government. O'Hare said that the bombings and Paisley's comments were "symptomatic of the fact that loyalists don't know who their real enemy is".

"They are striking out at ordinary people in the South as a sign of how politically lost they are," she stated. "Continued British interference and imposed solutions have the unionist community looking over its shoulder at Britain as a betrayer and also at the rest of the Irish people as enemies. Appeasement of loyalism by the establishment in the 26 Counties has encouraged this and the inevitable violence it breeds."

She also condemned the muted

response in the 26 Counties, not just to the bombings but also to what Rhonda Paisley and other loyalists have to say. "There is a flawed perception in the 26 Counties that to be anti-sectarian is to refrain from criticising loyalists at all costs. Appeasing loyalism and going soft on such outrageous comments as those made by Rhonda Paisley is itself a form of sectarianism," said O'Hare.

The Ulster Defence Association,

ster Freedom Fighters, claimed that it had planted up to 50 incendiary devices at eight different locations in the 26 Counties last weekend.

## EXPLOSIONS

At least six devices exploded in Dublin, Dundalk and Dunleer on Saturday night. A fire in Quinnsworth in Sligo was also caused by an incendiary while another device was found in the store on Monday afternoon. These four locations, as well as Bundoran, Donegal town, Ballyshannon and Drogheda were named in the loyalist group's statement.

Just after 9pm on Saturday, July 27th, the first incendiary device went off in a jacket pocket in Roches Stores on Dublin's Henry Street. Cleaning staff put out the fire. Another device exploded 30 minutes later while a third failed to go off properly but the damage caused was minimal.

At 10pm an incendiary device went off in the Valley Inn in Dunleer. A second device was subsequently found in the bar. Two devices exploded in Sexton's pub in Dundalk around midnight.

The devices are simple in design, consisting of a tape cassette case, battery, watch and some



● Appeasement of loyalism by the establishment in the 26 Counties has encouraged the recent fire bomb attacks

accept interference and joint authority" from the SDLP, the 26-County government "and all the elements of republicanism". The caller said that his organisation "wishes to warn all those involved in the betrayal — you will pay a heavy price."

# Amhrán na bhFiann at City Hall

AFTER MONTHS of an intense and persistent campaign which began with the banning of the International Women's Day march to Belfast city centre, nationalists finally won the right to march to City Hall last week. The reluctant decision of the RUC to allow the demonstration to go ahead represented a significant success for the Right to March campaign and an important step in the struggle to reclaim the rights of nationalists in Ireland's second city. **JIM GIBNEY** of Sinn Féin's Ard Chomhairle attended the march on Sunday, July 26th, and here gives his impressions.



ALTHOUGH we are only a little over half-way through this year, I will look back on it and remember two very rare occasions when I felt genuinely excited and almost overcome by the emotion of the event.

The first occasion was back in March when I was in the Ballybone area of North Belfast welcoming home two of the Birmingham Six, Gerry Hunter and Richard McIlkenny. The second time was last Sunday in Belfast's city centre when I joined almost 1,000 people in an historic march which finally made it to the front of the City Hall; the first time in 70 years, perhaps the first time this century.

The march started off shortly after 2pm, under a cloud of apprehension because of the threat of loyalist counter-demonstrators in the nearby Donegall Pass district which the marchers had to pass. However, apart from a few bricks and bottles hurled along with sectarian abuse the march passed by unharmed.

As it did so the crowd began to warm to the occasion; the nerves built up in fear of some last-minute hurdle created by the RUC to spike the march were calmed. The glorious sunshine, the band's music, the good-natured banter on the route, the knowledge that nationalists were marching on ground no other

nationalist march had tread across all added to making the event a special one.

As the City Hall came into view there was a victorious roar which echoed round the nearby still streets and the crowd burst into spontaneous applause and cheering; their mood was electrifying. As they milled around the front of the City Hall there was a look of disbelief on their faces: nationalists were demonstrating unmolested outside

a building, once the stronghold of unchallenged unionist sectarianism, I got the impression the crowd wanted to camp out on the road to savour the victory that little bit longer; some danced, some sang, some waved their hands victoriously in the air; few wanted to leave for home when the march broke up.

I looked around the crowd and saw faces of middle-aged men and women who have been with the freedom struggle for 20 years or more; younger men and women, republican activists who run the daily struggle against British rule in different parts of the city; teenagers on the threshold of joining the struggle



● The historic march on its way down Belfast's Ormeau Road

# BELFAST GRENADE ATTACKS



TWO IRA active service units operating in different parts of Belfast carried out attacks on members of the crown forces on two days last week. The first attack took place on Friday, July 26th, in South Belfast and the second operation occurred on Monday, July 29th, in West Belfast.

In South Belfast, IRA Volunteers threw an impact grenade at a British foot-patrol as it passed along Stewarts Street shortly before 6pm. The grenade exploded injuring three members of the patrol. Later that night the same IRA unit was involved in a gun attack on UDR men on sentry duty outside the Law Courts, Chichester Street, close to the Belfast city centre.

Late on Monday night an impact grenade containing 5lb of Semtex explosives was dropped on an RUC military convoy as it passed along Black's Road in West Belfast. The IRA launched the attack on the DMSU patrol from the M1 bridge which crosses over the Black's Road. The explosion, which was heard over most of West Belfast, narrowly missed its target and exploded before the first

and second jeep in a three jeep convoy.

## ASSAILANT

A man who lives on a site close to the Markets area of Belfast was shot and slightly wounded by an Active Service Unit of the IRA. The shooting occurred when the man who was injured and another seven associates, clearly drunk and wielding pickaxe handles and knives, set upon members of an IRA unit as they were in the first stages of an operation. The unit was attempting to secure a van from the site when the fracas took place. In a statement supplied to AP/RN the IRA said it "shot the main assailant in the thigh when one of our Volunteers' lives came under threat. Our action was intended to protect the lives of the IRA unit."

and young children who will in the future benefit from the endeavours of their elders. Here was a cross-section of the republican people of Belfast who have kept the struggle going on all its fronts.

## SILLY, PETTY RUC

The RUC had mobilised for the day in their hundreds. In a silly, petty but typical gesture, they used several Land Rovers to cordon off the road around the front of the City Hall to deprive the marchers the full width of the street; a crude reminder from them that they still have power. They looked menacingly on as the speakers, Jennifer McCann, Una Gillespie, chairperson of the Right to March group, the march organisers and Belfast Sinn Féin Councillor Sean McKnight, recorded the significance to nationalists of the march.

The march left from the Lower

Ormeau Road (the organisers were moving the starting point of marches around the city to try to break the ban) and it was very appropriate that such a breakthrough should take place from a small nationalist enclave. This area has suffered considerably at the hands of loyalist death-squads, ongoing harassment from the crown forces and, a few weeks ago, hundreds of crown forces occupied their streets to allow an Orange march to parade along the same route as last Sunday's march.

## RAPTUROUS APPLAUSE

To rapturous applause and the thunderous banging of drums Una Gillespie declared that she looked forward to the day when the Tricolour would be flying from the dome of the City Hall instead of on the street outside it. Sean McKnight said that nationalists had reclaimed the city as theirs and, as if to make that mark permanent, the Carrick Hill Martyrs Memorial Band played the National Anthem below the stern face of the statue of Queen Victoria, a fitting end to a new beginning for nationalist marchers in Belfast.

Fra McCann, a Sinn Féin councillor who has done verbal battle with sectarian, bigoted councillors on Belfast City Council for almost eight years stressed the importance of the victory parade: "It shows the importance of people's power; it proves what can be done when people return with determination to the streets and lay claim to their democratic rights. The British government were vulnerable on this issue; they are vulnerable on a range of other issues. We're on the streets with a victory under our belts. We have to stay here until our freedom is won."

# ARRESTS SWEEP ACROSS FERMANAGH

IN ONE of the biggest sweep of arrests ever in the county, almost two dozen people have been arrested in Fermanagh in less than two weeks. The series of arrests began on the morning of Friday, July 26th and continues as AP/RN goes to print. Amongst those arrested and taken to Castlereagh Interrogation Centre was a pregnant woman suffering from diabetes and a 71-year-old farmer.

All those who have been detained have complained of systematic ill-treatment, amounting to psychological and physical torture by the RUC during interrogation.

A young couple expecting their first child in the next few weeks, Paddy and Monica Boyle, were arrested and taken to Castlereagh from their Donagh home in the early hours of Friday morning. Despite the obvious risk to her health and the life of her unborn child, Monica

Boyle, who is six months pregnant and suffering from diabetes, a dangerous condition during pregnancy, was interrogated continuously for over 13 hours.

During the course of the intensive interrogation, the young mother-to-be was forced to stand for long periods of time, almost all day, and subjected to a barrage of derogatory remarks about her pregnancy. Denied access to a doctor, Monica was finally released follow-

ing complaints about her detention from her family doctor.

Commenting on his own Castlereagh ordeal, Monica Boyle's husband Paddy said the treatment he received at the hands of RUC interrogators was "indescribable". During seven days detention Paddy was interrogated for over 13 hours every day. The RUC slapped him about the head again and again in what can only be described as a systematic torture technique, designed to induce severe headaches and disorientation to the victim.

This technique was used on nearly all those detained in Castlereagh. Detainees said that the slapping, often for hours at a time, on the back of their heads and neck, left them "like a sponge", totally disorientated and confused.

Detainees were also forced to stand for hours, pinned with their arms raised against the wall, poked and punched, and deliberately denied rest and water. Under this kind of pressure, three people have already signed incriminating statements and are now on remand in Crumlin Road Jail awaiting trial.

## INTERROGATED FOR HOURS

Seventy-one-year-old Eamon Carey was arrested and taken from his Fermanagh farm on Monday, July 22nd. Held for five days, the elderly farmer was interrogated for many hours, forced to stand for long periods of time and deliberately denied rest.

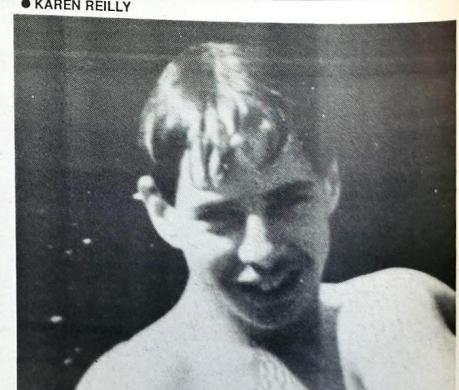
Carey said that he was denied anything to drink for long periods,

then taunted by the RUC interrogators who placed cups of tea in front of him but refused to allow him to take a drink "until he signed". The RUC also attempted to induce Carey to sign incriminating statements by taunting him about his elderly wife who suffers from a heart condition.

Throughout the five days Carey was held in Castlereagh, his farm was occupied and raided by British crown forces and his wife placed under house arrest. Carey arrived home to find his wife suffering from nervous exhaustion and much of his farmland dug up and destroyed.

Thirty-two-year-old Eamon McPhilips was arrested from his Newtonbutler home on Saturday, July 20th, days before he was due to be married. This is the second time McPhilips has been arrested and held in Castlereagh in the last eight months. Under arrest last November, he was told by the RUC that he would be arrested before his wedding. Following seven days of intensive interrogation McPhilips was released on the morning of his wedding only a few hours prior to the ceremony.

The series of arrests and detentions of people in Fermanagh provide yet more examples of the pattern of brutality in Castlereagh Interrogation Centre which has been emerging over the last few months. (See page 5.)



# PARAS CHARGED WITH MURDER

(CONTINUED  
FROM  
FRONT  
PAGE)

along the road bringing it to a halt and riddled it again when it stopped. The pathologist's report suggested that the two who died were still alive when the car stopped and died in the second hail of bullets. A passer-by described how he saw one soldier attack another by hitting him repeatedly on the leg and then assist him to a nearby jeep where he claimed that he had been hit by the car crashing through the checkpoint.

A documentary called *Lethal Force* made by the BBC Panorama team was shown on television two

weeks ago and the hour-long programme graphically displayed the circumstances surrounding several killings and focussed on the shooting of the joy-riders.

The programme reawakened the controversy of last September and may well have forced the British government to act sooner than they had intended to by charging those involved.

## WEB OF DECEIT

When the case comes to trial it will provide an all too rare opportunity for the public to get an insight

into the web of deceit and lies which surrounds the operation of the British government's shoot-to-kill policy.

The last occasion this occurred was when several RUC men were in the dock charged with killing IRA Volunteers Toman, McKerr and Burns in Lurgan in 1982. Like the Paras the RUC claimed that the three men crashed through a checkpoint but this turned out to be a lie. However at the RUC men's trial the judge, Gibson, who was later executed by the IRA, found the RUC men not guilty of murder and praised

them for sending the unarmed IRA men to the "final court of justice".

The only serving regular British army soldier to be convicted of murder while on duty in the North was Private Ian Thain who murdered civilian Thomas Reilly in Belfast in 1983. He was sentenced to life but served less than two

years and was allowed to return to the British army.

On entering the court last Wednesday the father of Karen Reilly made a reasonable plea for justice to be done and to be seen to be done. The history of such cases suggests such an outcome to be highly unlikely.

**JUST OVER** a month ago Amnesty International published a damning report on the British government's abuse of human rights, particularly in the Six Counties. Amongst a litany of abuses, the Amnesty Report highlighted the ill-treatment of a sample of ten people, all of whom came from Strabane and had been held in Castlereagh Interrogation Centre during April and May 1990.

All ten detainees complained of ill-treatment during their detention and provided medical evidence to an independent doctor appointed by Amnesty to confirm their allegations. Since the early 1970s Amnesty International has documented many cases of torture in notorious interrogation centres like Castlereagh. In the 1980s the organisation continued to receive complaints about ill-treatment of detainees during interrogation but it was widely believed that the policy of systematic torture of detainees which had been exposed in the early '70s was a thing of the past.

Over the last two years, the upsurge in reports of ill-treatment and the details of systematic beatings and the sophisticated employment of methods used by RUC interrogators aimed at inducing maximum pain with minimum evidence of abuse, has once again raised the spectre of systematic torture in interrogation centres in the Six Counties. In the light of this, AP/RN reports on two recent cases, one a male detainee who was held in Castlereagh Interrogation Centre in May, a month prior to the Amnesty Report, and the second a female detainee, whose Castlereagh ordeal came in the wake of the Amnesty report, in June.

#### BRUTALITY

Kevin Lynch was arrested in Lisnaskea, on Saturday, May 25th. He was immediately taken to Castlereagh Interrogation Centre where he was held for seven days before being charged and removed to Crumlin Road Jail where he remains on remand. An RUC Inspector told the court that the evidence against Lynch was "certain verbal statements" allegedly made during interrogation. Kevin Lynch maintains that no such statements, verbal or otherwise, were ever made and that despite severe beatings, he remained silent throughout the seven-day ordeal.

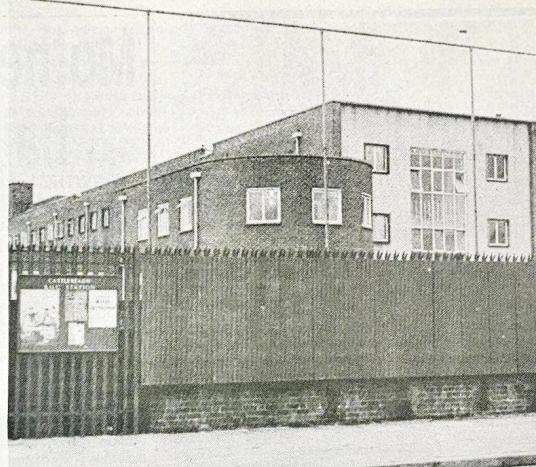
In Castlereagh Lynch was interrogated by a series of RUC men, between four to six times a day, with each interrogation lasting about one and a half hours. Over the seven days, Lynch was systematically beaten, repeatedly kicked, punched and slapped, choked, deprived of air, told he was going to be killed, threatened with loyalist death squads and told that he would be "verballed". (This word refers to the practice of RUC officers falsely claiming that the detainee made an incriminating verbal statement during interrogation.)

The physical assaults began on the Sunday night and continued throughout the week's detention. During one particular interrogation Lynch describes the systematic and calculated way in which his interrogators employed torture techniques:

"They kept punching me on the top of the head with the base of a closed fist. The one who kept up the punching kept saying 'they wouldn't leave a mark' but the constant thumping would cause more fluid to be produced to protect the brain and something would bust. He said it happened to boxers that are killed. Two of them would stand to the side hitting me very hard slaps to the back of my head, while the other one who was sitting in front was hitting my head back when it came forward with the force of the other slaps."

During the course of the same interrogation Lynch was slapped in the testicles, and almost suffocated.

# TORTURE CONTINUES DESPITE AMNESTY REPORT



● The spectre of systematic torture has arisen again in Castlereagh (above) and in interrogation centres throughout the Six Counties

## BEATINGS AND SEXUAL ASSAULT IN CASTLEREAGH

"They grabbed me by the throat and half choked me and other times they would hold my nose and mouth to stop me breathing. They emphasised they were experts at this and that they would leave no marks."

The RUC interrogators boasted that they could beat anyone they liked because the people monitoring the camera were "RUC men and women just like us", they also told Lynch that he could complain to the doctor as much as he liked, because they would leave no marks and no judge would ever believe him.

#### DEATH THREATS

As well as physical abuse Lynch was also subjected to death threats against himself and members of his family.

"There were a lot of threats, they said they would get loyalists to kill members of my family including my mother and father and that they would burn the house down some night with large petrol bombs. They said the had the go-ahead from the top to put people away from Fermanagh using any

means possible. They kept talking about the loyalists and the SAS taking me out, they were laughing and saying 'These boys are so professional, we just can't seem to get them stopped from killing the likes of you'."

The RUC also boasted about colluding with loyalist death squads and gloated about recent killings where they said information was being passed by the local UDR and RUC who wanted particular 'suspects' killed.

#### SEXUAL ABUSE

Geraldine O'Connor was arrested June 26th and held in Castlereagh Interrogation centre for five days before being charged with making her home available to the IRA.

She was later released on bail. As reported in AP/RN on July 17th, less than 48 hours after her release from Belfast High Court, Geraldine's home was attacked by a loyalist death squad which later named her as their intended victim. Geraldine is a single parent with two young children.

In many ways Geraldine O'Connor's experience of Castlereagh is very similar to that

of Kevin Lynch. During her five-day ordeal, O'Connor was systematically brutalised, repeatedly slapped in a manner similar to that endured by Kevin Lynch, punched, kicked, poked in the face, and threatened with electrocution and hanging. The significant difference between the two accounts lies in the fact that as a woman, Geraldine was also subjected to verbal sexual abuse and physical sexual assault, and as a mother she was taunted about her children.

"They were squealing into my ear 'Provie slut, you Provie scum.' They said that maybe I was going out with one of the guys, maybe I was going out with them all. They said I was into kinky sex. They said six people were in my house and maybe I was with all of them. They said 'All you are is a sleeping bag for the IRA'."

In another interrogation an RUC man in a brown suit repeatedly struck Geraldine on the top of her head.

"In the fourth interview the one in the brown suit actually put his elbow on my thigh and the elbow went up my leg right up to the groin. He was also rubbing his nose against my nose, putting his arms around me and then setting his head on my shoulders. He was also striking the back of my head. As for the other man, he was rubbing his hands up and down my thighs and asking me did it turn me on."

In another interrogation the RUC man in the brown suit "kept on pulling my jaw down and letting it up again, making my teeth crash together. He then squeezed my lips and kissed me." On a further occasion, the same RUC man, amid a string of verbal abuse, asked another "Do you fancy a quickie, even though she is so ugly?"

When Geraldine complained to the doctor about the ill-treatment and physical assaults she was receiving, the doctor said he had spoken to the inspector about it and the inspector had said he had monitored the interviews and there was nothing going on.

As a young mother, Geraldine O'Connor also had to endure taunts and gibes about her children. A female RUC interrogator, who repeatedly slapped Geraldine across the face, told her that her children would be grown up by the time their mother was out of detention. She was told that she didn't deserve children and that they had been taken by the social services.

#### COLLUSION

In the Amnesty report published in June, the group highlighted the case of civil rights lawyer Pat Finucane who was shot dead by pro-British forces in 1989. Amnesty expressed grave concern about the possible collusion between British crown forces and the murderers of Pat Finucane, citing among other things, the threats made by RUC officers in Castlereagh who told Finucane's clients that their lawyer was a 'Provie' and would be killed. Despite the continuing controversy surrounding Pat Finucane's death, in Castlereagh the threats to lawyers continue.

During interrogations, Geraldine O'Connor was told on a number of occasions that her lawyer, whom they named, was a "Provie solicitor" who, the RUC claimed "was in the IRA". One interrogator asked Geraldine if she remembered Pat Finucane who had "ended up in a body bag" and told her that her solicitor would "end up the same".

The experiences of Kevin Lynch and Geraldine O'Connor while being held in Castlereagh Interrogation Centre are in no way unique. Over the last two years there has been a series of complaints from detainees about ill-treatment during interrogation. The similarity in the kind of ill-treatment which has been endured by detainees and the frequency with which systematic methods of physical and verbal abuse are being employed by RUC interrogators in Castlereagh, is increasingly leading to the conclusion that the torture and ill-treatment of detainees has official sanction and reflects policy decisions at "the very top".

# POWs in historic life sentence appeal

**A CHALLENGE** against life prison terms by three of the longest-serving republican prisoners of war in jails in England opened in the London Court of Appeal on Wednesday, July 31st.

Roy Walsh, Paul Holmes and Billy Armstrong, all of whom have served over 18 years after being sentenced to life imprisonment in 1973, made legal history earlier this year, when they were given leave by the British courts to appeal against their sentences, almost two decades after they were imposed.

The outcome of the challenge by the three Belfast men is not expected to be known for another two

months. A series of delays has meant that the hearing was not able to proceed until the last day of the legal year and the court of appeal does not reconvene until October.

The challenge of the three men arises out of the fact that while they had been given the same sentence at the same trial of five other co-defendants convicted for IRA bombings in London in 1973, the other five have all been released, some over ten years ago.



• (Left to right) Billy Armstrong, Roy Walsh and Paul Holmes, all of whom have served over 18 years in English jails



• Attempts to privatise all or part of the ESB will be met with "the strongest possible resistance" from workers

## ESB privatisation fears

BY ART MAC EOIN

**FEARS** are growing about moves towards privatisation in the Electricity Supply Board.

Last week at the annual board meeting of the ESB, a short letter was read out from an unspecified group making an offer for the Tarbert power station in County Kerry, the third largest in the 26 Counties. The offer had not gone to the board directly; it had gone straight to the Dublin government.

According to commentators it would be impossible to take the oil-fired Tarbert station out of the system without restructuring the whole electricity industry in the 26 Counties.

The group of unions in the ESB have warned that any decision to privatise all or part of the ESB would be met with the "strongest possible resistance" from the staff in their role as employees and customers.

Following confirmation by the ESB and the unions that an ap-

proach to buy Tarbert had been made, the Fianna Fáil/Progressive Democrats Coalition Energy Minister Bobby Molloy claimed that the government will have to consider introducing 'competition' into the generation of electricity at some time in the future under their obligations as members of the EC.

Commenting on the Tarbert bid, Molloy said:

"The situation is that following the recent ESB strike, numerous submissions from both the general public and industry were received suggesting how such a strike could be avoided in future."

These suggestions, Molloy alleged, also included general proposals regarding the electricity supply system. He admitted that he was personally in favour of privatising semi-state companies "in certain circumstances" and he de-

clined to rule out the ESB being involved.

### EXTRA JOBS

Meanwhile demands have been made for the publication of a survey carried out by a German company for the ESB which reportedly showed that it would be feasible to bring back into operation two of Tarbert's four units which have been out of commission for many years. It has been reported that this could result in an extra 50 jobs.

Commenting on the privatisation threat Billy Leen of Kerry Sinn Féin said that Molloy's comments showed the "creeping Thatcherism of the Coalition". He said they were prepared to put jobs and services at risk through privatisation by "selling off publicly-owned companies to private profiteers with little care for the social consequences" and he urged support for the ESB workers' stand against the plans.

## Mother dies after bail denied

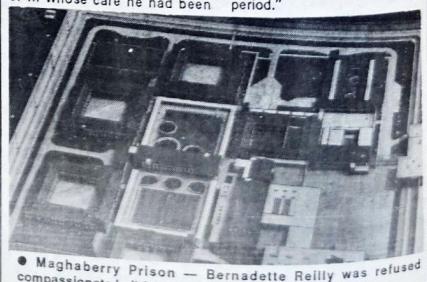
**THE MOTHER** of a remand prisoner currently being held in Maghaberry jail, died shortly after her daughter was refused compassionate bail to visit her and the prisoner's own six-year-old child for the fourth time.

Bernadette Reilly, 29-year-old mother from Turf Lodge was arrested in March and subsequently charged five days later with possession of an alleged 'mortar tube' a piece of pipe found in the shed at the back of her home. Since her detention Bernadette's six-year-old son had been living with his grandmother. Following the arrest of his mother the child has repeatedly shown signs of acute distress and obviously suffers from trauma when visiting his mother on remand in Maghaberry.

placed, Bernadette was once again refused compassionate bail. On the subsequent death of her mother, Bernadette was only allowed a few hours compassionate parole to attend the funeral and comfort her grieving child.

Commenting on the case, Sinn Féin spokesperson on prison issues, Francis Molloy said that to date there had been no compassion shown by the courts in relation to Bernadette Reilly's family situation and the tragic loss of her mother. He continued:

"Bereavement and continuing separation from his mother will obviously have a detrimental effect on a six-year-old child who has already suffered five months of trauma. I would call on the NIO to act immediately on this case in a compassionate manner and grant Bernadette Reilly bail to enable her to be with her son during this tragic period."



• Maghaberry Prison — Bernadette Reilly was refused compassionate bail four times to visit her dying mother

# NUPE declares war on discrimination

A TEN-POINT PLAN to end discrimination against women in the public services has been launched by the National Union of Public Employees in the Six Counties. The union describes the moves as the most important yet taken by a trade union to enforce equal pay laws and win new rights for women.

The new initiative, Positively Part Time, links legal moves with negotiations covering staff in local government, the health service, higher education and the water industry. The launch came at the start of key talks for health service ancillary workers, local government manual workers and polytechnic manual workers.

Ending discrimination against part-timers, most of whom are women, is at the heart of the moves says NUPE. The European Court says discrimination against part-timers over pensions, sick pay and redundancy is illegal sex discrimination.

A new legal opinion compiled for NUPE by Anthony Lester QC, says women part-time health service ancillary workers have a prima facie case under British and European equal pay laws against the British Department of Health. This is hot on the heels of legal action to challenge the way the local government pension scheme treats part-timers.

A further legal opinion is being commissioned by NUPE on the Local Government Manual Workers Agreement. The union is also examining the rights of part-timers in polytechnics, colleges and universities to test if employers can be chal-

lenged using the same laws.

## CONCERTED EFFORT

Inez McCormack NUPE's Regional Organiser in the Six Counties said:

"The biggest concerted effort to end discrimination across the public service starts here and now. We are calling time on discrimination against part-timers.

"They are no longer prepared to suffer widespread discrimination in employment. Denied full-time rights, they are treated as second class workers by employers and government.

"Public service employers and the government systematically breach British and European equal pay laws and sex discrimination laws."

McCormack added that talks to end discrimination go hand in hand with legal moves: "What we don't achieve in negotiations we will seek

to achieve by legal challenges," she said.

Present at the press conference were several women workers whose stories represented the reality of discrimination which NUPE say is now being systematised by the British government.

In June judges at the Belfast Court of Appeal backed five women workers from Belfast's Royal Victoria Hospital who were fighting for equal pay with male colleagues. This means that an independent expert appointed by the court can now draw up a report on the relative value of women's jobs.

Speaking about the court victory, one of the workers, Rosaleen Davison said: "Never again let anyone suppose that because a woman has a mop in her hand, she doesn't have a brain in her head. Or that because she works on her knees she won't rise to her feet for justice."

Rita Spotswood, another of the



• INEZ McCORMACK

women, said all five entered the latest round of their equal pay battle with renewed confidence:

"The taking of the case has given us a sense of our worth. I've put a value on myself and my own job."

# GAA fans obstructed by border Brits

BY LIAM O COILEAIN

THE BRITISH ARMY'S continuing policy of vandalising rebuilt border crossings caused chaos for hundreds of GAA supporters last weekend.

Two border crossings between Monaghan and Fermanagh, at Lackey Bridge and at Mullinahinch, were reopened on Saturday evening, July 27th, by over 100 people, 50 working on each crossing. They were opened for a dual purpose, to facilitate farmers gathering hay and silage and to help people travelling south to the GAA Ulster football final in Clones to avoid long delays at British army checkpoints. The openings were well advertised on local radio stations and by word of mouth and literally thousands of people travelling from Donegal and Down on Sunday chose to take the reopened Lackey Bridge route to Clones.

In the early hours of Sunday morning, though, a troop of British soldiers, equipped with a mechanical digger which was flown in by helicopter, had cratered both crossings, closing them off to traffic. A huge backlog of traffic



• The Fermanagh Monaghan Community Association have promised that "the people will not be defeated"

was left parked on the northern side of Lackey Bridge on Sunday afternoon as the thousands who had turned up expecting the route to be passable chose to walk the mile and a half to Clones rather than drive 15 miles via the Kilturk checkpoint. Indeed that evening after the match there was a three-mile tail-back and delays of up to an hour as traffic queued to pass through this checkpoint. There were similar delays at the infamous Aughnacloy checkpoint.

There were also reports that British soldiers were present at the Lackey Bridge crossing early on Sunday afternoon questioning people walking across the closed crossing.

Michael McPhillips of the Fermanagh Monaghan Community Association promised that "the people will not be defeated".

"There are 27 roads closed between Fermanagh and Monaghan and we will be out every weekend reopening these crossings. Lackey Bridge and Mullinahinch will not remain closed for long."

Sinn Féin representative in the Clones area, Pat Treanor, said: "The British are always using security as an excuse for these closures. On the contrary this weekend's activities were plainly malicious and vindictive, aimed not just at local people but at all those travelling south to see the Ulster football final."

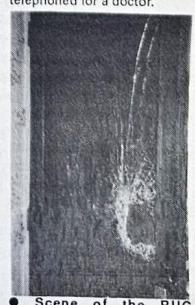
# British vandalism in Markets

IN A VICIOUS ATTACK on two homes in the Markets area of Belfast by the RUC and UDR, doors and windows were broken when crown forces smashed their way into the homes of two young women. In both incidents no warrants of any description were produced, no explanation given and no damage forms issued to the residents.

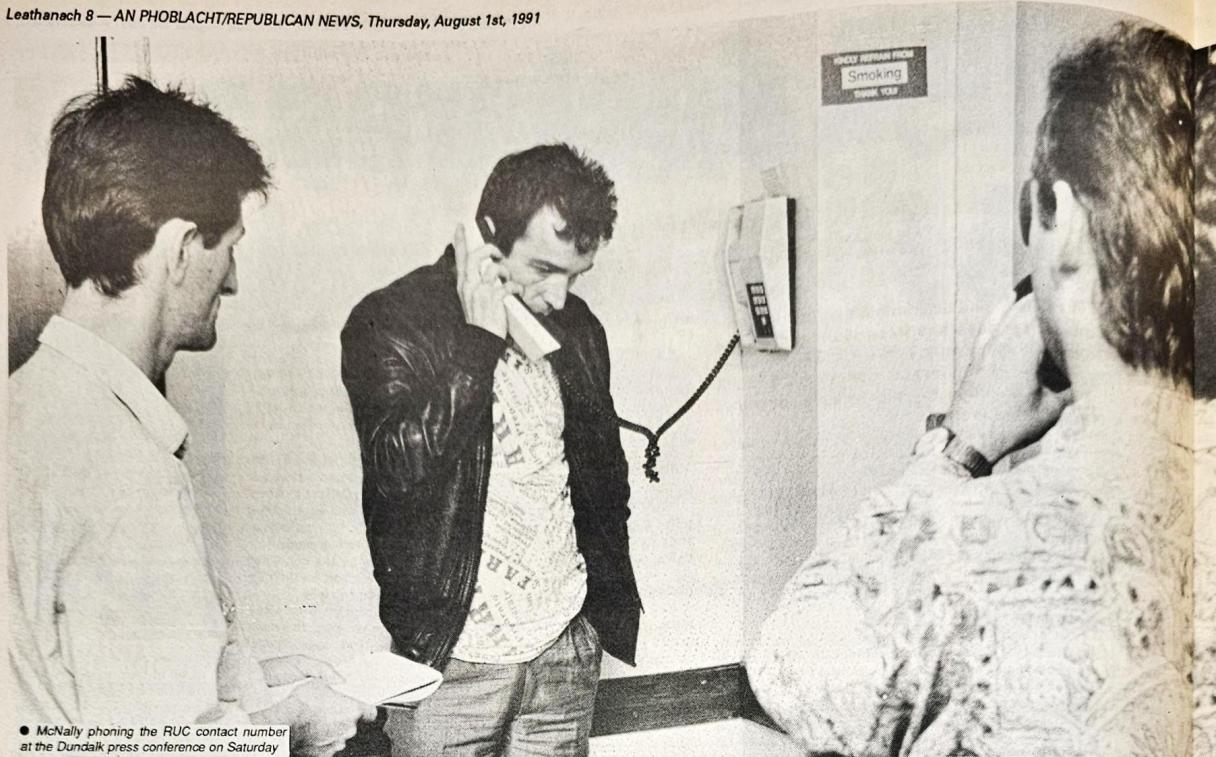
Shortly after 5.30pm on Friday, July 26th two UDR and one RUC Land Rover arrived at a house in Friendly Street and sledge-hammered their way into a house whose occupant, a young woman, was out. This was the second time in the last three weeks that the house had been targeted by British crown forces.

In a similar incident in Stewart Street, eight jeeps of UDR and RUC personnel smashed their way into the home of Jeanette Montgomery, a 23-year-old mother of three. Jeanette and her young family were not at home at the time of the raid but arrived shortly after the RUC smashed in the front door and a number of windows. Once again no search warrant was produced and a neighbour who enquired

about the search was told to "fuck off". Commenting on the incident, Jeanette Montgomery said that "the RUC refused to show any search warrant and I became so upset that a neighbour telephoned for a doctor."



• Scene of the RUC sledgehammer attack



● McNally phoning the RUC contact number at the Dundalk press conference on Saturday

# RUC attempt to lure republicans into shoot-to-kill ambush

BY ART MAC EOIN

A COUNTY ARMAGH MAN has revealed that the RUC tried to persuade him to lure three republicans into an ambush by crown forces.

In an interview with AP/RN Nigel McNally from Lurgan said that two RUC detectives had met him secretly over the past three months and threatened to frame him for the killing of an RUC reservist unless he co-operated.

McNally who crossed the border into Dundalk on Friday night, July 26th, gave a press conference there on Saturday saying he had decided to speak out because he "couldn't stick it any more".

In a detailed interview with AP/RN McNally describes the na-

ture of his entrapment and appeals to others not to become entangled in the RUC's dangerous web:

"I was arrested in late April of this year. I was taken from my home in Lurgan at 5am and brought to Gough Barracks where I was interviewed by two RUC Special Branch detectives. During the interrogation I lifted my cigarettes to take one out but hadn't got a light. One of the detectives went out and came back with a silver petrol lighter which he handed to me. I took this and lit my cigarette. When he took the lighter back off me he put it in a plastic bag saying it had been used to burn the 'motor'

that was used to kill RUC Reserve Constable Wilfred Weathers on December 19th. They said that they had enough to convict me for murder with my prints on the lighter. They then asked me to work for them. I agreed.

"They asked me did I know of any arms dumps and I told them I did. They took me out in the middle of the night to show it to them. This was about 23 hours after my arrest, about three or four in the morning. They tied a rope around my neck in the car on the way to the dump. When we got there I opened the dump and they went over to it and examined the contents. Inside was one AK 47 rifle, one pistol, three drogue bombs and ammunition. They closed the dump and I was brought back to Gough

**They named several targets at which they wanted me to suggest to these people to throw the drogue bombs. They said that they would then arrest them, but I am in no doubt that they meant to shoot them.**

Barracks where they released me and gave me a phone number—325685. I was to ask for 'Paul' and say I was 'Paddy'."

Ten days after his release McNally made his first phone call to the RUC contact:

"They asked me to meet

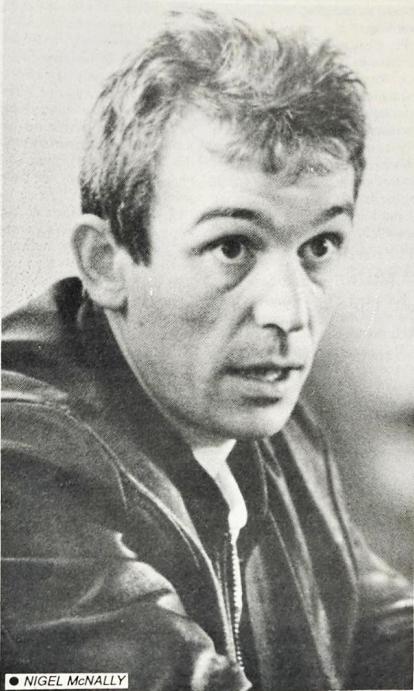
them in Lisburn railway station. I went to meet them. It was the same two Special Branch detectives who had interrogated me in Gough Barracks. They offered me money but I refused. One of the them had a clipboard on which he took notes,

and clipped onto this bundle of money.

LOCALS NAME

"They named three local republicans and asked me whether they planning any jobs, whether I had been talking to them, whether they would want to the dump and tell any gear out. They named three targets at which they wanted me to suggest to the drogue bombs. They said that they would arrest them, but I am in no doubt that they meant to shoot them. They said that they would arrest them. They said that they would want to be the instigator of a getaway. I told them that I couldn't do that, that I want to be the instigator of anybody's death or anybody's life. They said if I did it they would look after and co-

*They said that they had enough to convict me for murder with my prints on the lighter. They then asked me to work for them. I agreed.*



● NIGEL McNALLY

# lure

# **ENTRAPMENT CONSPIRACY REVEALED**

push

to this was a anywhere in the world and that  
I would be sunning myself for  
the rest of my life."

McNally had five other meetings with the RUC contacts and at each one they tried to get him to set up republicans for assassination. On each occasion the RUC offered him money but he refused it. He last met them on Tuesday, July 16th.

"I asked them to put me in jail and told them that I couldn't continue with this informing. They replied that if I held on just a wee while longer it would be all over. Over this whole period I was just shattered. I couldn't work, I couldn't eat, I couldn't sleep."

I then that I , that I didn't stigator of anybody's arm did it I would and could go

the local Sinn Féin office and reported the whole thing."

**PRESS CONFERENCE**  
At the press conference in Dundalk on Saturday McNally phoned the contact number and asked for 'Paul'. He was told that he wasn't there. When McNally

he wasn't there. When asked, he said that this was 'Paddy' the person on the other end of the line tried to make conversation. At this point McNally handed the phone to an RTE reporter.

The RTE man said that he was aware that the RUC knew where there was an arms dump hidden and asked whom he was talking to. The person on the other end replied by saying he would not continue the conversation as he didn't know whom he was talking to and hung up.

After McNally's revelation on Saturday British forces sealed off the place where the arms dump was "all over". He now cannot return to his home in Armagh for fear of his frame-up by the RUC.

## OPINION

## **The murderous reality of informer tactics**

THE REVELATIONS this week by a Lurgan man that the RUC tried to force him into luring three named republicans into a trap while the crown forces kept an arms dump under surveillance, is a damning indictment of the dangerous advice which has been given to people by church leaders and some nationalist politicians in recent times to co-operate with the RUC.

If Nigel McNally had done as instructed by the RUC the likelihood is that three men would have been killed in another shoot-to-kill operation by the crown forces. The question then must be asked — does Cahal Daly believe that this would have been the morally correct path for Nigel McNally to have taken?

The manner in which the RUC recruit informers and the uses to which they are put must surely raise serious questions for people such as Cahal Daly and those politicians North and South who have encouraged people to pass on information.

As Nigel McNally himself explains the ordeal of being targeted by the RUC as a potential informer is a terrifying one. It is an ordeal which has been experienced by hundreds of people over the past two decades and involves intimidatory tactics including coercion, blackmail and threats of imprisonment and death. It is a tactic which has been used to secure information for shoot-to-kill actions in which republicans and civilians have lost their lives.

Cahal Daly and others have spoken of their concern at the deaths of informers. But Daly has yet to speak out and express his views on the recruitment of informers and the use to which they have been put. Perhaps if he were to address the morality of a policy which uses frightened people, and was prepared to speak out against this policy, these tragedies could be avoided.

## DESPISED

Informers have always been despised in Irish society because of the lives they have wrecked. But more despicable still is the system which spins a web to trap people into becoming informers. This system has been refined as never before in recent years by the British administration in the Six Counties. More than any aspect of repression in the Northern statelet it involves the twisting by the British of their own legal code to suit their counter-insurgency strategy.

One of the central aims of that British strategy is to remove those people who are seen as enemies of the state by death or imprisonment. In countless cases this has involved the use of detention, in-depth interrogation and ill-treatment to force people to sign confessions incriminating themselves and others. This practice has resulted in the imprisonment of hundreds of people for thousands of years.

That is one key part of a strategy based on fear. The other key part of the strategy is the use of, on the one hand, financial inducements, and on the other, threats to the lives and liberty of those targeted by the RUC to act as informers. With huge financial resources at their disposal and equipped with an arsenal of drastic legal powers the British authorities can trawl the community for victims.

## THE REAL GODFATHERS

It is the masterminds of this system who are the real godfathers in the Six Counties, yet their daily work, ranging from offers of a few pounds to spy on neighbours to the targeting of individuals to set up others for assassination, escapes the attention of those who make a profession of "condemning all violence".

The best advice to those people pressurised by the crown forces and their allies to inform is not to co-operate no matter what threats are issued against them. As Nigel McNally said "you only get deeper and deeper into it." People so pressurised should immediately approach someone they can trust and make it public knowledge. For its part the IRA has made clear many times that those who come forward voluntarily and reveal their predicament, whether they have been victims of the RUC or the Garda, have nothing to fear irrespective of what information they may have given. Anyone who exposes the informer system of fear and lies is not only helping themselves but also others who may be suffering the same plight.

# PROGRESS IN BRITISH TRADE UNIONS

IRISH ACTIVISTS have scored a number of victories in the British trade union movement, significantly advancing the policies in a key number of unions.

Winning the trade union movement's support for Irish re-unification and independence is vital since, through their block votes, the unions dominate Labour Party conferences and so influence the policies of a future Labour government. Year after year, motions advocating British withdrawal have won majority support from constituency Labour parties only to be overwhelmingly defeated by trade union opposition.

The problem is simply that unions which organise in the North are reluctant to adopt any position which might bring the divisions amongst their members to the surface. In some cases, quite literally, a telephone call from a Belfast regional office has been enough to have a motion removed from an

agenda, remitted or voted down. When debates do take place British trade unionists are inclined to defer to Irish delegates, for obvious reasons, without understanding that it is because of the constraints which trade unionists operate under in the North that they can not give a political lead on the question. All they can do is veto.

A few years ago these arguments were used against even the mildest motions on civil liberties. Trade unions would condemn torture and extra-judicial assassinations throughout the world while condoning its practice by their own government in Ireland. More recently a number of unions opposed calls for them to take a stand against employment discrimination; which, since two unions have been

exposed as colluding in it, is hardly surprising.

For these reasons the successes that have been won are significant. Last November the Connolly Association held a seminar for trade unionists in London which was sponsored by two national trade unions: the railway workers and seafarers, RMT, and the local government workers union, NALGO. It was the first time that national trade unions have been won to active support for an event promoting Irish re-unification.

## MOTIONS PASSED

Following on from this the train drivers union, ASLEF, passed a resolution calling for British withdrawal. The manufacturing union, MSF, passed a motion denouncing Britain's role in Ireland and calling for withdrawal in conditions determined by the Irish people themselves. The journalists union, the

NUJ, passed a resolution supporting Irish re-unification, through consent and peaceful means, after a reference to British disengagement had been narrowly defeated. NALGO unanimously carried a resolution calling for the union to step up its campaigning work and to establish a network, in consultation with the Connolly Association, to promote Irish re-unification in the trade union movement.

Finally the Transport & General Workers' Union T&GWU passed a very comprehensive motion supporting reform in the Six Counties and harmonisation with the 26 Counties with the stated aim of eventual re-unification. These developments are reflected in the resolutions on Ireland on the agenda of the forthcoming Labour Party conference.

Taken together these motions show progress throughout the trade union movement and that activists



have the maturity to adapt their tactics according to circumstances. The T&GWU, MSF and the NUJ all organise in the Six Counties and the policy decisions of these unions demonstrates that discussion is possible. Other unions, such as NUPE and COHSE for the health workers, the printers' union SOGAT, the builders' union UCATT and the general union, GMB have all taken progressive stands on civil liberties issues in recent years which can be built on. The unions which continue to veto discussion should be isolated further.

Armed PLO attacks in Israeli-occupied territory have been abandoned. For over two years, unarmed Palestinian youths in the occupied territories of the West Bank and Gaza have been fighting back with sticks and stones against the weaponry of the Israeli army.

## PALESTINIAN STATE

The PLO has already made a huge compromise by abandoning its immediate demand for replacement of the racist Israeli state with a democratic Palestinian one. It now seeks the formation of a Palestinian state in the territories occupied by Israel in 1967. In practice, it accepts the existence of an Israeli state, while it continues to advocate the creation of a democratic Palestine in its place, at some point in the future.

PLO flexibility extends even to accepting many of the Israeli terms for the proposed conference. It seems that the Palestinian liberation force will not demand formal participation in the talks and is prepared to accept that Palestinian delegates at the conference should form part of the Jordanian delegation. On the Jerusalem issue, it is even prepared to include delegates like writer Edward Said who have only a very slight connection with the city. Said was born in Jerusalem but has lived in New York for most of his life.

But none of that means very much to Yitzhak Shamir. The Israeli premier intends to extend the borders of his state — not to negotiate with the PLO. His best hope of remaining in power is to continue to bang Israel's equivalent of the Lambeeg drum.

# SHAMIR'S LAMBEG DRUM



A MIDDLE-EAST 'peace conference' is now in the offing but the single most important participant won't be there. The real victims of around 45 years of conflict in the region — the Palestinians — will be excluded by the very people who have victimised them. The Israeli administration refuses to take part unless it gets a veto over the Arab delegates. It is determined to rule out the real representatives of the Palestinians — the PLO.

Listening to this story, Irish people will probably hear strong echoes of the recent Stormont talks which excluded Sinn Féin. At present, all the signs are that the planned meeting is no more likely to bring peace to the troubled region than Peter Brooke's series of talks are to bring peace to this country.

US Secretary of State James Baker has been shuttling around the region over the last month in his fifth recent attempt to cobble together a 'settlement' which represents US interests. Like the Israelis, he wants to exclude the PLO from formally participating in the conference. But he is prepared to compromise by allowing

delegates who have the support of the PLO.

The present Israeli administration, led by Yitzhak Shamir, is opposed to any real compromise. His government will even boycott the talks if a non-PLO Palestinian from East Jerusalem attends.

Effectively, Shamir wants to determine the outcome of the conference in advance.

Israeli governments have

terrified the Palestinians since the end of the Second World War and, with the formation of Israel in 1947, Zionist gangs stole Palestinian land. In a series of wars since then, the state has increased its size at the expense of its neighbours. Shamir is hurriedly building houses on territory occupied

by Israeli forces nearly a

city, claiming it as its capital. Jerusalem is a holy city for Muslims and Christians as well as Jews. Before the 1967 war, the old city of Jerusalem was held by Jordan and the city has a very large Arab population. Palestinians also claim Jerusalem as their capital.

Shamir says that if a Palestinian from Jerusalem is allowed to attend he or she will be giving credence to that claim. Meanwhile, Palestinians point out that, if citizens of Jerusalem are excluded from the conference, they will not only be giving in to Israeli bullying but will implicitly be giving up any claim to the city.

Israeli governments have



● Shamir wants to dictate the outcome of the conference in advance

quarter of a century ago, in the Six-Day War. By housing its citizens on this land, it hopes to cement its control over it and to drive out the native Arab residents.

## MOST RIGHT-WING

Shamir's government is a knife-edge coalition and is the most right-wing since the formation of the state. If he concedes in even the most superficial way to the Palestinians, he risks falling from power and losing the election that would follow. But, if he holds on, he can be sure to increase his vote.

Over the next few years, a total of 750,000 Jews are due

to emigrate from the Soviet Union to Israel. The only land available to house them is in the Occupied Territories — where Shamir's government is pressing ahead with one of the largest building programmes in the history of the state. If Shamir can ensure the immediate housing of the immigrants from the Soviet Union, he can be sure of their votes. The Soviet Jews who have already arrived tend to support Shamir rather than his opponents in the Israeli Labour Party.

While 'not an inch' might well be the slogan on the Zionist side, Palestinians have been extremely flexible.

# Cosc Gaeilge i Halla na Cathrach cáinte

TA AN COSC LEANUNACH ar úsáid na Gaeilge i Halla na Cathrach, Bhéal Feirste, cáinte arís ag an Chomhairleoir Sinn Féineach Máirtín O Muilleoir, i ndiaidh teipeadh d'íarracht eile chun scor den chosc.

Tá úsáid na Gaeilge i Halla na Cathrach ina chnámh spáinne ó 1983 amach nuair a labhair an chéad chomhairleoir Shinn Féineach a toghadh do Chomhairle Bhéal Feirste, Alex Maskey, as Gaeilge ag an chéad chruinniu a d'fheastail sé air. Chuir an hAontachtaithe ar an Chomhairle go mór in éadan úsáid na teanga agus leoga thug an comhairleoir DUP, Sammy Wilson, "Iep-rachaun language" uirthi. Sa deireadh vótáil na hAontachtaithe chun cosc iomlán a chur ar labhairt agus ar úsáid na Gaeilge ann.

San iarracht is déanáí chun dúshlán a thabhairt don chosc d'íarr Máirtín O Muilleoir ar an Rúnaiocht Angla-Eireannach tamall ó shin cur ina lú ar rialtas na Breataine go ngoilleann an



• MÁIRTÍN O MUILLEOIR

cosc ar an Ghaeilge sa chomhairle ar náisiúntóirí agus go bhfuil sé doighlachata.

I litir a fuair sé ar na mallaibh dùirt rialtas na 26 Chontae gur chuir siad an méid sin in iúl do rialtas na Breataine agus gur thug siad le fios dóibh chomh maith gur mhaith leo go mbeadh an Ghaeilge in úsáid an oiread agus a b'fhéidir sa saol poiblí sna Sé Chontae.

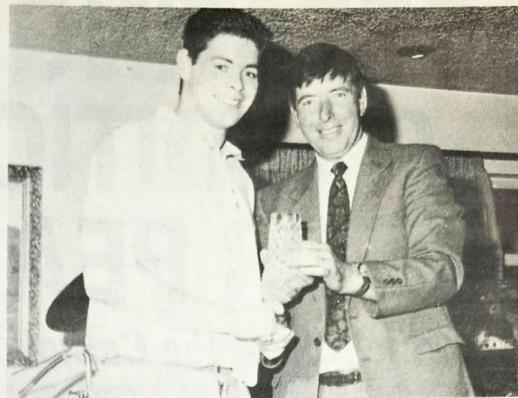
## LEITHSCÉAL GAN CHIALL

Thug rialtas na Breataine le fios áfach mar fhreagair ar na mallaí seo go mbaineann an cosc ar an Ghaeilge i gcomhairle Bhéal Feirste leis an chomhairle amháin agus nach dtiocfadh leosan a ladar a chur isteach ar a ladar.

Dúirt O Muilleoir "gur leithscéal gan chiall atá ann nó gur chuir rialtas na Breataine a ladar isteach i gngóthi na gcomhairí nuair a d'fhóir sé dóibh déanamh amháin.

Lean sé leis,

"Mar shampla feáach an dóigh a bhruigh rialtas na Breataine móid frithphoréigin ar na comhairí. Léiríonn an cosc ar an Ghaeilge i Halla na Cathrach cé chomh bréagach is atá gealltanais an dá rialtas go ndéanfadh siad cearta náisiúntóirí a chosaint."



## Dea-scéala ó Chomhar

Lo Cian Mac Aoidh

CUIG DEAG de ghearrscéaltaí Gaeilge atá in eagrán Lúnasa den iris mhiósúil Comhar — ach níl aibh beirt bhan i measc na n-údar.

Le cuidíú on Chomhairle Ealaíona ó dheas, tá pácaíte gearrscéalaíochta curtha le chéile ag Comhar a chuidéidí leis an Ghaeilgeoir leitheartha fada an tsamhráid a chur isteach. Agus ni bocht an réimsí scribhneoir atá aimsithe ag an mhiosachán. Ag bárr an iosta tá Alan Titley — an t-aon scribhneoir Ghaeilge a thugáileann an chomháradh le Kurt Vonnegut a caitear amach go róinntar ar na salta.

Agus tá scorth na cuideachta aige fosta.

Tá gearrscéala nua anseo ón fhile ag Feirsteach, Pól Ó Muiri, ar foilsiocht an cheathair chnuasaill filíochta da chuid, *Faoi Sáil na Ríona*, ar na fíormhálaí agus feach nach bhfuil a chomháradh le Kurt Vonnegut a caitear amach go róinntar ar na salta.

### AN SCRIBHNEOIR IS BISIULA

Ní cuasadh gearrscéaltaí go dtí Mac Annáidh tá Lón Dubh Fhear Manach — an scribhneoir is bisiúla agus is spíosúla i giorrach Uadh ó d'éirigh Peigi Rosa as an pheannraichte — i gcuideachta na cuideachta. Bás Séa atá a riomh ag ceacht damhsa do na Housemartins.

Tá neart fear eile ann leis: Séan Mac Mathúna — an scribhneoir gearrscéaltaí is fórsaí d'áit bhfuil agaonáin leis an Ghaeilge — Pádraig Ó Ciobháin, Rónán Ó Sodhaigh, Pádraig Ó Baoghaill as Rann na Feirste via Muineachán ag scriobh ar "Oglaigh"



### • GREAGOIR Ó DUILL

údar *Rubble on MICKIES* agus cé déarfaí nach eisean un "violinist" ó i dtídealán scéil? Is i mbun coimcheoil atá Séa:

"Scriobh sé lena mhéara tríd an aer go barr a sheasmhain agus leoga beagánan nib airde fós sular imigh sé le tulise ag tím isteach sa cholún solais deir a longraigh i lá an urláir. Tharraing lucht na scéipe síar, iad ag cuimhneáraí an oiche i Baile Átha Cliath ar thug sé ceacht damhsa do na Housemartins."

Tá neart fear eile ann leis: Séan Mac Mathúna — an scribhneoir gearrscéaltaí is fórsaí d'áit bhfuil agaonáin leis an Ghaeilge — Pádraig Ó Ciobháin, Rónán Ó Sodhaigh, Pádraig Ó Baoghaill as Rann na Feirste via Muineachán ag scriobh ar "Oglaigh"

s'agairn fein agus Diarmuid O Gráinne.

Is é laghad na mbán agus an chéad a gumaí scrofa ón fhadb atá ag Comhar nó tá gearrscéala anseao ag an fhile chumasach, Biddy Jenkins, ar chomhartha aimsire maith é d'áitbhul le theachta ón fhile tuigseach éolasach seo. Ag fágann eagarthóir Comhar, Tomás Mac Siomóin, an focal eagair an mhiúise seo as Sibhán Ni Fhoghla, eagarthóir leitheartha na híre, le SOS a chur ionas na bancscribneoirí. "Col ag Máin le Próisruthú i nGaeilge?", a fhiafrionn si. Ar aise:

"Is mór an diol suntais é nach bhfuil na mná ag saothrú an phróisí sa Ghaeilge... An mbraitheann síd doicheadh rompu nach aon do san fhilíoch? Mura ann dóibh mar údar i ngearrscéalaíochta na Gaeilge, táid aon ma geáidí sna scéalta a thagann chugainn — ach farraor, nil iontu ag leagan róchúntaíochta cíochach, géillíúil, mionscritiataí a shásóidh carthair casta fearaí éigin nuair a theipfidh a phairteí óil air... Achainá ar na mná: brisigh bhur dóst."

Ní fhios, má fhreagraitear an achainí, nach 13 bhanascríbneoir agus beirt scribhneoir fiú bheas ar *Comhar Lúnasa* 1992.

Comhar, mi Lúnasa, £1.50. Sintiúslí bliana £18 ó Comhar Teoranta, 5 Rae Mhuirean, Baile Átha Cliath 2.

## Cén treo anois do Ghlór na nGael?

Le Eoghan Mac Cormaic

BA EAN EACHTRA ba shuimiúla den tseachtaí seo caite na crúinní cinn bliana Ghlór na nGael. Ceist chasta cheart atá anseo, ar ndóigh, agus tú ag déanamh iarracha ar pholasáí na heagraicteach a leanúint.

Tá a fhios agaibh stair an rud. Beagnach bliain ó shin ghearr an OTE deontais £90,000 bliantúil ó Ghlór na nGael mar chuid d'á polasáí gan aigeard a thabhairt do ghrúpa ar bith a bhfuil poblachtánaigh bainte leis. O shin amach tá Ghlór na nGael ag déanamh iarracha an dá thára a fhreastal, aigeard a bhaliú ar son oideachais agus forbairt na Gaeilge agus feachtas in éadan na táistí polaitíula a reachtáil san am céanna. Deir a lán daoine nach féidir le Ghlór an dá rud a dhéanamh, nó ar a laghad, nach féidir leis a híarracht is fear a chur sa Gaeilge fad agus atá siad ag tabhairt aird a fhreastachtaí eile chomh maith.

Ní raibh mé ag an chruinniu cinn bliana ach chuala mé ó fhoinsí dolaithe agus na cláimíte amach, daóine ag taobh le feachtas frithastáil polaitíula, daóine eile ag éileann ar Ghlór na nGael a súile a dhíriú ar fhórás ar Gaeilge anmháin arís. Mar a dúirt mé is ceist chasta i seo nuair atá líne an pháirtí a lorg, táimid i goinmeánaíonn na táistí polaitíula, ar ndóigh, agus táimid ar son fás agus leathnú na Gaeilge. Agus seo an cheist... an bhfuil an

dá ghné sin scártha óna chéile níl fíte fuaité le chéile?

### CEIST PHOLAITIUIL

Tuigfidh síbh seo, a chomráidaithe, ní ar feadh na mbláinta nach raibh muid ag rá gur cheist pholaitíuil i an Ghaeilge agus ceartach Ghlór? Na raibh muid ag rá nach féidir, i bhí firinne, ceist na Gaeilge a phlé gan polaitíochta a bheith ann? Agus nach raibh muid ag rá gurbh is é ceann de na fathanna go raibh Glúaiseacht na Gaeilge lag in aiteanna éigin? Agus nach raibh Gaeilgeoir ag seachaint ceisteanna polaitíula, ach d'á leanfaidis ag aghaidh le hobernáin Gaeilge go dtiocfaidh pointe nuair a nár bhí féidir na ceisteanna polaitíula céanna a sheachaint a thuiltheadh. Agus, go deimhin, nach raibh muid ag tuar go ndéanfál polaitíochta ar Gaeilgeoirí — fiú ina n-ainneoin toiseach go bhfuil meon in aírithe ag an pholaitíóil a fhéachaint a tháinig.

Deiridh daóine anois go bhfuil an OTE giota níos báulá don Ghaeilge ná mar a bhí agus cé gur ghearr siad maoiniú Ghlór na nGael go bhfuil tuilleadh aigíodh ag thabhairt acu do scéimíneáile an Ghaelacha. Is fíor is ainch, ag caithfeart a chumhniú agus chuirtear go bhfuil agus agus go bhfuil sín le fáil... ní oibreodh an tástáil polaitíóil munna imbeadh aigéan eigin ag dul do ghrúpaí éigin. Ach ní ríteáin sin fadhb Ghlór na nGael, agus is ionann fadhb Ghlór na nGael agus fadhb mhuintir náisiúinach na Sé Chontae, go bhfuil siad imeallaithe fós mar

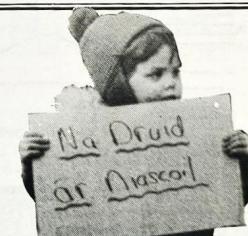
geall ar pholasaithe an OTE.

Ag an phointeo seo deireadh daoine go bhfuil obair Ghlór na nGael déanta maidir leis an tástáil polaitíóil agus gur chóir don eagraiocht a tharraingt amach as a feachtas ina iomlán: Ciallaíonn sé sin gur chóir do filleadh ar an chuspóir a bhí aici nuair a bunáidh i, sé sin forbairt na Gaeilge agus gan a bheith ag glacadh le himeachtaí 1990 mar mhaslaí persanta in éadan Gaeilgeoiri. Deireann daóine éigin — nach bhfuil suim de laghad acu sa Ghaeilge ach a tionscnaidh bhanáin a gcomhair féin mar gheall ar chumhacht an stáit tástáil polaitíóil a úsáid — gur chóir do Ghlór na nGael fanacht ar túis cadhnaiochta den feachtas toisce go bhfuil bliain de thaithe acu anois.

### MEATH NA GAEILGE

Tá cuid den cheart sa tuairim sin is fíor, ach cuimhníomh i gcoinal ar na seannagóintí a bhí ann tráth. Nach féidir meath na Gaeilge a thuisceant agus stáir polaitíóil na tíre seo a thuisceant, agus nach féidir feabhas na Gaeilge a dheimhníú gan polaitíochta agus feachtas polaitíóil a bheith ann leis.

Fiu muná réitigh crúinní cinn bliana Ghlór na nGael fadhb an mhaoinithe don eagraiocht — ní bhí chéile a rá d'oideachas Gaeilge pháistí Bhéal Feirste Thiar — d'oscail sé an díospíreacht sin arís. Ba chóir duiné an cheist a phlé; i gcaidh Ghlór na nGael agus gearradh na ndeoiteantí (agus ní tsilí gur fhás ar tharla ina cause célèbre i measc grúpaí liobrálacha sna Sé Chontae, go bhfuil siad imeallaithe fós mar



Chontae) tá an teoiric agus an cleachtadh ag teacht le chéile, tá daóine nach raibh radacach ríomáth a ndéanamh radacach anois agus tá leataobhach an stáit a noctú. Nach raibh muid ag tuar na leithéidé le blianta anuas?

## DUAIS BRONNTA

Brendan Hurson ag bronnadh píosa chriostal Thír Eoghain ar Shean Quinn a bhí ina réteoir ar chluídeannais na mbán de Chorn Mhártin Hurson a reachtáil ar an cumann áitiúil den Chumann Lúthchleas Gael mar chuid den chomhordh bliantúil i gcuimhne Mhártin i gContae Thír Eoghain Dé Sathairn, 15ú lúil



## HUNGER-STRIKE RALLY ON AUGUST 11TH BUSES

DUBLIN

Contact: 308733

10.00am Parnell Square

North Dublin:

8.45am Kilbrack Fire Station

9.00am Darndale Roundabout

9.15am Northside Shopping Centre

9.30am Ballymun Shopping Centre

Talbot £7

Phone 325562/481206/733611

for booking

DUNDALK

Coxes Demesne to Belfast

Contact: Joe Heany

From Mulreaveen

Contact: Brigit Elliman

MUNSTER

To book contact:

Don O'Leary

Cork Sinn Féin Office

Tel: 021-311389

12pm-5pm

Monday to Friday

NEWRY

Leave Francis Street

1pm, August 11th

Talbot £2

● Could all local areas please have their bus arrangements in to AP/RN no later than Monday 5th August for inclusion in that week's paper.

# CREATING THE CONDITIONS FOR PEACE

## — the role of the Catholic hierarchy

In this article the Catholic priest from Garrison, County Fermanagh, Joseph McVeigh, assesses the failure of the Catholic Church's hierarchy in the search for justice and peace in Ireland and the role they could play.

BY JOSEPH McVEIGH

THE CATHOLIC BISHOPS IN Ireland (as a recognised national hierarchy) could play a very positive and constructive role in creating the conditions for peace in our country. Instead they have opted for a totally negative role.

● Firstly, by their refusal to condemn the British government for its daily violation of the basic rights of their own people and their failure to make the situation known internationally.

● Secondly, by continuing to make one-sided condemnations against the Republican Movement while refusing to meet with their leaders and discuss the issues.

● Thirdly, by accepting the British government's propaganda line that it is republicans who are responsible for the repression and killings carried out by the British and pro-British death squads.

● Fourthly by accepting that reconciliation rather than justice is the solution.

Since the Hillsborough Deal in 1987 it has become clearer that the Catholic bishops are part of the British government's strategy of pacification in Ireland. As such they are expected to refrain from condemning the British

government for any of their unlawful actions against the Catholic community. Instead, they are expected to follow the British propaganda line and condemn Sinn Féin and the IRA on every opportunity — even after British atrocities like the murder of Fergal Carher in Cullyhanna. They are also expected to refuse to meet with the leaders of Sinn Féin who have on many occasions requested them for a meeting.

On a number of occasions since the Hillsborough Deal a few Catholic bishops have made hysterical verbal attacks on Sinn Féin and the IRA. Bishop Edward Daly of Derry has made quite a number of these attacks describing republicans as "thugs" and "gangsters" doing "the work of the devil". This kind of language is useful for British propaganda reports especially in the USA. Dr Cahal Daly uses every opportunity to attack republicans. While Bishop in Down and Connor he co-operated fully with British-organised work schemes aimed at undermining Sinn Féin and progressive community

groups in West Belfast. The British government's strategy is to unseat Gerry Adams and replace him with an SDLP man. This policy has the support and approval of the leader of the Catholic church in Ireland.

### DISHONEST STATEMENTS

Some Catholic bishops constantly issue statements which blame republicans for killings carried out by British soldiers or pro-British death squads. They speak about "tit-for-tat" killings.

In January 1991 Dr Cahal Daly stated:

"If there were no British army checkpoints and Fergal Carher would not have been murdered." "If there were no IRA activities in Lurgan Gervais Lynch would not have been killed by a loyalist death squad." "If there were no IRA activities in Fermanagh there would be no roads closed."

Such statements are dishonest but are understandable in light of the new role given to the Catholic hierarchy and their political wing, the SDLP, by the British government in their strategy of ruling the north and destroying Sinn Féin. They are dishonest because they ignore the historical record of the murder and harassment of Catholics by loyalists and by the British since the foundation of this statelet. Catholics were always perceived as a threat to the political power of the unionists. This was true especially when unionists/loyalists perceived a new threat to their political power when the Civil

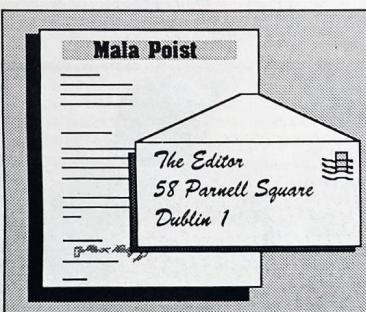


● JOE McVEIGH

Rights Movement began and later after the signing of the Hillsborough Deal.

It is time for the Catholic bishops to show some regard for the truth and less for their image and popularity in the media. It is time the Catholic Church leaders confronted the source of the violence and division in our community. Only when there is respect for the truth will the source of our conflict be identified and confronted. The role of the bishops should be to work for justice, and an end to British government oppression. In that way they could contribute to creating the conditions for peace. If they continue to follow the present policy of supporting the British government the situation can only get worse because the underlying cause of the violence will not be addressed. It is doubtful if the present leadership of the Catholic Church has the wisdom and courage required to change their policy. They have followed an entrenched political position in favour of the status quo and against any change. Yet only when they change their political and social allegiance will they be able to speak with credibility and conviction about the morality of using armed force.

They could begin this change by seeking dialogue and discussion with Sinn Féin and other community groups to ascertain the needs and anxieties of their own people — especially those who are suffering the brunt of government oppression. In doing this the Irish Catholic hierarchy could contribute a great deal to creating the conditions for peace in our country. If they do not grasp this nettle they will always be remembered for having failed the people at a critical time in our history.



### Arms race

A Chairde,  
At some point we must decide to call a halt to the increasingly threatening situation to our world from the arms race. All over the world and even into outer-space the effects of the arms race continue to be felt. Yet the governments who endorse the arms race continue to be only interested in creating a world of peace. If the matter was not so grave it would be laughable that these governments who talk so much about creating a world of peace process enough weaponry to destroy life as we know it in less than an hour.

The analysis of wars throughout the history of our world has proven that wars are fought with a consideration as to the cost of materials. Yet governments state that they cannot find the finance to

end the plight of poverty that exists in their countries. In the past years, famine and other disasters have destroyed the lives of many people, yet every year while government budgets for such disasters realistically decrease, their budgets for armament purchase, manufacture and research greatly increases by millions of pounds.

Propaganda issued by governments lead many people to believe that war is the only answer to any situation that they are not willing to negotiate their answers to. This propaganda is not true. It is feasible for all sides in a war situation to come together and negotiate a peace if all sides are willing to do so. Yet time and time again many governments have refused to do this.

Governments have been called on continuously to monitor and in-

spect more closely those involved in the manufacture and sale of arms. But in reality this is not enough. How can any government state that they are totally interested in creating peace and still allow the manufacture of weapons of war? The manufacture of arms is in fact the manufacture of war.

At the time when people all over the world commemorate the victims of the Hiroshima/Nagasaki atomic bombings, it must be remembered that war is a disease that has plagued humanity for far too long. It is past time that the governments of our world ceased the manufacture of armaments and learned to live together in peace. Until governments realise the total inadequacy of wars, wars will continue to be fought, continuing the wasteful destruction of human life.

Michael Rooney,  
Castlbar,  
Mayo spokesperson  
for Irish CND.

### The hierarchy's record

A Chairde,

Ireland is one of the longest occupied countries in the world and today's tragedy of death and destruction can be traced back to 1171 when Henry II of England landed in Waterford with an army of 4,000 men, a forced entry and the beginning of a long suffering occupation.

One would have thought our spiritual leaders would have led a positive way forward; this was not to be so. The legacy of today's selective, one-sided condemnations

of Republicans can be traced back centuries, and I must agree with Mr Gerry Adams that the Catholic hierarchy's record in Ireland regarding self-determination is utterly and totally disastrous.

They have sided with the most vicious terrorist regime on the face of the planet, Britain, the mother of terrorism who at one time held the biggest empire that world has ever had the misfortune to endure. They secured that empire in the name of God and went forth with a rifle in one hand and a bible in the other, singing "Abide With Me".

What happened!

The Catholic Church in Ireland decided at the end of the 18th Century on which side to place its loyalty. After his pleas for clerical education by Bishop Francis Moylan, the British government responded with a grant of £9,000 to set up Maynooth in 1795. In return, the British received the hierarchy's support and loyalty as is evident from this oath taken by all its staff and students.

"... do take almighty God and his only son Jesus Christ my redeemer to witness that I will be faithful and bear allegiance to our most gracious sovereign Lord King George II and him will defend to the utmost of my power against all conspiracies and attempts whatever that shall be made against his person, crown and dignity."

The bottom-line is Britain has no right to be in this country, never had and never will, their presence is as illegal today as it was eight centuries ago. Their terrorism is all the more shameful as it is sheathed

with the cloak of legality and receives support from Christian organisations. I find it nauseating that any "Irish" person can support directly or indirectly the forced occupation of this country.

The people of Ireland should never forget that they have moral right and political integrity on their side and that a genuine lasting peace, with justice and equality for all, will only exist with the removal of this foreign power and its military wing from our country. In the final analysis it will be the ordinary people of Britain and Ireland that can achieve this objective. This obscenity of killing and dying must end. The problem is obvious the solution simple.

Brian Fegan,  
Belfast.

### Eddie Gill — a nephew remembers

A Chairde,

I am the nephew of the late Eddie Gill he being my father's brother. I read with fierce pride and also sadness the article mentioning my uncle in AP/RN (from the Belly of the Beast AP/RN 18/6/91). I share the pride of his Donegal blood flowing through his veins (his mother and father, my grandparents hailed from Fahn — nearest town is Buncrana) and his commitment to the Republican movement and also sadness at his imprisonment which I knew of but in my family circle was a "taboo subject".

I myself am the only one from the family to believe in the same beliefs of our country being united

and being able to determine our own future without a foreign country and those who are manipulated by her string-pulling who claim to be Irish men and women; the tragedy of our young people being forced to emigrate each and every years while whoever is in the Dail rub their hands with glee as this keeps down the already high enough unemployment figure. (Let us see what happens now the safety valve has been cut off with this country going through a recession as is the USA).

The ongoing struggle of our brothers and sisters in the occupied Six Counties and all down to this mob here who have tried to take away our land, our language our culture, our religion and our spirit, for over eight hundred years now they have tried and failed. Ireland can only be free and at peace when the Brits move out lock, stock and barrel and let us determine our own future in the context of a united thirty-two county democratic socialist republic.

I myself am a member of the Wolfe Tone Society in London selling AP/RN at weekends and collecting money for the POWs etc. I hope to live to see the day when my uncle Eddie, the brave men and women before and after him have realised that aim. I have the same Glasgow accent as my uncle, I also share the same name which will never be taken by any foreign country. As a proud second-generation Donegal man, I say God-bless and keep up the good work.

Tiocfaidh ar lá  
Danny Gill,  
London.



# Guilty postures

BY DARA MacNEILL

MARCH 1987 marked the conviction of three young Black men for the murder of PC Blakelock, who had been stabbed to death during the Broadwater Farm riots. The three — Engin Raghip, Mark Braithwaite and Winston Silcott — have continually protested their innocence. Lately, they have become known as the Tottenham Three.

From the outset their case has been marked by one crucial factor — something which has severely hamstrung their attempts to seek redress. Quite simply, it is the almost extraordinary viciousness with which the three have been treated by the bulk of the British press, each seemingly attempting to outdo the other in their lurid condemnations of the "evil" trio.

I say almost because, for Irish people, there is little that is new or startling in the British press's treatment of the three — who needs reminding of headlines like "Aunt Annie's Bomb Factory"? The treatment being meted out to Raghip, Braithwaite and especially Silcott, has followed a well-established pattern. In short, nothing but the same old story.

On Sunday July 20th the (English) *Independent on Sunday* made some effort to redress the glaring imbalance, in a piece penned by Zof Heller, entitled "The Silcott Variations", which attempted to debunk the catalogue of lurid media-myths which have grown up around Winston Silcott.

It was a wonderful insight into the functioning of the so-called free press and the manner in which they perceive that their interests and the interests of the Establishment invariably coincide. Thus their readiness to do the establishment's dirty work for them. In this instance, make sure Silcott goes down and stays down.

## MADE IT UP

One problem. There was neither forensic, physical or

photographic evidence against Silcott — other than the fact that he adopted a "guilty posture" during a police interview. So, they made it up.

Upon conviction, the trial judge described Silcott as "evil and vicious". The press had their green light. Winston Silcott of Broadwater Farm ceased to exist and, in his place, was created some form of nether-world creature. The adjectives varied, but the all-important message hit home: "Evil Savage", "Dark Demon", "Evil Warlord" ... etc etc.

The morning following convictions, the *Sun* printed a picture of a grinning Silcott with the caption — "30 years and he smiled". In fact, as Zof Heller revealed, they had printed exactly the same picture at the opening of Silcott's trial, some two months previously! Upon conviction, according to Silcott's brother George, Winston had looked towards him with a "sad, sort of told-you-so look".

The convictions were greeted with anger and dismay in Broadwater Farm. A press conference was called at which the verdict was denounced. The *Star* reported these as "howls of vengeance", issued by friends of the "smiling cop killer". And another myth was born.

## NOT LIKE US

The *Daily Mail* found the protesters uninteresting. "No words could be understood," they announced, in their best accents. Another of Silcott's friends at the press conference was described as having his hair "piled into a tea cosy on

his head." In other words, these people are not at all like us. They are strange. They nurture and harbour vicious cop killers in their midst.

That was four years ago. Within the last two weeks Silcott's lawyers have sent a new dossier of fresh evidence to the Home Office, including results of an ESDA test which show that crucial parts of Silcott's police interview were, apparently, inserted later.

Sensing a threat, the tabloids were on the offensive, the *Sun*, Heller reports, recently ran a double page spread headlined: "Never forget the murderous record of Winston Silcott." The *News of the World*, we hear, responded to the new evidence in broadly similar fashion.

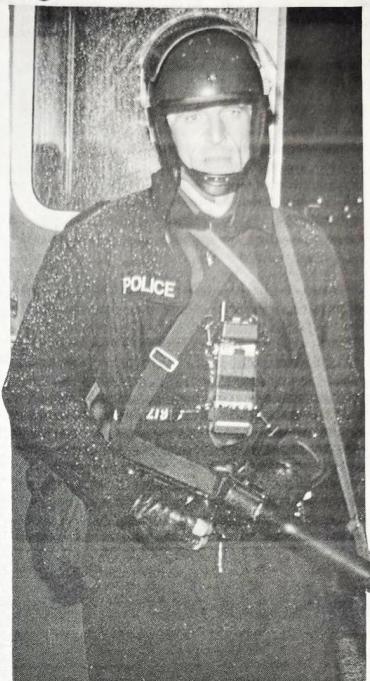
Indeed, in their anxiety to overlook the new evidence the tabloids merely resurrected the myths and lies they had printed four years previously, as if by some as yet undiscovered process, lies acquire the status of truth and myth becomes reality with the passage of time. Wasn't it Goebbels who observed that, if you repeat something often enough, people will believe it...?

Winston Silcott became a monster because the police needed one. Indeed, the real evil in this case was perpetrated by the police and the British gutter press. Some things never change.

Zof Heller's piece was an excellent piece of journalism — maybe some of her colleagues at the *Independent* (and elsewhere) could learn from her example.

## VICTIMS OF US

Look at this for another fine piece of demon-creating and myth making. In a piece in the Saturday edition of the same paper, a journalist called Terry McCarthy wrote of new developments in the relations between the US and their long-suffering victims, Cambodia



• British police and gutter press have perpetrated the real evil in the case of the Tottenham Three

and Vietnam. Here is McCarthy's prediction/hope for the future:

"But by moving in to Vietnam and allowing US business men to operate there [note he fails to emphasize that it's the US which currently prevents them] — particularly the two million Vietnamese exiles who are staunchly anti-communist — Washington could generate real momentum for change. The ageing Marxist-Leninist vampires in Hanoi will not survive much of the daylight of the Western capitalism transforming SE Asia."

Following the end of the war the US agreed, secretly, to pay Vietnam reparations. But instead they froze Vietnamese assets. Export controls are tighter than those applying to Cuba. In 1982, following a typhoon, people in Vietnam began to starve. The government could not get powdered milk for children from the EC, because of a three-year-old embargo. Yet, regimes like Haiti and Chile had no such problems.

The US needed and still needs to demonise Vietnam. The western press assists.

# Revolutionary debate

"Every struggle needs its forum for discussion and debate." So opens the first edition of *An Camchearta, The Starry Plough*, the new publication which describes itself as the "theoretical magazine of the republican struggle".

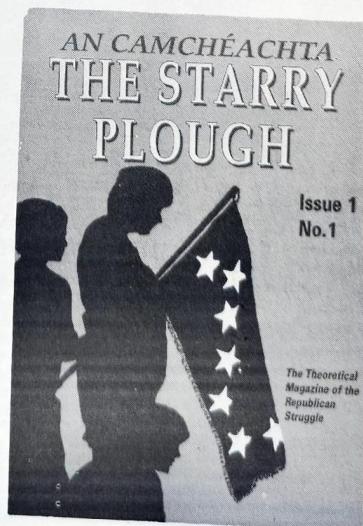
Introduced by Sinn Féin President Gerry Adams, the new magazine, which is intended to be produced quarterly, gets off to an impressive start with four detailed overviews. These include an analysis of past and present British counter-insurgency strategies in the Six Counties; a history of Articles Two and Three in the 26 Counties; an evaluation of the Brooke Talks; and an article on the British government's political manipulation of communities.

Produced under the auspices of Sinn Féin's Education Department, *The Starry Plough* is intended to provide the kind of informed analysis which can

stimulate debate among republican activists, develop a common ideology and equip activists with skills. With this goal in view the magazine is also encouraging activists to respond to themes presented in the articles and, after the first issue, there will be an open forum included to facilitate this development.

Analysis and debate within the magazine is also intended to be used to stimulate discussion at Sinn Féin cumann level and individual readers are encouraged to bring the magazine's theoretical debates into the arena of their political activity.

Introducing the first edition, Gerry Adams places the



## Imeachtaí

PICKET ON US EMBASSY  
opposing US policy in Central America  
11.30am-1pm  
every Saturday  
Ballsbridge  
DUBLIN

PICKET  
Free Dessie Ellis  
2-3pm every Saturday  
British Embassy, Merrion Rd  
DUBLIN  
Organised by the Dublin Anti-Extradition Committee

ANTI-EXTRADITION MEETING  
meets 6.45pm every Tuesday  
Dublin Resource Centre  
Crow Street  
DUBLIN

PICKET  
In memory of Kieran Doherty TD  
Leinster House  
1-2pm Friday 2nd August  
DUBLIN

FUNCTION  
FOR DANNY McNAMEE  
8pm-12 midnight (late bar)  
Sunday 4th August — Mark Steel  
(Briony Comic)  
At The Old White Horse Inn  
Brixton Road  
LONDON SW9  
Tickets £3/2 concessions  
food & raffle & bookstalls

COMMEMORATION  
For Kevin Lynch  
March and Wreath laying ceremony  
Prominent Speakers  
Sunday August 4th 2.30pm  
Assemble at bus depot  
Station Road  
DUNGIVEN

PARADE  
10th Anniversary Hunger Strike  
20th Anniversary Internment  
Friday 9th August  
NEWRY  
Leaving Meadow at 7.30  
Bands contact 68538  
before 4pm  
All expenses will be shared

ANTI-INTERNMENT MARCH  
Saturday 10th August  
led by republican bands from  
Derry and Glasgow  
Assemble 1pm on Wellington  
Town Hall, Upper Street  
LONDON N1  
Transport arranged from  
around the centre  
Price £1.50/£1.70  
Organised by  
The Irish Freedom Movement  
Troops Out of Ireland  
Prisoners Out of Jail

FOLKNIGHT  
Saturday 10th August  
Gatesby's  
NEWRY  
Taille: £3

FUNCTION  
Sunday 11th August, 10.30pm  
Woodford Arms  
Bar Extension  
Ballyconnell  
CAVAN

VIDEO SHOW  
The Irish Hunger Strike  
7.30pm Thursday 15th August  
Roger Casement Irish Centre  
131 St. John's Way  
LONDON N19  
Archway tube

FIANNA EIREANN  
ANNUAL CAMP  
Friday-Monday 16th-19th August  
Donations of monies and non-perishable food to make this a successful camp will be gratefully accepted.  
Please leave in:  
44 Parnell Square  
Dublin 1

## NOTICES DEADLINE

All notices should be in our Dublin or Belfast no later than 5pm Monday for inclusion in that week's paper.

# BAIL REFUSED IN CARROLL MURDER APPEAL

IN BELFAST's High Court on Monday three of the four loyalists convicted of murdering Armagh man Adrian Carroll in 1983 and who are now known as the 'UDR Four', were refused bail pending a review of their conviction by the Six Counties' appeal court.

The application for bail followed the announcement last week by Peter Brooke, British Secretary of State for the Six Counties, that the case was being referred to the Court of Appeal. The campaign to quash the conviction of the four members of the UDR who were on duty when they shot Adrian Carroll, has been led by Ian Paisley's son Ian, the man's family and a number of unionist and British MPs.

The defence case rests on a number of points but one which holds the most interest for many nationalist and loyalist families

across the Six Counties whose relatives are in prison, will centre around the admissibility of the signed confessions made by the UDR men when they were being interrogated at Castlereagh in 1983.

At their trial in March 1986 all the defendants claimed they were ill-treated by their RUC interrogators and forced to sign confessions of guilt against their will. Although the trial judge accepted such a defence in the case of one of the accused and acquitted him, he rejected it in relation to the others.

A fresh dimension to the wran-



● ADRIAN CARROLL  
gle over the validity of the UDR men's statements has been caused mainly by the scientific test called Electro Static Detection Apparatus

(ESDA) and another less reliable test known as Syntax analysis of the confessions. The ESDA tests which have been used successfully in other cases revealed 18 instances of the rewriting of interview notes supposedly taken at the precise time they were being made by the accused. In short this means that the RUC tampered with the statements outside the interrogation room.

The Syntax analysis involves an examination of the UDR men's written statements compared with how they write and speak in a normal setting. This test has also shown, according to the defence, that the UDR men's statements were concocted by the RUC.

Although those campaigning for the release of the UDR Four are attempting to shield the Six Counties administration of justice and blame the convictions on pressure from the Dublin government and SDLP, when the case gets to

the appeal hearing, the spotlight will fall on the quality of that justice. If the UDR Four are to have any chance of winning their appeal then their statements and the manner in which they were secured has to be the main plank in the defence team's assault on the conviction.

## DIPLOCK DISTORTION

For over 20 years the RUC have used uncorroborated statement evidence in courts in the Six Counties. The Diplock court system, which operates without a jury and the distorts the legal system makes it easier to secure convictions with this type of evidence. To date hundreds of republicans have been gaoled on this basis and hundreds are serving long sentences in the H-Blocks and Maghaberry prisons.

Nationalists have long complained about the abuse of justice in the Diplock courts; the UDR Four appeal could ironically confirm from a 'loyal' quarter, the existence of this systematic injustice which begins in a detention cell and ends up in a court-room.

## RUC recruiters fail again

A 22-year-old man from the Clonard area of West Belfast was arrested and held in Castlereagh Interrogation Centre for two days in what appears to have been an elaborate attempt by the RUC to recruit him as an informer.

The Belfast man, who does not wish to be named, was arrested at his home in the early morning of Monday, July 29th, and taken to

Castlereagh. During the course of several interviews on Monday evening and throughout the following day the RUC attempted to pressure the 22-year-old into acting as an informer. He was repeatedly asked to identify as IRA Volunteers named individuals who live in his area. He was asked to watch particular people and meet RUC handlers at the Albert Clock, Kings Hall or the City Hospital. The man told AP/RN:

"The RUC tried to bribe me into acting as

an informer. In one interview I was told I would be paid £10,000 for a rocket launcher. One RUC woman was very insistent that I would act as an informer for them. I was told that I had no work and no future but if I worked for them I would be paid £30,000 a year."

The man refused and repeatedly told the RUC that he "wouldn't be any use to them" because he knew nothing and "didn't want any bother from anyone". They also threatened him with harassment and continued stopping and harassing on the streets if he refused. They also threatened members of his family and said that his girlfriend would lose her job because he was a informer.

Local Sinn Féin Councillor Fra McCann urged people in similar situations to follow the same course of action as the Clonard man who, on release from Castlereagh, immediately contacted his solicitor and the nearest Sinn Féin centre to inform them of his ordeal.



● FRA McCANN



● A Basque delegation will be visiting Belfast in August

## LEARNING ABOUT THE BASQUE STRUGGLE

A DELEGATION from the Basque country on the annual fact-finding mission to the Six Counties will host a discussion on the theme "The struggle in Euskadi" in Belfast's Conway Mill on Thursday, August 8th, at 1.30pm.

For a number of years Basque delegations, including representatives from Herri Batasuna have travelled to Ireland to attend meetings and express their soli-

darity with the struggle for Irish independence. This year the 18-person delegation is made up of representatives from various organisations in Euskadi, including

cultural, political prisoners, youth and ecological groups. The discussion in the Mill will cover the long struggle in the Basque country for independence from Spain and is being seen as part of a mutual learning process in which Irish and Basque peoples can explore their respective experiences of oppression and history of struggle.

## Hundreds of POWs on the run

THE ANNUAL sponsored run by republican POWs on behalf of Irish language nursery education in the Six Counties will take place on Saturday, August 10th. Participation has again increased, now including republicans imprisoned in Europe and England. The prisoners will run races of between three and five miles.

The significance of the sponsored run is underlined by the continued denial of proper state funding to Irish medium education projects. Last year a much-needed £180,000 was raised for bunscoiléanna in Belfast and in Newry. This year the proceeds will once more go to naoiscoiléanna throughout the Six Counties that do not receive state aid.

### CONTRIBUTE

Those running include POWs in the USA, Belgium, France, Germany, Holland, Long Kesh, Crumlin Road, England, Maghaberry and Portlaoise.

Those wishing to obtain sponsorship cards or contribute directly should contact Marcos Mac Ruairí, 648 Racecourse Road, Shantallow, Derry. Phone 0504 359747.



# OBITUARY

## Thomas J Regan

BY JIM KELLY, PHILADELPHIA

THE DEATH occurred recently of Big Tom Regan, the popular manager of the Terence MacSwiney Club, in Jenkintown, Philadelphia, USA. He had just celebrated his 88th birthday the day before. Until a short time before his death Big Tom was the active, working backbone behind the Terence MacSwiney Club. He often said, "We are just doing our job for Ireland."

Tom was born July 6th, 1903 at Kilkelly, County Mayo, Ireland. He was one of eight children of Matthew and Bridget (Dunleavy) Regan. Tom's wife and lifetime partner, Cecilia, died a year ago on July 23rd, 1990. After that Tom said he was ready to go, too. They leave behind children: Cecilia Kern, Matthew, Mary O'Connell, Josephine Tague, Nellie McBride, and Thomas, as well as a sister, Katherine Duffy of Kilkelly, Ireland.

### MAYO BRIGADE

At the age of 15 Tom began what was to remain a lifelong commitment to the cause of Irish freedom. Being a fortunate owner of a bicycle, he enlisted as a dispatch

courier with the Irish Volunteers, Kilkelly Company B, 3rd Western Division, East Mayo Brigade. He served through the Black and Tan years and the Civil War.

Big Tom left Ireland for America, June 23rd, 1923. He arrived in New York and settled there briefly before moving on to Jenkintown. Shortly after his arrival in Jenkintown he joined Camp 100, Clan na Gael. Camp 100 is active today, much thanks to Tom, and is at the Terence MacSwiney Club. Tom was always faithful to the cause of Irish freedom, never hesitating to remind us of Pearse's words, "Irish unfreedom shall never be at peace." As a result of his many years of service to the Irish cause, Tom was the recipient of many awards and acknowledgements from many Irish organisations. His white hair, handsome face and strong singing voice will be long remembered and sorely missed. He was laid to rest in Jenkintown on July 11th.

# Tribute to Hugh Nugent

THE DEATH of Hugh Nugent, Aughnagar Galbally, County Tyrone, broke another link with the past for the republican family. Hugh who was in his 96th year had been a life-long friend of the Republican Movement.

He joined the IRA in 1914 at the age of 19 years. He remained loyal and steadfast right up until his death on May 29th last. Despite his old age Hugh still came under the wrath of British crown forces raiding parties. His home was raided on at least 140 occasions from the early 1920s onward. Recently RTE featured Hugh in a documentary highlighting UDR harassment in County Tyrone.

The deaths and imprisonment of many young people in the Cappagh/Galbally area caused him great anguish and concern.

Two close relations of Hugh's, Martin McCaughey and Malcolm Nugent were killed within the past 12 months. His home was always open to republicans especially in times of need.

At this year's annual Easter Sunday Commemo-

ration in Carrickmore which Hugh attended, Gerry Adams paid homage to him for his service to the Republican Movement down through the years. The esteem



with which he was held was evident by the large number of people who attended both his wake and funeral, many of whom were his Protestant friends.

His funeral took place to St Patricks Church Aughnagar on Friday, May 31st. His tricolour-draped coffin was flanked by a republican guard of honour and was led by a lone piper playing a traditional air. Requiem Mass was celebrated by Fr Crowley PP who told this mourners of Hugh's love for his country and how he longed for an end to sectarianism and the reunification of Ireland.

Hugh's remains were laid to rest in the adjoining cemetery. Ní dhéanfaidh muintir poblaach Thair Eoghan dearmad air.



• Hugh Nugent, pictured at this year's Easter Commemoration at Carrickmore

# JOIN SINN FÉIN

SINN FÉIN is dedicated to forcing a British withdrawal from the occupied Six Counties, the re-unification of our country and the establishment of a democratic socialist republic.

If you would like to join Sinn Féin fill in the form below and send it to Sinn Féin, 44 Parnell Square, Dublin 1.

Name.....

Address.....

Tel:.....

Age:.....



### Sinn Féin's demands

Sinn Féin's ultimate objective is to create the political conditions necessary to secure a true and lasting peace in Ireland. This can only be achieved by:

- The ending of partition arising from British rule in Six of Ireland's 32 counties;
- British disengagement from Ireland and the restoration to the Irish people of the right to exercise self-sovereignty, independence and national self-determination;
- The setting of a definite date within the lifetime of a British government for the completion of this withdrawal;
- The disarming and disbandment of the Royal Ulster Constabulary and the Ulster Defence Regiment as part of the military withdrawal;
- The calling of a Constitutional Conference to which all political parties would be invited. This conference to be responsible for determining the nature and composition of an emergent national police service and the judiciary. If Britain was sincere about disengaging and was committed to an orderly transference of power, this could be achieved with a minimum of disorder;
- The unconditional release of all political prisoners.

AN PHOBLAICHT/REPUBLICAN NEWS, Thursday, August 1st, 1991 — Leathanaach 15

# I nDil Chuimhne

**BRADLEY**, Seamus; **CAMPBELL**, Tony; **DOHERTY**, Kieran; **LYNCH**, Kevin; **McCRUDDEN**, Robert. In proud and loving memory of Volunteer Seamus Bradley, Tony Campbell, Kieran Doherty, Kevin Lynch and Robert McCrudden. I measc laochra na gael go raibh siad. "They may kill the revolutionary but never the revolution." Always remembered by their friends and comrades in Oglalaigh na hEireann.

**DOHERTY**, Kieran (10th Ann). In proud and loving memory of Vol Kieran Doherty who died on hunger strike. Always remembered by the McCrossan family at home and abroad.

**H BLOCK MARTYRS**, (10th Ann). In proud and loving memory of the ten brave hunger strikers, Vol Bobby Sands, MI, Francis Hughes, Ray McCreesh, Patay O'Hara, Joe McDonnell, Martin Hurson, Kevin Lynch, Kieran Doherty, Thomas McElwee, Mickey Devine. Murdered by Britain in 1981. Always remembered by the Wolfe Tone RFB, Scotland.

**LYNCH**, Kevin (10th Ann). In proud and loving memory of Vol Kevin Lynch (INLA) who died on hunger strike in the H Blocks of Long Kesh on August 1st 1981. Proudly remembered by the Kevin Lynch Memorial Flute Band, Dungiven. Beidh ar lá ann.

# Comhbhrón

**FORAN**. Deepest sympathy to the Foran family and friends on the death of their mother Margaret of Sronoun, Ballydromhuc, Listowel. From Bill O'Shea, Ballylongford.

**HICKEY**. Deepest sympathy is extended to Marie Quinlan on the death of her mother, Priscilla and Nora Lynch.

**HICKEY**. Deepest sympathy is extended to Marie Quinlan on the death of her mother. From Eileen.

**HOLLY**. Deepest sympathy to the Holly family and friends on the untimely death of Martin. From Bill O'Shea, Ballylongford.

**KANE**. Deepest sympathy is extended to Marie Quinlan on the death of her mother. From Joe and Nora Lynch, Limerick City.

**KANE**. Deepest sympathy is extended to Pamela on the death of her grandmother. From Atha Cliath Sinn Féin Ceannair.

**KANE**. Deepest sympathy is extended to Pamela on the death of her grandmother. From Aengus.

**MCBRIDE**. Deepest sympathy to my wife Bernie (Maghaberry) and to her grieving family on the death of her mother. Will those who think of her today, a little pray for her to Jesus. Deeply regretted by Michael, A wing, Crumlin Road Jail and her loving grandson Michael O'G.

**MCBRIDE**. The Republican prisoners, A and C wing, Crumlin Road and Jail deeply regret the death of the mother of Mary, mother of our friend Bernie (Maghaberry). We extend our condolences to her grieving family. A Dháidéan tráicítear ar hanam uasal.

**MCBRIDE**. Deepest sympathy to Bernie (Maghaberry) and her grieving family on the death of her mother.

**MARY**. From your friend 'JJ', A wing, Crumlin Road and Ann and family.

**MCBRIDE**. We the women republican prisoners in Maghaberry Prison send our deepest sympathy to the family of our comrade Bernie on the death of her mother, Mary.

**MCBRIDE**. Deepest sympathy to Bernie (Maghaberry) and her grieving family. From Sian Féin POW Department.

**MCLAUGHLIN**. Deepest sympathy is extended to my dear friend Paddy McLaughlin and the whole McLaughlin family on the recent bereavement of their father. Deeply regretted by Tommy Geraldine and family.

**MCLAUGHLIN**. Deepest sympathy to his family, especially Paddy (Leicester). From Liam, Mary and family, Manchester.

**MCLAUGHLIN**. Will always be remembered with affection. Thoughts and prayers are with his family, especially Shea.

**MCLAUGHLIN**. Father of Paddy 'Big white chief' Irish POW, Leicester Prison. Deepest sympathy from Alex and Ann McLaughlin, Gerry, Gemma, Frank, Marie, Sean and Rosie.

**MCLAUGHLIN**. Deepest sympathy to his family, especially Paddy (Leicester). From Sian Féin POW Department.

**MCPHILLIPS**. Deepest sympathy is extended to senior McPhillips on the death of his mother. From Republican POWs, Portlaoise Prison.

**MCPHILLIPS**. Deepest sympathy is extended to Junior McPhillips on the death of his mother. From John Crowley, Portlaoise Prison.

Mary and Seamus.  
**McGURK**, Paddy (H6). Happy birthday darling. From your wife Cindy, daughter Gráinne and son Sean. Lots of love.

### Beannachtai

**KANE** Pamela (Limerick). In her birthday greetings to Pamela. From

**DRAW RESULTS**

Newry/Armagh Comhairle Ceannair 5 week Draw.

### WEEK ONE

Martin Watters, Cullinbane £50;

B. Finegan c/o Glen; David McNamee, Dromintee £25

### WEEK TWO

Pauline McKeown, Dromintee £50;

Marion Quinn, Cullyhanna £25;

Alex Murphy, Carrickmacross £25

### WEEK THREE

H Hughes, Lisla £50; Attracta McCab, Bessbrook £25; Colm Rodgers, Newry £25

### WEEK FOUR

Brian Quinn, Crossmaglen £50; R. Casey, Cullyhanna £25; Tony Boylan £25

### WEEK FIVE

Maureen Evans, Crossmaglen £500; Helen Murphy, Joan Mitchel St £200; John Larkin, Dromintee £100; Michael McConville £50

### Memorial Draw Notice

The John Joe Memorial Draw has been postponed until August 31st due to the local elections

# URGENT

The elections are over, now clear the bills.

AP/RN Print are appealing to areas with outstanding debts from the recent 26-County local elections to make immediate payment of all monies owed.

AP/RN Print also takes this opportunity to thank all those areas who cleared their accounts promptly.

**Nicola McCann**,

Manager,

AP/RN Print.



## OPEN DAY 91 For Everyone

SATURDAY 17th, August 3.00 pm - 9.00 pm.  
NEW VENUE  
BALMORAL SHOWGROUNDS

Free Admission

### RUC Open Day closed for now.

The RUC's Festival of Policing at the Balmoral Showgrounds in Belfast has been abandoned for security reasons.

Was this decision taken following AP/RN's publication of full details of the day's events (see Flying Column 27/6/91)?

We can speculate.

The Flying Column can now exclusively reveal, direct from our source at RUC headquarters, that the new venue is the Ballymena Showgrounds, also on August 17th.

Despite the mess up in arrangements we are still excitedly awaiting the big day, which the RUC still promise will be "a gala occasion, the biggest we have ever organised". We also welcome the promise of an RUC spokesperson that, in the true spirit of community policing, "everyone in Northern Ireland will be welcome".

THE GOOD Orange people of the village of Garvagh in Derry are literally up in arms, following a pitched battle between the RUC and a drunken loyalist mob the night before the Glorious Twelfth.

This year the RUC banned the starlit parade, which traditionally involves a crowd of drunken loyalists assembling after pub closing to march triumphantly up and down the village behind a boozy straggle of bandmen.

The parade was banned because not enough notice had been given and also because of the trouble it has caused in the predominantly loyalist village since 1985, with attacks on Catholic houses and property and on the RUC themselves.

On the night in question a pitched battle was fought in the streets as the RUC attempted to prevent the parade from

forming. Controversy has been raging ever since, however, as locals, supported by Official Unionist MP William Ross, claim that the RUC started the riot by launching an unprovoked baton charge. One 69-year-old senior Orange and Royal Black Preceptory member, Jack Lynch, was hospitalised with surgeons fighting to save some of his sight when a piece of his glasses entered his eye. His family claim he was batoned in his own hallway. Ross has described the night's events at a subsequent public protest meeting as a "hideous affair", saying: "It was made abundantly clear by all those present that they had no respect for the police nor would they be giving them support in the future."

The story has a fine sting in the tail however: local Coleraine paper, *The Leader*, reported that a petrol bomb was thrown at a home in Broomhill Park in Coleraine at 3 am on Saturday, July 27th. It hit a garage door and burnt itself out in the drive of the house. The RUC said the householder had "no connection with the security forces".

What the RUC failed to divulge was that the attackers were aiming at, and managed to miss, the house next door. Their intended target was the home of the RUC sergeant in charge in Garvagh on that Eleventh night.

ONE of our AP/RN drivers got an unexpected surprise last Friday evening as he was driving between Belfast and Newry. He had stopped off at the Lakeview garage at Loughbrickland on the main road for a fill of diesel when three RUC men in a Volkswagen Jetta pulled in.

Our man thought he was in for the usual runaround when one of them approached his vehicle but it turned out that the trio were looking for directions. They were headed for Drumbarban and were hopelessly lost.

Following long established republican tradition, our man was unable to help the misguided peelers with their enquiries.

FORMER Para Gerard Lamb was fairly sheepish in the dock at the Old Bailey on Monday last when he was jailed for five years for launching a bayonet attack.

Whassamatter with that, you wonder? Surely just a case of an ex-Brit keeping his hand in?

Except that Lamb was done for bayoneting his ex-girlfriend and her new lover in bed at her West London flat in the early hours of February 8th.

Lamb explained to the court that he hadn't actually intended to stab the couple repeatedly and had really come to take his own life with the bayonet.

An unfortunate example of misdirected passion? (Compliments to the Flying Column for avoiding the obvious 'Silence of the Lamb' joke — Ed.)

"I CAN see some people may find the idea of the SAS in a pacifist's garden comical, but I don't see the joke," said the Reverend Ray Arnold after the SAS used his Shropshire back garden as a training ground.

He awoke on Friday morning, July 26th, to hear a helicopter buzzing over his house and to see eight fully-equipped Brits running across his garden.

Later that day his wife chased four more off their land but the chopper returned to the house at midnight, circling the house and shining searchlights all over the place.

The army apologetically explained to the vicar that the

supposed cream of Britain's armed forces "trespassed by mistake".

THE Flying Column extends its congratulations to Scotland Yard's Commander George Churchill Coleman, who was horribly slandered in the TODAY tabloid last September.

The paper had the nerve to call him 'Clueless' and to suggest that he was incompetent. George got undisclosed but substantial damages in the English High Court on Monday.

Well done George. Keep up the good work.

BRITISH Home Secretary Kenneth Baker was embarrassed last Sunday when the *News of the World* revealed that top secret plans for Britain's newest and supposedly most escape-proof prison were found by a brewery worker lying on a bench in the back garden of a pub.

Bolmarsh prison at Woolwich, South London is designed to hold top Category A prisoners, including republican POWs.

AN ARMY CADET from the officer training headquarters at Sandhurst was burned to death and seven others were injured in an accident as they were undergoing fire-bomb training in a "mock village" used to train them for service in urban areas of the Six Counties.

### THE Bin Lid Banging Binge

The Derry anti-imperialist youth group, 20/20 Vision, is organising a bin lid banging session along the route of the Celebration of Resistance parade in Belfast on Sunday, August 11th.

For months the group has been scouring yards, sheds and buildings in the city to find the metal bin lids, now defunct. Bin lids served as an early warning system in nationalist ghettos as far back as the 1920s and were banged on August 9th, 1971 as a warning when the internment arrests began. The banging bin lids alerted people of crown forces intrusion into nationalist areas and were also used to call people out onto the streets in 1981 after the deaths of each of the ten hunger-strikers.

The bin lids, which have all been decorated with appropriate slogans, will be banged to revive the memories of older people and to commemorate the important part this ordinary household item has played in the struggle.

TWO RAF police corporals who claimed they had driven up the Protestant Shankill in West Belfast to take souvenir snaps before they left the Six Counties were cleared at their court martial on Thursday, July 25th. They had been accused of breaching security by entering a restricted area and needlessly compromising the registration number of an RAF "welfare car" hired out for £15 a day.

Corporal Ian Henry said at his trial that one of the intelligence team who had taken photographs of their car on the Shankill leading to their arrest "said we would get six months in Colchester and because we were police they would be lining up to give us a beating. He said when we went to the showers we would be buggered."

IN LAST week's Flying Column we highlighted the case of John Wright, the ex-Brit chopper pilot who crashed into a power cable, killing two of his passengers while performing stunts. Wright was attempting to demonstrate to his terrified passengers how he supposedly avoided Argentinian snipers during the Falklands/Malvinas War. He never actually flew in the Malvinas. On Thursday, July 25th, he was found guilty of manslaughter at Stafford Crown Court and was jailed for 18 months.

Another interesting fact about Wright which emerged during the trial is that he was kicked out of the army for deserting his post while serving in the Six Counties.

# Dúirt Siad

The reason large numbers of Catholics and nationalists do not join the UDR is the same as why Blacks in South Africa do not join the security forces. They do not want to hit themselves over the head with a rifle. — Bernadette McAliskey speaking on RTE radio's *This Week* programme, Sunday, July 28th.

The British started the problems in Northern Ireland. They stole the land from the Irish people. The North of Ireland is part of the Irish nation and always will be. — Louth Labour Party TD Michael Bell on RTE radio's *News at One* on Tuesday, July 30th, responding to Belfast DUP Councillor, Rhonda Paisley's remarks about the UDA firebombings in the 26 Counties.

The only way Ireland will have peace is when people like her return to Britain where they belong... They are not Irish people. They give their allegiance to the British crown. It would be a good idea if they went back to Britain and gave their allegiance from there. — Michael Bell, proving that however sound his pro-Irish unity stance may be, his analysis of unionism is flawed, ignoring the fact that unionists are Irish people and that the primary responsibility for violence and for that community's identity crisis lies with the British government.

