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# PHOBLACHT

## Republican News

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# BLOODY SUNDAY

18th COMMEMORATION  
MARCH & RALLY



Speakers:

PAUL HILL

GERRY CONLON



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# British rule of law in action



● The bodies of two of the raiders — shot dead by crown forces in Belfast on January 13th

first reaction to shoot?" and "Were they challenged?", questions which had already been answered unequivocally in the days since the killings. Daly expressed as much worry about the damage the operation did to the "building of confidence in the security forces" as he did about the three deaths.

What a contrast to the litany of immediate and unqualified condemnation which attend the IRA's armed struggle against the very forces which were responsible for Saturday's deaths.

Equally hypocritical are the expressions of horror from the SDLP and the calls for immediate reports from the Dublin government. Their arguments are based on the fallacy that the normal rule of law can somehow be made to operate in the Six Counties through the benevolence of a reforming British government.

### DEFENDED

Peter Brooke stood up in the House of Commons and defended the actions of British forces regardless of how the circumstances of the incident and the statements of witnesses made lies of what he was saying. That is his job. He is the political master of the forces which carried out the killings and it is his role to defend them, knowing that they play a vital part in maintaining British rule in the North. He lied in the House of Commons just as Douglas Hurd lied when he said that there was a car-bomb in Gibraltar when the SAS killed IRA Volunteers Mairead Farrell, Dan McCann and Sean Savage.

The assassination squad on

the Falls Road clearly took a decision to kill the three men and they will have the full moral, political and legal force of the British state to defend their decision.

The technical 'illegality' of what they did and what has been done so many times before is relevant to the state only to the extent that it can be politically embarrassed by it. Britain has a huge range of repressive laws and armed forces to impose its authority in the Six Counties and their laws are made to suit those forces. If they "overstep the mark" they are guaranteed the full protection of the judiciary and of their political masters.

In the same week that the three young men were killed on the Falls Road the British Attorney-General Patrick Mayhew, was in the House of Lords appealing against the decision of the court of appeal in Belfast compelling RUC men to give evidence at the inquests of IRA Volunteers Sean Burns, Eugene Toman and Gervase McKerr. They were gunned down unarmed by the RUC's Divisional Mobile Support Unit in Armagh in 1982 in a month when six unarmed nationalists were summarily executed by that same force. No member of the crown forces was ever convicted for the killings and the controversy led to the fiasco of the Stalker/Sampson inquiry when the British government went to the most extreme lengths to prevent the truth coming out.

Last week former RUC Chief Constable John Hermon admitted that he threatened to resign

if the issue was pursued.

### USED & ABUSED

The undercover squads in the British army and the RUC are designed to "take out" republicans and anyone their masters regard as enemies in their war in the Six Counties, including unarmed and uninvolved civilians. The paraphernalia of the law and the courts is only the respectable face of British authority to be used or abused as appropriate. The death-squads are as much a part of the British political/military administration as the judges and the paramilitary police.

It is not surprising then, that the Dublin government has remained relatively tight-lipped about the weekend's events apart from asking for a "full report from the British". The Fianna Fail/PO Coalition is extraditing political prisoners to the system which dealt out summary justice to the three raiders in Belfast. Just this week Dermot Finucane, whose brother Pat was murdered by loyalist gunmen last year, was in the supreme court fighting attempts to have him sent back to the H-Blocks of Long Kesh where he was tortured by warders and had his life threatened by them.

The co-operation of the Dublin government with British military policy and its failure to create conditions for peace in the Six Counties by forcing Britain's withdrawal from the militarised and violent society it has created there, makes such incidents as happened on Saturday inevitable.

**THE SHOOTING** dead of three unarmed raiders by a British undercover assassination squad last Saturday in Belfast has led to a stream of hypocritical reactions from constitutional politicians on both sides of the border.

In spite of the glaring evidence of the pre-planned and summary nature of the executions; in spite of the

further evidence that members of the gang involved had been targeted by their killers; in spite of the testi-

mony of numerous eye-witnesses, establishment figures still treat the deaths as unusual incidents or "misconduct" from crown forces.

Bishop Cahal Daly took five days to issue a full statement on the killings. Even then he was not taking the testimony of the eye-witnesses seriously and raised questions like "Was their



## OPINION WELCOME INITIATIVE

**T**HE DESIRE of the majority of the Irish people is for an end to partition, a British withdrawal and unity and peace in Ireland.

Yet anyone who expresses those views faces a barrage of vilification from a small but powerful band of people who have used every dirty tactic to crush them. A new political initiative, which was launched in Dublin last September, has the potential to take on the revisionists and give a voice to that majority desire.

The Irish National Congress will hold their first conference this Saturday, January 20th, in Dublin's Liberty Hall. The aim of the INC is to form a nationwide organisation which will actively work to achieve the unity and peace so desired by Irish people.

The organisers of the conference, an ad hoc committee elected at the September meeting, will present a set of principles which will set the agenda for the INC. The many groups which have worked so hard to redress cases of injustice will be actively supported and plans for major demonstrations will be put to the conference.

The injustices of poverty, unemployment and inequality will be addressed as well as the threat posed to Ireland's neutrality and sovereignty. Major figures from the arts and cultural life of the country are to attend the conference, making it truly representative of all threats of Irish society.

This is an initiative that deserves the utmost support from all who truly desire a solution to the conflict in the North and the chance that the Irish people so sorely need for a just and peaceful future.

The conference will open at 11am and run until 5pm in Liberty Hall. A crèche is available. Registration starts at 10.30am. Be there!

## ATHY

**T**HE full and true account of what happened in Athy last Friday is only now emerging. Distortion of the events has marked the episode from the very beginning.

For the past five days a cloud of confusion has enveloped what amounts to a fiasco perpetrated by the gardai who could have avoided any danger to the public. The gang members whom they apparently had under surveillance and knew of their intentions since October could have been arrested. Three substantially different versions of what happened were carried in the media on Saturday alone.

Throughout the day the account of the actual casualties was revised several times by the Garda Press Office.

It was stated last Friday that gardai had opened fire after the driver of the raiders' car had begun shooting but this now has been shown to be a lie.

The Garda Press Office also stated that two gardai had been wounded by shotgun pellets but it emerges that only the gardai had shotguns.

It has now been revealed that all the injuries sustained in Friday's siege were caused by Garda weapons.

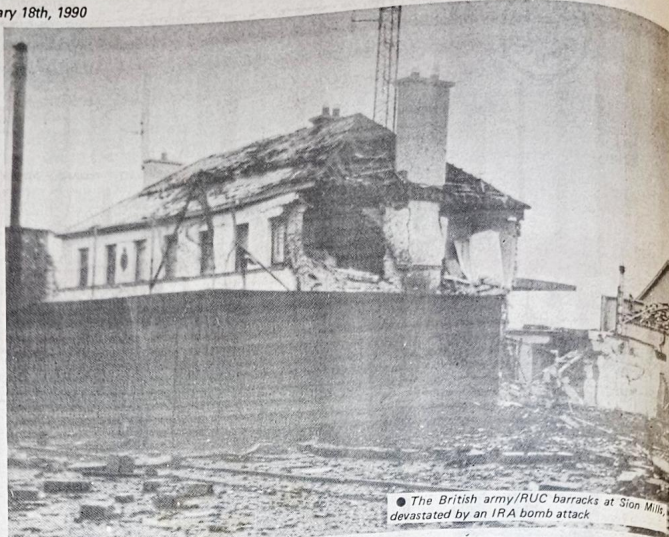
There is a vast difference between the situation obtaining in the 26 Counties and that in the Six Counties. The militarisation of the latter by the British makes events like Saturday's brutal assassination of three men by crown forces on the Falls Road in Belfast, all the less surprising.

But Friday's reckless use of firepower by those acting on behalf of the 26-County state will leave a serious doubt in the minds of people in the South as to whether these forces are not now adopting the British policy of shoot-to-kill.

Both incidents make establishment moans North and South about the disregard for life and limb shown by those who pose a 'subversive threat' sound very hollow indeed.

Sinn Féin Councillor Christy Burke, responding to the statement from Justice Minister Ray Burke on the Athy shootings, said that the massive firepower used by the gardai was clearly unnecessary and unjustifiable:

"The gang were under surveillance and could have been arrested before they went into the bank. The death of one man and the serious injuries to others, all caused by gardai could have been avoided. Was this mishandling of the situation or a deliberate strategy of employing ultimate force?"



● The British army/RUC barracks at Sion Mills, devastated by an IRA bomb attack

# BRITS IN DISARRAY



**VOLUNTEERS** of the Tyrone Brigade IRA have reduced another fortified British army/RUC base to rubble in a bomb attack which has again thrown Britain's political and military rulers in the Six Counties into disarray as unionists scream for even more intensive security.

Sion Mills Barracks in Tyrone came under attack on Monday evening, January 15th, when Volunteers calmly drove a 1,000lb bomb right up to its perimeter fence.

Following the attack the IRA in West Tyrone issued the following statement:

"Contrary to RUC claims in the media, our Volunteers shouted a 50-minute warning to passers-by and also informed the local parish priest about the bomb's presence."

"Another of our units had earlier placed a second 1,000lb landmine four miles from the town on the Lisky Road which was intended for British army and RUC reinforcements. A warning was later issued about the presence of this bomb."

The Sion Mills attack came less than 48 hours after Volunteers of the Tyrone Brigade had breached top level security at Lisinelly Barracks at Gortin Road, Omagh. Volunteers, under cover from a second armed ASU, breached the base's perimeter defences to plant a 150lb bomb at soldiers' living quarters. The bomb was later defused by British army technicians.

In their statement on the Omagh attack the Tyrone Brigade said:

"Volunteers from our brigade secured the area around the target base to provide back-up cover to other members of the ASU who successfully breached high security fencing to plant a 150lb device inside the heavily guarded military zone. This operation will have dealt a severe blow to enemy morale and has proved our continued ability to operate in the heavily patrolled garrison town of Omagh."

was again breached on Wednesday, January 17th, when Volunteers of the Belfast Brigade demonstrated their continued ability to thwart even the most intense crown forces security, by planting a 350lb car bomb at the Victoria commercial centre just off Chichester Street.

The bomb which detonated shortly before 10am will have caused much more damage than the immediate widespread physical damage inflicted by the blast.

Claiming responsibility for the attack the IRA said:

"The economic bombing attack using a 350lb car bomb carried out by our Volunteers in Chichester Street this morning indicates our unhampered ability to penetrate high security zones despite all the paraphernalia of crown forces surveillance and road blocks."

"The Victoria centre, like the nearby Castle Court complex, is a jewel in the crown of the 'Belfast is Buzzing' campaign. This promotion is a politically-motivated sham used by the British government to portray Belfast as a place of increasing normality and prosperity, while in reality the problems of repression, discrimination and poverty remain, as ever, outside the city centre facade. Today's attack highlights that hypocrisy and sham. The IRA will continue to highlight it in 1990."

### SOLDIER ESCAPES DEATH

A British soldier serving with the UDR narrowly escaped death when an IRA booby trap bomb exploded, devastating his car on Thursday evening, January 11th.

The soldier was about to get into his car which was parked outside his Maghera home when he noticed the device attached to its underside. He called for RUC assistance and, as the area was being cleared, the

device detonated destroying the vehicle.

### ANTRIM BASES ATTACKED

Volunteers of the North Antrim Brigade IRA carried out two separate grenade attacks against crown forces bases in the villages of Randalstown and Toomebridge on Thursday evening, January 11th.

Volunteers moved into position beside the two bases and, under cover from armed comrades, they lobbed single devices into the bases.

### FIVE CROWN FORCES MEMBERS INJURED

Five members of the crown forces sustained blast injuries in Belfast on Wednesday evening, January 10th, when the IRA launched separate bomb attacks against two crown forces patrols.

The first of the attacks occurred on the New Lodge Road shortly before 9pm. Volunteers in control of a command wire detonated a landmine which had been hidden in a derelict house in Stratheden Street. The full force of the blast caught two soldiers who were passing the building at the time, a third soldier was also injured although his injuries were described as not serious.

Less than two hours later a British soldier and an RUC man sustained serious blast injuries when two out of three jeeps which were travelling down the Springfield Road towards the Henry Taggart Barracks, sustained direct hits from impact grenades. Volunteers who had waited in concealed positions broke cover as the last two jeeps drew level with them and lobbed their grenades at the targets. Both jeeps suffered extensive damage although their drivers were able to drive the stricken vehicles into the nearby base.

### BELFAST SECURITY ZONE BLASTED

City centre security in Belfast



# PLASTIC BULLET TERROR ON BORDER

A VOLLEY of plastic bullets was fired across the border by the RUC, nearly killing one young man and endangering over 80 men, women and children last Sunday after they had almost completed the re-opening of the border crossing at Ballagh Bridge on the Emyvale to Caledon road.

The indiscriminate attack on the voluntary road workers was made by a large body of RUC members who disembarked from two helicopters that landed in fields adjacent to the border crossing. Nineteen-year-old Kevin Connolly of Augher, County Tyrone was hit on the forehead by a plastic bullet and brought immediately in a semi-conscious condition to Monaghan General Hospital. His

condition was described later as stable.

Ballagh Bridge, which spans the Ulster Blackwater and links Counties Monaghan and Tyrone, has been closed for almost 17 years. A once busy crossing, it was an important route in the life of the local community. The South Tyrone/North Monaghan Community Association which organised last Sunday's exercise, has

pledged to open each and every closed border crossing in their area.

Chairperson of the association Jimmy McKenna, who was present at Ballagh, has strongly denied that

stones were thrown at the RUC:

"Neither before nor after they fired plastic bullets were any stones thrown at them. They gave no warning. The crowd was all on the Monaghan side of the bridge where we were busy finishing up."

"The RUC statements to the media are complete lies."

The association later called on the Dublin government to carry out an inquiry into the actions of the RUC who claim to have fired five plastic bullet rounds at the crowd of people in County Monaghan.

Sinn Féin's Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin, who represents the area on Monaghan County Council, supported the South Tyrone/North Monaghan group's call:

"Miraculously Kevin Connolly was the only person hit in the hail of plastic bullets. These road-openings are attended by whole families including aged people and children. One pregnant woman was lucky to escape when a plastic bullet narrowly missed her."

Ó Caoláin said that most members of Monaghan County Council and the constituency's TDs "have apparently chosen to condone the RUC's actions by their silence, just as their unionist and SDLP counterparts have done on Dungannon District Council".

Fianna Fáil senator Francis O'Brien and his Monaghan County Council colleague Macartan MacCormack have both called on Haughey to initiate an inquiry into Sunday's events.

## SLOANE'S BRIDGE INVASION

ON THE two days following an incursion into County Monaghan by the British army, 26-County troops and gardai collaborated with the crown forces in throwing a cordon around Sloane's Bridge while it was yet again destroyed after being repaired by the local communities.

On Saturday, January 13th the South Tyrone/North Monaghan Community Association organised a surface-laying at the bridge which had been re-opened the previous weekend. While the work was in progress two British army helicopters landed nearby and a large force of riot-clad soldiers took up positions on the Tyrone side of the bridge. Six British soldiers were observed crossing the river and entering the forestry on the Monaghan side of the border.

Local people challenged them but they remained for more than 15 minutes, only crossing back when several carloads of gardai arrived, backed up by a contingent of troops. Statements were taken from some of the association's workforce regarding the incursion.

Shortly afterwards the British army and RUC set about the destroying of the bridge. More than 30 of them then shouldered and dragged the bridge frame and up-ended it into the river. This wanton destruction was carried out in the presence of gardai and 26-County troops.

Throughout Sunday and into Monday a complete cordon was thrown around the crossing on both sides of the border with no-one being allowed to approach. On Monday a British helicopter



● CAOIMHGHÍN Ó CAOLÁIN was observed carrying off the bridge's steel base structure.

The South Tyrone/North Monaghan Community Association expressed anger and disbelief at the actions of the gardai and soldiers and asked: "Do these Irish police and soldiers understand what they are doing?"

Sinn Féin councillors Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin and Owen Smyth said the weekend's events "demonstrated the persistence and determination of the border communities".



● Kevin Connolly in Monaghan General Hospital after being struck by an RUC plastic bullet

## Arrests at Derry crossing

TWO Sinn Féin councillors were among eleven people arrested when British forces staked-out a sealed border-crossing between the communities of Derry and Donegal in order to thwart a planned re-opening by local residents.

Shortly after noon on Saturday, January 13th, representatives from the Derry/Donegal Border Community Association gathered to re-open the Fanny Wylies Bridge crossing on the Lenamore road between Shantallow in Derry and Muff in Donegal.

One of 15 crossings between the two counties destroyed by the British army in the last 20 years, Fanny Wylies Bridge crossing has become the focus of an ongoing battle of wills between local residents, who have successfully

re-opened the crossing twice in the last six months, and British crown forces, determined to thwart local attempts and keep the crossing closed.

### MAJOR OPERATION

The extraordinary lengths to which the British army is prepared to go to keep Six- and 26-County communities apart was to be clearly seen during Saturday's re-opening attempt. In a major operation which involved over a dozen RUC/British army vehicles, and over 30 heavily armed crown forces personnel, the whole

crossing area was staked out overnight.

As local residents and representatives from the community association began to remove obstructing bollards, RUC members and British soldiers wearing balaclavas and wielding batons, appeared.

Eleven people were arrested, including two Sinn Féin councillors, Mitchel McLaughlin from Derry and Eddie Fullerton from Buncrana, County Donegal. Councillor Fullerton was held in custody until he appeared at Derry Magistrate's Court on Monday morning. The other ten were released on bail later on Saturday and remanded to appear at Derry Magistrate's Court. All eleven were remanded on bail on Monday, January 15th, to appear again on March 2nd.



# BIG TURNOUT FOR BORDER MARCH

ON A biting cold and rainswept Sunday close on 2,000 people from several border counties gathered in the County Cavan town of Swanlinbar to protest at the political cowardice of the Fianna Fáil coalition government in extraditing Irish political prisoners into the hands of a corrupt British system.

In the biggest march in the area since the hunger-strikes of 1980/81 the parade, led by a pipe band, formed up in the border town and marched out to the permanent British army checkpoint a mile away. Banners demanding the ending of extradition and highlighting the litany of injustices faced by ex-traditees and the nationalist community in general were carried by young and old alike. Despite the inclement weather and long delays for protesters at crown forces checkpoints for those travelling from the North there was an air of defiance and satisfaction amongst the gathering at such a large turnout. As the parade made its way into the town its ranks were swelled by dozens of local people coming out of their homes to join in the public meeting outside the chapel.

In the town centre the marchers filled the square as Sinn Féin party chairperson Sean McManus introduced the impressive platform party. They included Ardoyne ex-traditee Paul Kane, who has finished the remainder of his sentence imposed in the non-jury Diplock court; Martha Ellis, sister of Dublin man

Dessie Ellis who faces extradition to England on explosives charges relating to a 34-month period when he was either in jail in the US or signing a daily bail book in a Garda station in Dublin; Nora Comiskey, of Fianna Fáil Members Against Extradition; Tipperary priest, Fr Patrick Ryan whom both the Belgium and Irish governments refused to extradite or prosecute at the behest of Britain; Peadar Kirby, Sinn Féin representative from Ballyconnell and Sean Carron, the brother of former Fermanagh/South Tyrone MP, Owen Carron.

## URGENCY

All the speakers stressed the urgency of the situation facing those in Portlaoise, Jim Clarke, Dermot Finucane, Owen Carron and the four men out on bail who also face extradition. They stressed that the time for action was now, that TDs and councillors should be lobbied and confronted with the fact that the majority of the Irish people are appalled by the extraditions to date and do not recognise as Charlie Haughey publicly did last week, the so-called "land border" with the United Kingdom.



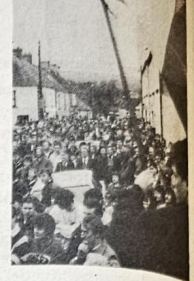
● Part of the 2,000-strong crowd at the anti-extradition march and rally in Swanlinbar

Paul Kane gave a vivid description of his treatment during and after his extradition and how he, despite his relatively high profile and attendant publicity that he was subjected to a beating at the hands of crown forces. "What chance would anyone else have now?" he asked. Martha Ellis outlined the details of her brother's case when it was impossible for him to have been in England as the charges

specific. "No other country in the world would extradite anyone in these circumstances," she said.

Sean Carron described the system of extradition as a "conveyor belt" drawing parallels with the non-jury systems that had brutalised and imprisoned thousands of Irish people in the Six Counties.

As protesters left the town heading North they were held at the permanent checkpoint for nearly an



hour and a half in a queue stretching nearly a mile back into the town. In a deliberate move the crown forces allowed traffic through from the Northern side and allowed less than a dozen cars through from the South.

With tension and frustration mounting, upwards of 70 people left their cars and took over control of the checkpoint despite being threatened at gunpoint by several of the British soldiers. Protesters demanded that the crossing be opened and the massive backlog of cars allowed through without hindrance. With several soldiers being held against the wall and the remainder hiding in their sangers, the spiked chains that had been pulled across the road were removed and under direction from protesters, the backlog was cleared within fifteen minutes.

## FIANNA FAÏL TREACHERY CONDEMNED AT MONAGHAN LECTURE

THE NINTH annual Fergal O'Hanlon Memorial Lecture was held in Monaghan town's Swan Lake Hotel last Sunday. The subject this year was political extradition and the guest speakers were Robert 'Fats' Campbell and Michael McKee, both Cromlin Road Jail escapees currently out on bail pending extradition proceedings.

The O'Hanlon Memorial Lecture was first instituted on the 25th anniversary of the death of IRA Volunteer Fergal O'Hanlon who died with his comrade Seán Sabhat in an attack on Brookborough RUC barracks in County Fermanagh.

Both McKee and Campbell gave a personal outline of their story to date including their confinement in Portlaoise. They detailed the cases against them and the prospects they faced if handed over to the



● The Ninth Annual Fergal O'Hanlon Memorial Lecture on Sunday last (left to right) Padraigin Uí Mhurchadha, Caoimhghin O'Caolain, Robert Campbell and Michael McKee

RUC. In such an event Robert Campbell would have a term of 22 years to serve. They condemned the practice of extradition and portrayed graphically the conditions which they would be at the mercy of if handed back to the regime in the sectarian

Six-County state.

## WARMLY RECEIVED

The contributions of both men were warmly received by those in attendance, numbering in excess of 100 people and en-

couraged a determination to challenge more vigorously the workings of the Extradition Act.

The lecture was chaired by Monaghan County Councillor Caoimhghin O'Caolain who issued a challenge during the course of the afternoon to the three Fianna Fáil TDs in the Cavan/Monaghan constituency, including Health Minister Rory O'Hanlon and Transport and Tourism Minister John Wilson, to debate with him "anywhere and at any time their party's shameful policy of extraditing Irish republicans to the discredited British judicial system". He continued by stating that "it is not just Charles Haughey's hands nor Collins's nor Burke's but the hands of each and every member of the elected ranks of Fianna Fáil that are stained with the disgrace of this treachery."

## CONGRATULATIONS

Monaghan UDC member Padraigin Uí Mhurchadha, sister of Fergal O'Hanlon, proposed a vote of congratulations to the guest speakers which was warmly endorsed by all. The traditional question and answer session followed with a number of contributions from the floor.

In his concluding remarks, O'Caolain advised that if the appeal of one of those currently facing extradition proceedings, Dermot Finucane, failed, the handover point would be at the Tyholland border-crossing linking counties Monaghan and Armagh. In the event the local County Monaghan Anti-Extradition Committee had outlined contingency plans for protest activity and stated that they requested everyone to respect their appeal for a peaceful demonstration to coincide with Dermot Finucane's handover.



# Extradition — Back to Feudal Times

ONE of the biggest battles over extradition in recent years occurred this week in the Dublin Supreme Court when lawyers for Dermot Finucane challenged attempts to hand him over to the British authorities. For two days lawyers and judges debated legal decisions which have turned 26-County courts into rubber stamps for British extradition warrants.

Whatever the outcome, the final decision of the five supreme court judges will entail serious consequences for those concerned about civil rights in the Southern state. On Tuesday and Wednesday this week Paddy McEntee, Finucane's counsel, laid out devastating arguments exposing the legal establishment.

The 1965 Extradition Act al-

lows the hand-over of prisoners sought by the British courts but it exempts those who are charged with "political offences". For almost 20 years, membership of the IRA was taken as evidence that the defendant should be exempted from extradition on political grounds. But in 1982, the supreme court judged that Dominic McGlinchey should be extradited to the Six

Counties on warrants concerning the killing of Hessie McMullan.

On behalf of the court, Judge O'Higgins stated that: "The crime was so monstrous and enormous that the court was prevented from allowing the political exemption". He argued that only what "civilised people would consider as political activity" should receive the exemption.

## RIGHTS DENIED

The case of Robert Russell in 1988 saw an even more serious change in the act. In an affidavit to the courts, Russell stated that he was a member of the IRA but the supreme court used this very matter as a means to deprive him of his rights as an Irish citizen. Because the IRA sought to re-unify Ireland by force it was "subverting the constitution".

Finucane's affidavit to the court, which was uncontested by the state's lawyers, clearly denies this. It specifically states that none of the offences mentioned in the warrants "had as their purpose the subversion of the constitution" and neither had the action for which he was originally convicted in 1982.

The 1937 Constitution undertakes to protect the rights of all Irish citizens as best it can from unjust attack. The 1965 act follows this principle by preventing extradition in political cases. But in the '80s judges turned this principle on its head, making membership of the IRA a reason for handing people over to a 'legal system' from which they could expect no justice at all.

## POLITICAL EXEMPTION

McEntee argued that this "very radical change in the supreme court's conception of

the political exemption" was "impermissible" because it "could only properly be performed by the legislature". The barrister pointed out that even the Northern Ireland Office itself believed that Finucane would receive the political exemption, pointing to the fact that the British government did not even bother to apply for his extradition until after the changes in the courts' attitude happened.

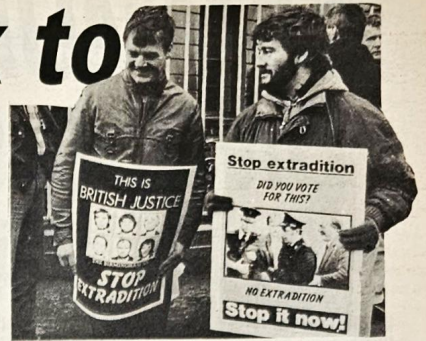
He reminded the supreme court of decision after decision in which it ruled for the political exemption in similar cases, even reminding supreme court president Judge Finlay of his own words when he denied extradition on political grounds.

For McEntee, the new departure was "a process totally foreign to our system of law". He asked: "What other rights might a person thought to be involved in subversion be exempted from? If [this] principle is correct then where does it end? Why should it be confined purely to Section 50?"

## OUTLAWRY

He argued that legal rights such as Habeas Corpus which dates from Roman Law were endangered and that the practice "introduces the concept of outlawry", a medieval term under which people who offended the monarch could simply be denied all rights whatsoever.

What made their action even more serious was the fact that republicans such as Finucane can face injury and even death at the hands of their jailers. Like his brother Pat, who was murdered by loyalists, Dermot Finucane has already received death threats. But in Dermot's case these came from prison warders. Much of McEntee's case hinged



● Robert 'Fats' Campbell and Michael McKee picket Tuesday's supreme court appearance of Dermot Finucane

on the behaviour of such warders.

After the mass escape from Long Kesh in 1983, remaining POWs were made to run the gauntlet between two lines of warders who beat them and turned guard dogs upon them. A decision taken by the Prison Officers' Association meant that the prisoners were refused medical attention after this attack — despite a request from the prison governor.

The Northern Ireland Office (NIO) connived to keep this matter secret and the warders protected themselves in the court, denying that it ever happened.

## TRUTH

But the truth finally emerged in a Belfast court when Brian Pettigrew, one of the prisoners, won an assault case. Judge Hutton ruled that "a number of prisoners were bitten by dogs", that the warders "deliberately failed to restrain" the dogs and that they "lied in the witness box". Since that case the NIO has refused to remove even one of the prison officers concerned.

McEntee argued that the Pettigrew case showed there was a substantial danger that similar events will happen again. He pointed out how the NIO was involved in the cover-up when the prison governor's journal, an official document and medical

records were 'lost' and reminded the court of the 'perjurious conspiracy' of the prison officers, for which they have not been punished.

State counsel Hugh O'Flaherty ran into considerable flak from the five judges when he claimed that the Finucane case was almost identical to that of Robert Russell and that it should therefore be refused. He suggested that courts such as the supreme court were infallible and said that if the court reversed its decision "it would look as if it was a ship abroad on the ocean without a compass".

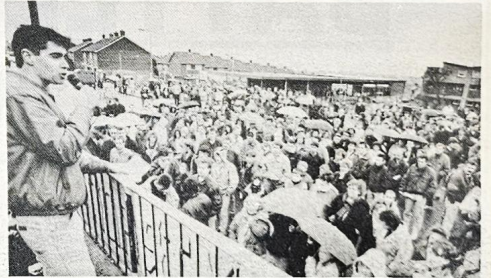
It soon seemed as if O'Flaherty's own boat was in considerable difficulties. Judge McCarthy, who dissented from the Russell decision, pressed him on a number of points. The judge reminded O'Flaherty that if the same case had come before the court when Finucane first escaped, he would have been protected from extradition. The bench repeatedly interrupted the state lawyer, reminding him that he had a considerable case to answer.

On Wednesday, the supreme court reserved its judgement in Dermot Finucane's case. The court is unlikely to make its decision in less than a fortnight and if it rules against Dermot Finucane he will be handed over to the RUC at Tollymoreland on the Monaghan/Armagh border



● Dermot Finucane leaves the supreme court, Dublin on Tuesday last

# Belfast Rally



● Extradition rally in Lenadoon, West Belfast on Sunday, January 14th

KATE FINUCANE, mother of extraditee Dermot and Rosaleen Russell, sister of Robert Russell who was extradited in 1988, were given a rousing reception when they addressed a rally of several hundred people in Lenadoon in West Belfast last Sunday.

The crowd gathered at a local shopping-centre and made its way throughout the Lenadoon estate, passing the home of the Finucane

family. The organisers were very pleased with the turnout and pledged at the rally to continue the campaign against extradition.

Addressing the rally, Sinn Féin Councillor Mairtin O Muilleoir said: "The ruthless shootings on Saturday highlight the nature of the system into which the Dublin government is handing Irish citizens."

Kate Finucane said: "It is ridiculous that the Dublin government complains about the Guildford Four and Birmingham Six while continuing to extradite Irish people into the same system of so-called justice."



● Kate Finucane, mother of Dermot addresses an extradition rally in Lenadoon on Sunday, January 14th



# COMMUNITIES UNDER SIEGE FROM RAIDERS

**BRITISH** crown forces operations have continued to inflict extensive damage and disruption on the lives and property of nationalists in the Cookstown area following a three day raid in the Ballinderry district. Sinn Féin Councillor Francie McNally condemned crown forces antics as an "unprovoked orgy of destruction".

In Portadown, a six-hour crown forces search and seal operation in the Obins Street area, with aggressive patrols on the streets, left residents virtual prisoners in their own homes.

On Wednesday, January 10th, a large contingent of British forces moved into Ballinderry, commandeering the local GAA sports club as a billet. In a 72-hour raid, the nearby home of the O'Neill family was devastated, the local club wrecked and the Windmill football grounds destroyed by huge mechanical excavators.

Thomas O'Neill, father of six, said the British army had spent three days ripping his family's home apart.

"They have dug up the floors, smashed the ceilings, burst pipes,

ripped out the fireplace, wrecked the bathroom and damaged the roof. There is no reason for them to search my home in such a manner."

## WANTON VANDALISM

Senior GAA official in the area, Sean Begley condemned the destruction of the local club as "wanton vandalism". He continued: "Interior walls in the club were deliberately kicked through, every window in the pavilion smashed and the football pitches turned into a wasteland."

Sinn Féin councillor for Cookstown, Francie McNally expressed his "revulsion" at the damage and disruption in the Ballinderry area.

Shortly after 8am on Monday, January 15th, the crown forces, in

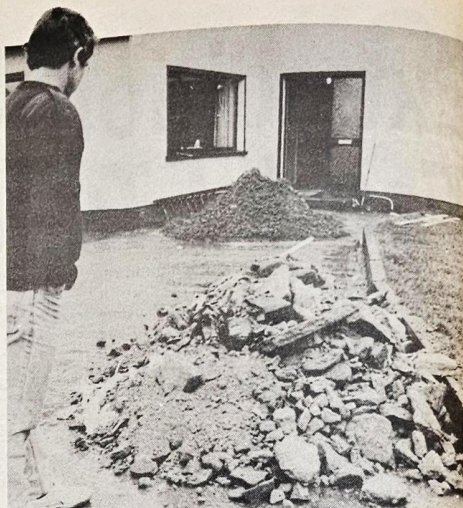
another major operation, sealed the Obins Street area of Portadown, while raiding nearby derelict flats. During a six-hour operation residents and local workers were subjected to continual harassment. Five ACE scheme workers were stopped and searched seven times within four hours. In one incident a UDR man threatened to shoot an ACE worker.

## CHILDREN SEARCHED

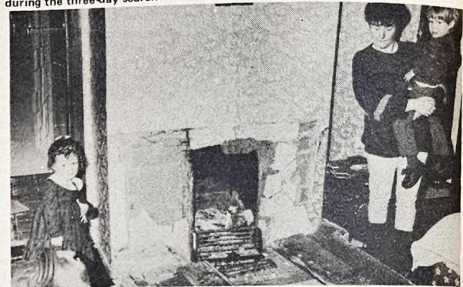
School children were searched on their way to school and mothers with young babies were forced to lift their infants while prams and buggies were inspected. A three-month-old baby was subjected to a body search and local residents complained that the level of harassment left them afraid to venture outside their own homes.

Local Sinn Féin spokesperson Johnny Dignam said:

"Residents in the Obins Street area were put under virtual curfew. An elderly resident had the windows in his home smashed. Cars and taxis were not allowed into the



● Thomas O'Neill surveys the remains of dug-up floors, dumped in the yard during the three-day search



● The ripped-out fireplace in the O'Neill family home, part of the "orgy of destruction" inflicted by the crown forces raid area, local workers were prevented from working and any residents leaving their homes were subjected to continual harassment."

# COVER-UP BATTLE GOES ON

**AS THE** British government attempts to overturn the Court of Appeal ruling which would compel RUC officers involved in the summary execution of IRA Volunteers Sean Burns, Eugene Toman and Gervase McKerr in Armagh in 1982 to give evidence at their inquest, Eleanor McKerr travelled to London to appeal for justice for all the relatives of 'shoot-to-kill' victims and continue in her quest to expose the truth about the death of her husband.

The move on January 15th, by British Attorney General Patrick Mayhew, is the latest in a seven-year saga which has taken the case from the Diplock court to the Armagh Coroner's Court, Belfast High Court and the Court of Appeal. Mayhew presented the British House of Lords with the Crown's attempt to reverse the Six-County Court of

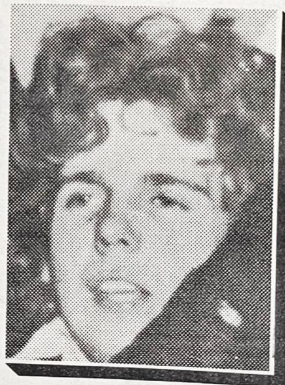
Appeal decision.

The shooting in Lurgan in 1982 of Gervase McKerr, Sean Burns and Eugene Toman by a special RUC unit trained by the SAS, was one of the earliest cases in the shoot-to-kill controversy which culminated in the ill-fated Stalker/Sampson inquiry.

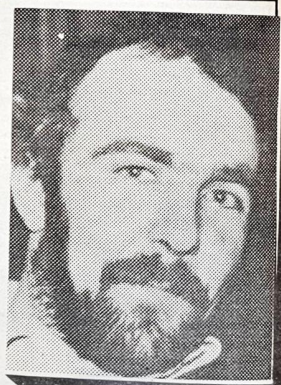
## SUCCESSFUL CHALLENGE

Last November, the families of the three victims, who had been forced to wait over six years for an inquest into the killings, walked out of the Coroner's Court when Armagh coroner James Elliot decided not to call the three RUC men involved in the death to give evidence, relying upon unsworn statements instead. Belfast High Court upheld the coroner's decision. Then, following a successful challenge by Eleanor McKerr, the Belfast Court of Appeal, decided that the RUC men must give evidence although they would not have to answer questions which might incriminate them.

Determined to overturn a ruling which has obvious implications for other shoot-to-kill actions by British forces the British gov-



● EUGENE TOMAN



● GERVASE McKERR

ernment took the case to the House of Lords. Opening a hearing which is expected to last for at least three days, Brian Kerr QC, acting on behalf of the British government, told British law lords Keith, Templeman, Ackner, Goff and Jauncey that people should not be compelled to give evidence in a coroner's court if they are suspected of causing the death. In a moment of rare clarity he argued:

"If persons were bound to give evidence, they would be bound to be subject to accusatory cross-examination. Although they might refuse to answer questions, it would not prevent the questions from being asked."

Eleanor McKerr, who travelled to London for the House of Lords hearing, said that relatives of those who died in suspicious circumstances were entitled to the truth. She continued:

"I came to London seeking justice for all the relatives of shoot-to-kill victims. That is all I want — justice."



● SEAN BURNS



# SICK COALITION IN TROUBLE

**THE neglect shown to the 26-County health service, the state of which has reached disastrous proportions over the last few years, may be coming to roost on the Dublin government.**

Unless some cosmetic gestures at least, are shown towards health spending in the budget, the Haughey administration could come to grief next month due to their failure to win the support of disgruntled Fianna Fáil Jackie Fahey. Both Labour and Fine Gael have tabled motions of no confidence in Health Minister Rory O'Hanlon.

The pathetic spectacle of Alan Dukes and Dick Spring attempting to get their own motion in before the other, should leave nobody in any doubt as to the cynical nature of the way the health issue is being used as a political football by those

other champions of fiscal rectitude in Leinster House.

Fine Gael are trying to round up support behind their motion which they wish to table when Leinster House reconvenes on January 30th. But a debate is already due to take place in private members' time on the Labour motion on February 13th. A government defeat is only possible if all opposition TDs, including Fahey, vote against the Fianna Fáil/DP coalition. Jackie Fahey, who resigned from the Fianna Fáil parliamentary party, has already made public statements of discontent with the state of the health service and said that he

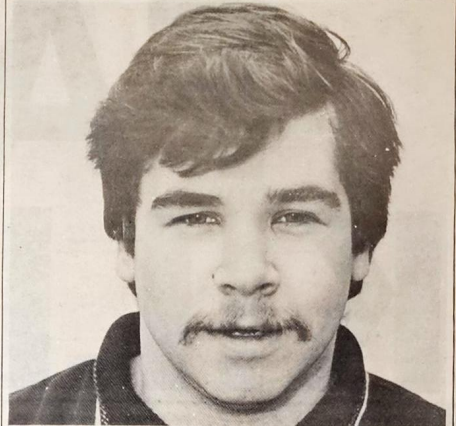
would find it difficult to oppose any motion of no confidence.

## DEFEAT

The possible scenario of a coalition defeat on this issue would lead either to its resignation or the tabling of a vote of confidence in the government.

Fine Gael in particular are engaging in posturing on this issue. It has reached crisis proportions due to the implementation of savage cutbacks which they helped to create through their support for austerity measures.

Fianna Fáil/DP disregard for the effects that their anti-people policies have had would inevitably rebound on them if the 'worst came to the worst' and the government was forced down on the issue.



● DAMIEN HARKIN

## Further collaboration

**A YOUNG DERRYMAN was charged in Dublin's Special Criminal Court under the 1976 Criminal Law Jurisdiction Act (CLJA) last Thursday with having weapons in Derry city last year.**

Damien Harkin was arrested by gardai in Buncrana, County Donegal, on Wednesday 10th January and charged with having guns and grenades in a flat at

Rathown Park, Derry city on 11th April 1988.

Harkin was remanded in custody until January 30th.

This is the latest use by the 26-County authorities of the CLJA, a legacy of the Sunningdale agreement, which allows people wanted in the North to be prosecuted in the South. It is a further attempt by the Dublin government to appease the British in the field of 'security' a subject which, under British insistence, is increasingly dominating the agenda of the intergovernmental conference set up by the Hillsborough Agreement.

# Battered women face accommodation crisis

BY ART Mac EOIN

**A CRISIS in the accommodation of women seeking refuge from domestic violence has led this week to the Women's Aid Council refusing to refer women from their Dublin refuge to the city's Regina Coeli Hostel. They say it is because of what they describe as the "appalling" conditions there.**

The Women's Aid refuge in Rathmines, now under the Eastern Health Board (EHB), can cater for up to ten women and their families but has a long waiting-list. Women on this list are usually referred to the Haven House shelter, also administered by the Eastern Health Board which can accommo-

date up to 30 people on a short-stay basis but this shelter is now full.

The only other option available is the Regina Coeli Hostel in North Brunswick Street run by the Legion of Mary. Women's Aid have deemed the conditions there totally unacceptable. The problems here are that the hostel was not conceived to deal with the victims of domestic violence and those administering the hostel are not under the auspices of the EHB.

Speaking to AP/RN Róisín McDermott, chairperson of the Women's Aid Council, pointed out that Regina Coeli is "a hostel run for homeless women and not for women who have fled a situation of domestic violence. The accommodation is dirty and there is a mixture of women sharing the same rooms. The victims of battering usually have their children with them and they are forced

to share the dormitory with homeless people often suffering from psychiatric and alcohol related problems.

"To leave home is a big step for the women to take and the accommodation they receive should at least be tolerable, otherwise they could be forced to return home. This type of treatment only compounds their situation. The problem is that the people at Regina Coeli are not answerable to the Eastern Health Board, nor apparently are they accountable to the Archbishop of Dublin."

## NO COMMENT

As long as the Haven House shelter can cope with the overflow from Rathmines, Women's Aid can manage but when this is full they will not subject women to the conditions at Regina Coeli. The Regina Coeli au-

thorities refused to comment on the Women's Aid Council statement.

The only other refuge on the northside of Dublin is the Aioibneas refuge, a three bedroomed flat in the Ballymun flats complex which is run on a FAS employment scheme. It is also grossly overcrowded with five families sharing two bedrooms and 12 of the children under the age of seven. Two families — seven people in all, share the cramped conditions in one of the tiny bedrooms. The shelter is in a Catch 22 situation as regards health board funding. Esther Burke of Aioibneas, speaking to AP/RN, said:

"We are in a crisis situation at the moment. We got on to the lottery people but they were absolutely no help at all. We badly need money to remain open. We applied to the Eastern Health Board (EHB) but they hold the view that we don't have enough women here. But the problem is that we need a bigger place. If we had a bigger place we could cater for more women."

"There is a huge demand and we have had to refer women elsewhere. We don't like turning anyone away. The situation has got so bad that the women are now sleeping in the office. We are afraid that some of the women will go back home and then they would be in a worse situation."

Aioibneas are in a 'no-win' predicament. At the moment they are looking for a grant for a larger premises and according to refuge worker Gay O'Hagan: "We need to raise at least £50,000. To get a loan or a grant you need to have money in the bank which we don't have. The EHB are to give us an answer by March to their review of the current situation."

Lack of funding from the 26-County government is once again leaving the most vulnerable sections of Irish society without adequate care or attention. This lack of political will by an uncaring government to face up to this pressing problem is hitting women and children the hardest. Unless measures are taken quickly to deal with this crisis their careless attitude will leave many women and their children open to the misery of further abuse.



● The overcrowded Aioibneas refuge in Ballymun



# FALLS KILLINGS

## — SYMPTOM OF BRITAIN'S SECRET WAR

THE KILLING of the three men on Belfast's Falls Road on Saturday, January 13th, as they attempted to carry out a robbery of a bookmaker's shop has again raised the whole question of the British government's 'shoot-to-kill' policy. It is a policy which nationalists have always contended is a central and ongoing part of Britain's war of terror in the Six Counties, but which British ministers and their apologists continue to deny.

According to the British, all their operatives, whether in or out of uniform, operate on the basis of 'minimum use of force' codified for them in the 'Yellow Card' which states: "Challenging: A challenge must be given before opening fire. Opening fire: You may only open fire on a person if he is committing or is about to commit an act likely to endanger life and there is no other way to prevent the danger. If you have to open fire: (a) Fire only aimed shots, (b) Fire no more rounds than are necessary, (c) Take all reasonable precautions not to in-

jure anyone other than your target."

That those rules are disregarded as a matter of policy is beyond dispute. In total, crown forces have killed over 200 people in disputed circumstances. Within that figure are a substantial number of IRA Volunteers shot to death while, in many cases, unarmed.

The latter category, along with civilians shot dead by their assailants in the belief that they were members of the IRA, are a case apart, where a deliberate policy decreed and sanctioned at the highest levels of the British government, has



● Aftermath of the killings — to the right of the picture is the entrance to Sean Graham Bookmakers where two of the victims were shot

been in operation, directed and carried out by specially trained death-squads who operate on the princi-

ples of 'firepower, speed and aggression'.

The constituent parts of this net-

work are, for the most part, shadowy groups who generally operate out of uniform and are largely inde-

## Damning accounts from eye-witnesses

WHILE THE FULL STORY behind the summary execution of three young men by a British assassination squad remains unrevealed, it is absolutely certain that they were killed in a planned operation. As in the case of the Gibraltar killings, the British version of events has been exposed as completely false.

On Saturday, January 13th, John McNeill, Eddie Hale and Peter Thompson became victims, in broad daylight and in full view of nearly 20 witnesses, of Britain's death-squads which were set up, and continue to operate, as key components in the British war effort in the Six Counties. When, as appears to have been the background to Saturday's deaths, people other than these squads' main targets — republicans — get in their way, the squads have licence to kill them too.

Five of the witnesses have contacted *APRN* and it is from their accounts that we reconstruct the events in which three men were shot to death. The accounts given by these witnesses and by others who contacted newspapers or local politicians betray the British version of events, given in a short RUC statement and by Peter Brooke in the British House of Commons, as a tissue of lies.

All the eyewitnesses in this account are adamant that they must remain

anonymous. Fear of the RUC, and treatment of witnesses in the past by British forces, has led to their understandable reluctance to be identified. For purposes of identification our witnesses are:

Witness One: A back seat passenger in a car driving through the gates of the City Cemetery.

Witness Two: The driver of a motorbike going into the City Cemetery.

Witness Three: A black taxi driver going along the Falls Road towards the junction with the Whiterock Road.

Witness Four: A black taxi driver driving down the Whiterock Road towards the junction with the Falls Road.

Witness Five: The driver of a private car driving up St James' Road.

There is understandably a degree of confusion about the shootings given that everyone's normal reaction is to take cover. That aside, however, it is clear that two undercover operatives were directly involved in the shootings and that they first killed John McNeill,

the driver of the stolen red Vauxhall Astra which was parked on the footpath at the side of Graham's Bookmakers, before repeatedly shooting Peter Thompson and Eddie Hale as they ran from the bookies on hearing the initial shots.

Witness One recalls: "I was being driven into the City Cemetery when I noticed an armed man walking from a green Vauxhall which was parked in the right-hand lane of the Whiterock Road. He headed towards a red Vauxhall Astra which was parked at the side of the bookies. The man pulled open the door of the red Astra and began firing at the driver.

"Our car stopped and I then noticed a second gunman armed with some sort of rifle or machine-gun. He was standing at the rear of the green Vauxhall in a firing position. Within seconds he was firing at two men who had appeared out of the front door of Graham's bookies. He fired in short bursts and as he did so, he moved around towards the Falls. He seemed beside himself with rage. His face was red.

"As he stopped firing the first gunman took over. He was at the side of the green Vauxhall and was moving

down towards the front door of the bookies. I watched as he quite deliberately drew a handgun and fired into the men's bodies as they lay on the ground."

Witness Two, who was slightly behind Witness One, gave a broadly similar account although he didn't see the driver of the red Astra being shot. He was, however, able to give a detailed description of the assailant who initially opened fire on Eddie Hale and Peter Thompson: "He was about five foot eight or nine, wearing a bottle green jumper, the same type as worn by the Divisional Mobile Support Unit (DMSU). He had dark trousers and wore boots. His hair was dark and he had a swarthy complexion. He also had a moustache."

Witness Three, driving up the Falls Road, takes up the story:

"I was driving towards Rosemary House when I heard a series of single shots, about four in all. As I reached the railings of Rosemary House there was more shooting, this time it was sustained firing. I stopped the taxi and looked across towards the Whiterock. I saw a man armed with a machine-gun firing in towards the doorway of Graham's bookies. From where I had

stopped I couldn't see the doorway, nor what he was firing at. I remained in the taxi.

"The assailant whom I thought was a loyalist was dressed in similar fashion to an RUC DMSU man. He was crouched slightly and moved round the doorway as he fired. Someone else must have been shooting from somewhere up the Whiterock and out of view at this stage because an elderly man who was standing near the railings of Rosemary House screamed out, 'I'm hit, I'm hit' and fell to the ground.

"The gunman that I could see appeared to run out of ammunition, he fumbled with his weapon, dropping a magazine to the ground. I then saw a second armed man, he was leaning on the roof of a green Vauxhall Belmont which was parked almost in the middle of the Whiterock Road at the side of the bookies. He appeared to have a pistol in his hand and he shouted something like 'Go, go, go'.

The other gunman then ran to the green Vauxhall and they calmly drove off up the Whiterock. I first tended to the elderly man who was in a state of shock. It was only when I turned to look up the Whiterock that I saw the two guys lying riddled at the steps of the bookies. I was going towards them when someone shouted 'the lad in the car is still alive'.

"I ran to the Red Astra and climbed into the passenger seat. The man was slumped forward hanging over the gear stick. He was breathing but in very bad shape. I could see two bullet wounds to the back of his head."

Coming down the Whiterock Road in his black taxi Witness Four also had a clear view of the armed assailant who attacked and shot Eddie Hale and Peter Thompson. He relates what oc-





● Security forces cover one of the dead men

pendent of regular crown forces units, although ultimately they come under the control of the RUC's chief constable and the British army's GOC.

#### COVERT FORCES

The general make-up of these covert forces was shaped in the late 1970s when Maurice Oldfield was appointed as Security Co-ordinator. Under Oldfield's directorship the

role of the various intelligence agencies and covert operatives was streamlined and account was taken of the new 'primacy of the RUC' doctrine, in which the RUC were to take over the leading role in Britain's war in Ireland. By 1982 an intelligence unit named E4 headed RUC covert operations and fed operational intelligence to HQMSU and DMSU (Headquarters and Divisional Mobile Support Units), RUC person-

nel specially trained by the SAS. Technical and surveillance back-up to these units came from E4A.

On the British army side intelligence and covert operations were overseen by M15. The operational units were drawn from units of the SAS and a new grouping called the 14th Intelligence Company. This is made up of small groups of two or

three soldiers who operate in plain clothes and unmarked cars and whose role it is to co-ordinate the activities of all special units working for different elements of the 'Security' and 'Intelligence' services. Which of these groupings carried out Saturday's killing is unknown and in the final analysis, irrelevant. What is certain is that the official

story of undercover soldiers happening upon an armed robbery is a tissue of lies. Eyewitness accounts of the shootings and evidence now provided by a gang member who escaped, show clearly that this was a well planned and ruthlessly executed 'wipe out' operation similar to previous killings premeditated and carried out by British forces.

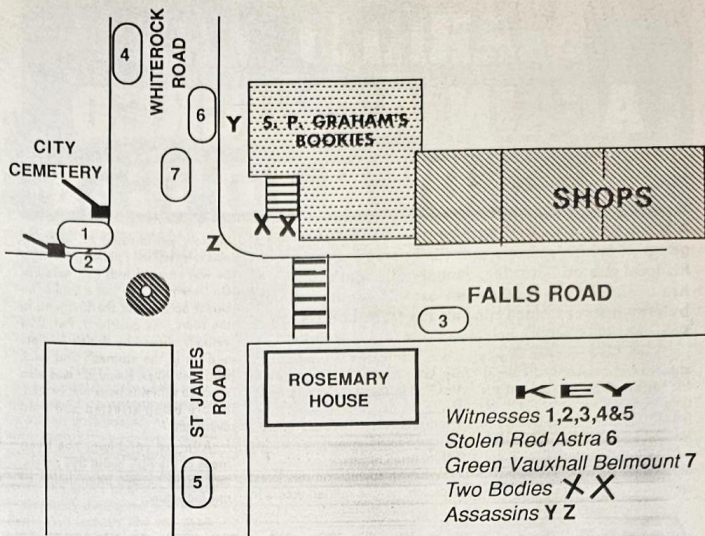
something else up before both got into a green or blue car and drove away up the Whiterock."

The full story of what happened on Saturday will probably never come to light but from the evidence of eyewitnesses, it is clear that it was well planned, ruthlessly and efficiently executed and carried out by trained assassins.

The British version of events, that two soldiers happened upon an armed robbery and acted to prevent a threat to life posed by what they believed to be armed and dangerous men, bears no scrutiny. John McNeill, unarmed and sitting in a parked car was the first to die. Only after the shots that killed him had ended did Eddie Hale and Peter Thompson exit from the bookies shop to their deaths.

These latter two victims were incapacitated by the first burst of firing from their armed assailant, but as they lay on the ground mortally wounded, concentrated fire was poured into their bodies before they finally received gunshots to the head ensuring that they wouldn't survive. Pensioner Jim Carolan, who was unfortunate enough to be in one of the gunmen's line of fire, was lucky to escape with a single bullet wound as the wall at which he was standing had a further five bullet marks in it.

Further details about the background to the shootings are still emerging and place even more doubt on the British version of events. Nationalist demands in the wake of the shooting are clear. No RUC or other internal British inquiry will suffice and the trained death-squads must be taken off our streets. The story of the Whiterock killings is far from over.



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**A SERIES of meetings were arranged between various associates of the three murder victims and Sinn Féin president Gerry Adams, in the presence of a local priest, who guaranteed the conditions of the meeting which were that their identities would be concealed.**

Adams talked to two young car thieves who were involved at the start of the complicated chain of events which ended with Saturday morning's killings and with the fourth member of the robbery team, who escaped when his three accomplices were killed. The man in RUC custody as we go to print was not involved in the robbery.

The complex series of events apparently began on December 9th, when two youths stole a black Vauxhall Nova SR from College Street, which they later burnt-out. While driving around in the stolen car they stopped outside the Homestead Inn in Drumboe, where they stole two sports bags from the back seat of a blue Datsun Bluebird.

They later discovered a Heckler and Koch machine-gun and a 9mm pistol in one of the bags. The pair destroyed the other contents of the bags, which included a map of Belfast with military co-ordinates, tinned food-stuffs, clothes, jeans, a sleeping-bag, a green canister with a grenade-type triggering mechanism and a piece of paper with a coded message on it. One jumper had a motif of two lions and a cannon.

They sold the weapons for £200. Those who bought them stashed the Heckler and Koch in a lock-up garage in Lurgan which was full of stolen electrical goods worth £5,000. They brought the short-arm back with them to Belfast.

#### GARAGE RAIDED

Within a few days the garage was raided and its

owner and the gang's contact were arrested. The owner was unaware of the contents of the garage. The contact was charged with possession of stolen goods but not with possession of the weapon. He went back to those who had stored the gun in the garage following his release after 22 hours saying that he had done a deal with the RUC. They had told him the names of those who had the other weapon and promised that if he retrieved the gun he would not be charged with possession of firearms.

His associates were very suspicious and nervous of this turn of events but eventually decided to give him the gun which he later said he returned.

The people involved specialise in armed robberies using replica weapons. The three

killed on Saturday were members of this gang. Following the incident with the two guns the gang became nervous and cautious as they suspected that they were under surveillance.

#### BOOKIES ROBBERY

It was suggested to them by two other people on the Wednesday before the incident that they rob Sean Graham Bookmakers at the Falls/Whiterock Road junction. At first the gang were not keen as they had plans for another 'move' in another part of the city on that day.

Friday's 'move' did not come off and on the Saturday morning one of those later killed persuaded his reluctant colleagues to go ahead with the bookies robbery. Some members of the gang did not get involved.

Two members collected the replica weapons and left them in the City Cemetery close to the bookies. It was decided to use the car which had been stolen for Friday's abort-

(continued on page 10)



# MARKED MAN AGAIN ATTACKED BY CROWN FORCES

A MAN was attacked and beaten in Strabane by a group of British soldiers and RUC personnel as he left his local pub on Saturday, January 6th. Mark Hannigan has been a constant target for assault and harassment by crown forces since his release from Long Kesh in February 1988, where he served a seven-year term.

On this latest occasion he was attacked and then arrested. His girlfriend, who was with him at the time, was told that he would be released but "delivered dead". In November 1988 he received a similar death-threat from British soldiers, when he was assaulted and arrested at the border checkpoint at

Clady, just outside Strabane town. He was treated in Altnagelvin Hospital in Derry for severe bruising to the bones in his arm following that attack. He was subsequently charged with assaulting a soldier before being released.

While in custody on this latest occasion, he was refused access to

his solicitor. To cap it all, when he was released the following morning he was charged with four assaults. On December 21st last a similar incident occurred at the Bridgend in the town. His girlfriend, Pat, was verbally abused by British soldiers and hit in the stomach and back with their rifles. Hannigan was also attacked with rifle butts and beaten, before being arrested and held overnight.

A formal complaint has been made to the RUC about this persistent heavy-handed intimidation of one individual.



● MARK HANNIGAN

Local Sinn Féin councillor, Ivan Barr said that: "This man's predicament is an extreme example of the kind of wanton intimidation faced by many nationalists as they try to go about their business despite the constant presence of the occupying forces."



## COUNCILLORS PROTEST SECTION 31



● Sinn Féin councillors hand in a letter of protest at the 26-County Department of Justice

SEVEN Sinn Féin councillors handed in a letter of protest to the offices of the 26-County Department of Justice on Friday last. They were protesting against the Minister for Communications, Raphael Burke's renewal of the broadcasting ban against the party, a yearly renewal which has now become automatic.

The letter was presented by three Six-County councillors, Dodie McGuinness from Derry City Council, Ivan Barr of Strabane District Council and Jim McAllister of Newry and Mourne Council, as well as four 26-County councillors, Christy Burke of Dublin Corporation, Fra Browne and Frank Duffy of Louth County Council and Caoimhghin O Caoilain from Monaghan County Council.

The letter protested at "the denial of the right to free speech and freedom of information through the continued operation of ministerial orders under Section 31 of the Broadcasting Act". It termed the ban as, "a violation of the civil and

human rights of Irish citizens" and as being in breach of Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, "which affirms the right to free speech and freedom of information".

"For nearly 20 years, broadcast television in the 26 Counties has been a subject to this political censorship. People in this state have been denied the right to fairly assess and form opinions on the political situation in Ireland through the censorship of individuals including elected representatives on both sides of the border, political parties and other organisations which play a central part in continuing developments."

## SINISTER BACKGROUND REVEALED

(continued from page 9)

ed 'move'. Two members were dropped down the road from the bookies. The four involved picked up the replica weapons from the cemetery. One of them was suspicious of a helicopter which he felt was following them but it was decided to carry on.

Three of them entered, not through the side but the front door, their balaclavas not pulled down over their faces and their replica weapons concealed by their sides. The people in the bookies were told to lie down facing away from them and the raiders started to scoop the money into a bag. They then heard what they thought was shooting and thumping on the side door. They ran out, Peter Thompson leading, Eddie Hale beside him and the third man a few steps behind. All had their replica weapons concealed at their sides.

There was a heavy burst of gunfire, in which Thompson and Hale were shot. The third man ran back into the bookies, discarded his gloves, hood, coat and replica weapon and lay down among the customers who didn't see him. He managed to escape in the subsequent confusion.

### PHONE CALL

In the early hours of the following Monday morning one of the gang members received a phone call from a man with a British accent who said: "We got three of you scumbags, we blew the heads off them, we're going to wipe out the rest."

Gerry Adams has placed the text of the statement from the three men in the hands of his solicitor. He advised the three to make statements to their own solicitors. They are very frightened and fear for their lives.



● Scene of the shooting of three raiders by crown forces on Saturday last

Adams also intends writing to Peter Brooke in the light of these fresh revelations asking him: (a) Why the British army have not made a statement on

this matter? (b) On what legal basis did the RUC do a deal on the return of the two weapons? (c) Were the group involved in the Sean Graham robbery under

surveillance as they suspected? (d) Off the record briefings and statements after the shootings suggested that plainclothes soldiers intervened when they saw

hooded and armed men. How does this stand up to the above account, which says they were not hooded going in and that the weapons were concealed?



# Growing support for withdrawal

"I AM FED UP with the hypocrisy of a government which can welcome changes elsewhere and can offer us only bankrupt changes, which we know won't work; and which haven't worked before, in Northern Ireland in particular." These were the words of Dawn Primarolo, Labour MP for Bristol South, speaking at a press conference calling on the British government to announce its intention to withdraw from Ireland, in the British House of Commons last week.

Primarolo added that "they can discuss the removal of the Berlin Wall, the opening of borders etc, in other countries but are totally incapable of even entering into negotiations with all the parties involved in Northern Ireland... We need, as a military power, to declare our intention to withdraw." A solution, she said, must be on the basis of attempting to empower people, and allowing them their right to self-determination.

The press conference, organised jointly by the Troops Out Movement and the Socialist Movement, was also addressed by MPs Tony Benn and Jeremy Corbyn. It was chaired by Nadene Finch of the Socialist Movement.

MP Tony Benn said that after years of bitter and costly conflict "the time has come to make a fresh effort to end the war in Ireland. The continuation of that war, with no end in sight, is undoubtedly the most important issue facing the peoples of our two countries. None of the policies that have been tried by a succession of British governments have met with success, nor

can they, unless the central question of British involvement is raised.... It must be for the Irish alone to decide their own future."

Mary Mason of the Troops Out Movement said that the recent comments of Six County direct-ruler Peter Brooke showed that the British government recognised the political nature of the struggle in the North but were keen to portray it as a war against 'mindless terrorism'. She also condemned the recent raids of Sinn Féin offices in the North as another example of British government attempts to stifle political development there.

Referring to Brooke's recent re-

marks regarding the possibility of the reintroduction of some form of devolution, she said that devolution had been tried before and that "not even the Tories believe this is a permanent solution — it is only a strategy to attempt to isolate one part of the community."

Both Jeremy Corbyn MP and Dawn Primarolo spoke of the growing support for the views expressed by all the speakers at the conference. Many MPs were aware of the support for withdrawal among their constituents. Primarolo said that when she spoke to British soldiers in Germany during her visit to the Berlin Wall recently, she was heartened at what she said was their level of understanding of the nature of the struggle in the North and their view that Britain should withdraw. Many of them had served in the Six Counties.

All the speakers at the press conference pointed out that Sinn Féin's policy, as laid out in 'Scenario for Peace', clearly states that a ceasefire would be possible if and when Britain announces its intention to withdraw its troops and cease interference in Ireland.

Mary Mason ended her speech by saying that as we enter a new decade: "We cannot allow a British



government to take us into the 21st century with Britain still occupying Ireland. If the British government is really interested in peace they should declare their intention to

withdraw their army and leave Ireland for the Irish people to control. It is the only real option for the peaceful future of both Ireland and Britain."

## New Ireland-Italy group formed

BELFAST Sinn Féin Councillor Alex Maskey spent a week in Venice in late December to address meetings sponsored by the newly formed Ireland-Italy Association, Communist Party, Green Party and Democrazia Proletaria. Meetings were well attended and good interest was shown in the visit.

The subjects addressed at the meetings in Venice, Padua and Mestre were the current political situation in Ireland, censorship and ongoing human rights violations. The Ireland-Italy Association has recently adopted an Irish language school as an example of the strong Irish culture which is battling against British discrimination.

Addressing the meetings Alex Maskey said:

"I believe that especially at this time with such momentous changes in Eastern Europe, we must once again seek to raise the question of British rule and interference in Ireland. For so long now the British have tried to suppress the truth about Ireland, and to allow disinformation and lies. Therefore, it is most important for Sinn Féin to be



● Alex Maskey (right) at a Venice press conference on December 14th

given the opportunity to explain in Italy the truth about the conflict in Ireland."

## Britain indicted in Oslo

THE INFLUENTIAL Norwegian Helsinki Committee (NHC) has produced an 80-page report on human rights abuses in the Six Counties. At the launch of the report in Oslo on January 11th, Fr Des Wilson welcomed the increased international attention given to repression in Ireland.

The Norwegian Helsinki Committee is one of a number of bodies set up to monitor human rights abuses after the Helsinki conference in the '70s and has already reported on such abuses in Romania, Turkey and Bulgaria.

**Human Rights Abuses in Northern Ireland — Irish Terrorism or British Colonialism** is a sustained indictment of the crown forces. Its co-author is Bjørn Cato Funnemark, general secretary of the NHC. At the launch meet-

ing Funnemark said:

"We are living in a time of great change — an historical era. Spring has come early in Eastern Europe. It is unacceptable, to say the least, that at a time when unity and democracy in Europe has never been stronger, Northern Ireland remains an isolated issue, pushed onto the fringe of Western Europe."

### UNSATISFACTORY

Dismissing the conception of Britain as a 'peace-keeping force', Funnemark described the situation as one of long-ignored political and economic problems. "Northern Ireland cannot be dismissed as a problem of mindless terrorism." He went on to say "the situation is as unsatisfactory today as it was when Northern Ireland was set up in 1921".

Funnemark also welcomed the MacBride Principles, describing the Six Counties as an "apartheid economy" and calling on Fred Olsen Ltd, the Norwegian-based owners of Harland and Wolff, to implement the Principles. Reiulf Steen, former president of the Norwegian Parliament welcomed the report and also backed the Principles.

During his stay in Norway, Fr Wilson met with each of the three parties in the coalition government, with the opposition Labour Party and with Norway's Foreign Department. He also gave a lecture to the Norwegian Foreign Affairs Institute.



## OUT NOW 1990 Diary

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### WOMEN IN A WAR ZONE



### WOMEN IN A WAR ZONE



## Women in a War Zone

See page 13 for review

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Available from:  
Republican  
Publications,  
44 Parnell Square,  
Dublin 1 or  
51/55 Falls Road,  
Belfast.

## Draw Results

Coolock Sinn Féin draw  
December 1989

1st: Eddie Carney, c/o P O'Connor,  
No. 131; 2nd: Tommy Larkin, c/o  
Nick, No. 059; 3rd: Kay Fallon, c/o  
Billy, No. 005; 4th: Emma O'Leary,  
c/o Andy, No. 194; 5th: James  
Cross, c/o John, No. 083.  
Mid-Ulster Sinn Féin  
Christmas Draw.

1st: K McSwiggan, Drumquin; 2nd: C  
Morris, Drumquin; 3rd: J McSwiggan,  
Drumquin; 4th: A Bradley, Gortin; 5th:  
S McCartney, Omagh.

# Liosta báis in Ollscoil na Ríona

TÁ CASADH EILE i scéal an fheachtais sheitigh atá á reachtáil ag mic léinn dilseacha in Ollscoil na Banríona i mBéal Feirste i ndiaidh a theacht chun solais ó thosaigh an téarma nua ag tús na bliana.

Tá bileoga á scaipeadh anois ag dream éigin san ollscoil a bhfuil ainmneacha mic léinn luaithe orthu agus é curtha síos dóibh gur baill d'Oglaigh na hÉireann iad.

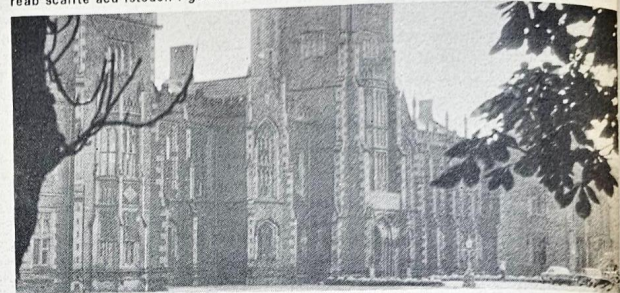
Tá drochchuma ar an bhforbairt seo agus an chonspóid faoi léiseal i láthair na huairé i dtaca le fáisneis á tabhairt ag fórsaí an chóirín do seimhlitheoirí díseora. Thosaigh an chonspóid seo i mí Lúnasa seo chuaigh thart le dúnmharú Laughlin Maginn i Rath Fraoile, aingniomh a mhaigh an UFFAUA i ráiteas ina dhiaidh a bhí spreagtha ag eolas a sholáthair fórsaí na corónach dóibh.

Ní nach ionadh tá imní ag meáduí i measc mic léinn náisiúnacha trí chéile de thairbhe go bhfuil a fhios acu uilig go bhféadfadh duine ar bith acu bheith luaithe ar liosta den chinéal chéanna. Ar ndóigh ba leor sin mar fhianaise d'fheallmharfóirí dilseacha, más amháidh go mbionn a leitheid a dhíth orthu in am ar bith.

### BAICLE ÚR

Tháinig baicle úr ar an saol san áit i mí Dheireadh Fómhair anuraidh tar éis saoire an

tsamhraidh a thugann 'Cumann Tacaithe Rangers' orthu féin agus atá d'aon aidhm acu teannas a chothú leis na náisiúntóirí ann. Go dtí seo ní bhíodh i gceist acu ach graifítí seiteach a chur ar na ballaí sna leithris agus amaidí eile pháistíúil dá leitheid a dhéanamh. Uair amháin réab scaifte acu isteach i gceirniú a bhí á



● Ollscoil Bheal Feirste

thionól chun na gearrthacha deontais atá beartaithe ag an rialtas thall a phlé gur chan saic amhrán náisiúnta Shasana, ach ba é sin meid a gcuid gníomhaíochta.

Ghoill sé ar náisiúntóirí go háirithe i measc lucht acadúil na hollscoile go bhfuil aitheantas oifigiúil ó Comhairle na Mac Léinn, aondachtóir a mbunús, ag an 'chumann' seo, rud a chiallaíonn go maonítear é ó chiste Aontas na Mic Léinn, ach lasmuigh de sin ábhar neamhiontais a bhí iontu don chuid is mó, go dtí seo.

## An tSlóivéin — Stát Nua

### LE DÓNALL Ó DUFAIGH

GABH SIAR 1,000 bliain agus bhí i bhfad níos mó stát agat — agus iad níos lú. Ach d'imigh sin agus tháinig seo: stáit i bhfad níos mó agus minic go leor cuid mhaith náisiún is teangacha taobh istigh dá dteorainneacha. Tá sé seo fíor ins an Eoraip ach tá sé fíor cuid mhaith fríd an domhain uilig.

Ins an Afraic mar shampla ghearr na tíortha suas an mhóirinn sin chan de réir teangacha, ná creidimh, ná ciníocha ach de réir a riachtanais eacnamaíocha féin, ag breith greama ar an mheid a ba mhó tálaimh a dtiocfadh leo. Ach ins an aois seo ina bhfuil trácht ar aontacht Afraiceach, aontacht Eorpach srl, tá na náisiúin éagsúla, taobh istigh de na stáit ag iarradh a

dteangacha, a gultúir, a bhfeiniúlacht féin a chaomhnú is a chur chun cinn. San am i láthair tá seo ag titim amach san Eoraip ach go háirithe agus guth níos láidre le cluinint ó na náisiúin taobh istigh de na stáit éagsúla ná mar a bhí 40 bliain ó shin, mar shampla.

### NIOS MO STAT

Fiche bliain ó inniu, an mbeidh níos mó stát ná mar atá inniu? An mbeidh ambasáidí i Nua Eabhrac agus i Moscó ag Euscáid, an Liotuáin, an tSlóivéin?

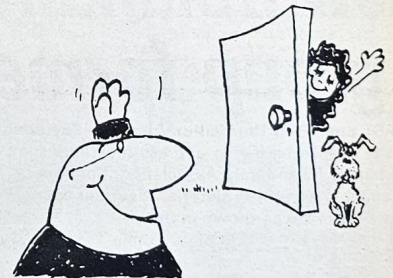
De réir bunreacht na lúgslave tá cead ag poblaicht ar bith scaradh ón stát fhad's go nglacann na sé phoblacht eile leis.

Go praiticiúil ciallaíonn sin go bhfuil sé beagnach dodhéanta. Cúpla mí ó shin nuair a vótáil pailimint na Slóivéine athraithe ina bpoblacht féin a ligfeadh dóibh

scaradh ón lúgslav, chruthaigh sé géarcheim sa tír a chuir eagla ar dhaoine go ndéanadh arm na lúgslave a ladh ar chur isteach sa scéal.

Tharla a leitheid eile i 1971, in aimsir Tito nuair a d'iarr an Chróit ballraíocht sna Náisiúin Aontaithe agus arm a bheith acu féin. Ní fios cad é a tharlóidh ach tá sé soiléir san am i láthair nach bhfuil an chuid is mó de na pobail sásta ligint dá dteangacha agus dá bhfeiniúlacht sleamhnú uathu.

## Ag foghlaim na Gaeilge



### Ceacht a hAon

BEANNACHTAI — GREETINGS  
Fáilte (Fwal-tche) — Welcome  
Dia Duit (Jee-ah Ditch) — Hello  
Dia is Muire Duit (Jee-ah iss Mwer-ah Ditch) — Hello (reply)  
Cad é mar tá tú? (Ca jay mar ta too) — How are you?  
Go maith, go raibh maith agat (Guy moyh, gut reo moyh agat) — Well, thank you  
Go measártha, go raibh maith agat (Guh mass-ar-cha, guh reo moyh agat) — Fair, thanks  
Imigh leat (Im-ee lyat) — Go away  
Tar isteach (Tar iss-tchah) — Come in  
Slán (Slawn) — Good-bye  
Cad é mar — how  
Maith — good  
Go maith — well  
Go hól — bad(ly)  
Go measártha — fairly well  
Tar — come

Teigh — go  
Imigh — go (away)  
Imigh leat — take yourself off  
Slán — goodbye  
Isteach — in  
Amach — out  
Dia duit — hello  
Go raibh maith agat — thanks

Abair agus Aistrigh  
(say and translate)  
Fáilte —  
Tar isteach —  
Cad é mar tá tú —  
Go measártha —  
Dia duit —  
Imigh leat —  
Teigh isteach —  
Teigh amach —  
Imigh amach —  
Tar amach —  
Slán —  
(Togtha ó Irish is Fun Y Lolfa)

# Ag Gaelú na hArd Fheise

SHOCRAIGH Ard Chomhairle Shinn Féin córas aistriúcháin lárnacha a chur i bhfeidhm ag an Ard Fheis i mí Feabhra. Déanfaidh an córas seo an comhdháil bliantúil dhá-theangach agus tabharfaidh sé seans do na Gaeilgeoirí úsáid a bhaint as an teanga agus iad cinnte go mbeidh aistriúcháin Béarla den móid atá á rá le fáil ag gach ionadaí nach bhfuil Gaeilge líofa acu.

Is é Sinn Féin an chéad páirtí polaitiúil le úsáid a bhaint as chóras aistriúcháin agus is cúis bróid don

bpaírti gur é atá arís chun tosaigh na sreachtait leas an Gaeilge agus an cultúir a chur chun cinn.

Níl i cur i bhfeidhm an chórais seo ach an chéad chéim i nGaelú na Gluaiseachta. Is í an dara chéim úsáid a bhaint as. Ba chóir do na hionadaithe a bhfuil Gaeilge acu an fáil seo a ghlacadh.

Is é atá i gceist i gcur i bhfeidhm an chórais seo úsáid cluasán agus gléasanna glacadóireachta le cur isteach i gcóras aimpliú lárnach, rud a thabharfaidh aistriúcháin beagnach lárnach Béarla d'oraídi Gaeilge. Beidh cluasáin ar fáil de gach ionadaí agus tabharfar amach iad ag doras an halla mhóir. Tá costas mór ag baint leis an trealamh seo agus, le bheith cinnte go bhfuil duine éigin freagrach as, beidh ar ionadaithe uimhir a gcárta ionadaí a thabhairt lena fháil.





# Useful guides for women

**SEPARATION-Divorce Matters for Women**, by Dervla Browne is a useful and comprehensive book aimed at explaining the law as it relates to marriage and the family in the 26 Counties.

The ban on divorce remains inscribed in the 1937 Constitution. However, marriages/relationships can end and frequently do break down for any number of reasons. It is at this point that many women find themselves in an emotional and legal wilderness. How does one go about obtaining a legal separation? How does one obtain a barring order, for example in the case of a partner becoming violent, and what exactly is it? Quite often the children present one of the biggest worries for a newly separated woman — who gets custody or how can maintenance be secured?

In her handbook, Dervla Browne sets out the range of legal options available to those whose marriages/relationships have come to an end. She presents the facts in a clear and concise manner which aims to help

women understand their position in relation to the law whatever their circumstances. This excellent book manages to avoid statistical data and the legal jargon which must only add to the confusion for a woman who may be in the process of a traumatic separation.

After a brief introduction, the book is divided into eight chapters which cover a wide range of relevant topics including reconciliation, children and maintenance, barring orders, the non-marital family, legal and judicial separation and foreign divorce. It concludes with various useful addresses where women can receive further information and assistance, ranging from the support of women in a similar position to free legal advice.

While this book should not be used as a replacement for legal advice, it

goes a long way towards demystifying the law in relation to separation and divorce. Many women will find it a valuable source of information and thus it is highly recommended.

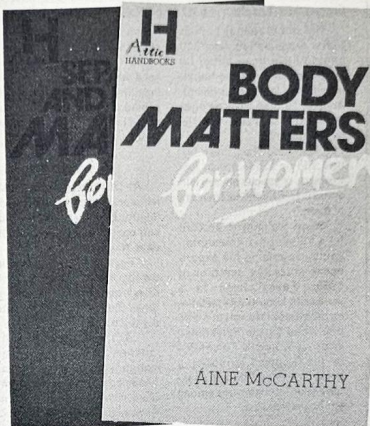
## HEALTHIER LIFESTYLE

**Body Matters For Women** written by Aine McCarthy is a short handbook which offers women information and advice on how to achieve a healthier lifestyle.

Its author is a qualified health and fitness instructor and she sets out a basic programme of healthy eating combined with exercises. This is not a book about diets and indeed is very critical of the whole dieting syndrome. It doesn't promise women instant transformation to pencil thin figures nor does it illustrate the exercises by using pictures of top models — two gimmicks which are often used to sell books of this subject.

My one criticism of the

BY MARY McARDLE, MAGHABERRY POW



book is the fact that only one chapter is devoted to the healthy eating part of the programme. I felt this side of the equation might have been elaborated on more. But then given the fact that society already encourages women to have a harmful obsession with

what they should and shouldn't eat, it's likely the omission was intentional.

● **Separation-Divorce Matters for Women** by Dervla Browne and **Body Matters for Women** by Aine McCarthy are both published by Attic Press. Price £3.95.

# Women reclaim the fight

"NEVER in Ireland's history have women played a more vital role in challenging British rule than they have over the past 20 years."

This quotation sets the tone for the rest of *Women in a War Zone*. The book is a worthy attempt at beginning in a small way the documentation of the contribution Irish women have made over the past two decades to the national liberation struggle being waged in the occupied Six Counties.

Part one of the book charts the progress of the present phase of resistance from the embryonic days of the civil rights demonstrations. The clear insight given provides us with a view that most of the ordinary working class people involved in the early stages did not realise the revolutionary process they were helping to initiate.

They asked for simple, basic rights, the absence of which inevitably had the most adverse effects on the women. Despite the obvious sexism inherent in the 'one man one vote' slogan of the time, in the event of such a demand being achieved, it was nationalist

women who would reap the benefits which would accrue from equal access to decent housing and other such improvements in basic living conditions. The prospect brought women onto the streets in large numbers.

The manner in which

people's attitudes changed in the face of government reforms and the failure of token gestures to appease a people who were now off their knees is recalled. Many of them now began to think in terms of a wider agenda of demands.

The Falls Curfew and internment were two of the most decisive factors in bringing women more directly into the frontline of resistance.

## WOMEN IN A WAR ZONE



BY ART Mac EOIN

The curfew was broken by a sea of determined women from other parts of West Belfast who overwhelmed the British soldiers who were imprisoning the people of the Falls Road area in their own homes. The importance of internment in the mobilisation of women lay in the fact that since many of the men were languishing in the internment camps, the women were the last line of defence left to defend communities which lead to the creation of the famous 'hen patrols'.

## SAD REMINDER

The development of the struggle up to the present day and women's participation in every aspect of it is seen through the eyes of those directly involved. Those sections of the republican roll of honour reprinted in the book provide a sad reminder of the price paid by those women who died in the ranks of the Republican Movement resisting the might of imperialism.

Part two entitled Elements of Repression

graphically portrays the way in which women often suffer the brunt of the array of repressive legislation available to the most militarised state in Western Europe.

Overall, *Women in a War Zone* is an important contribution to the documentation of the experiences of struggle of ordinary people in general but more particularly it is an indication of women's determination to reclaim their rightful place, not only in this phase of Ireland's struggle, but throughout our country's history. The neglect and deliberate obliteration of this role is something which republican women at least, as participants in the 'Unfinished Revolution', referred to in the introduction, will not allow to recur. As they reclaim their place in the struggle, they in turn, help all Irish women to assert their place in the Irish society of the future.

● *Women in a War Zone*, edited by Chrissie McAuley. Price £2.95, £4.95 (hardback). Available from the Bookshop, 44 Parnell Square, and usual outlets. Bulk orders available.

## Imeachtaí

**NATIONAL POSTER COMPETITION**  
for secondary/vocational schools  
Theme: Justice  
Prize fund: £500  
Application forms: Birmingham Six Committee  
Usher House, 40/41 Usher Quay  
DUBLIN 8  
Mark envelope 'Poster Competition'  
Closing date January 31st 1990  
Adjudicator: Robert Ballagh

**WHITE-LINE PICKET**  
2-3pm every Saturday  
Whiterock Road/Falls Road junction  
BELFAST  
Organised by Belfast Anti-Extradition Committee

**CIORCAIL COMHRA**  
9in gach Luan  
Club an Conartha  
6 Sráid an Fhearchair  
**BAILE ATHA CLATH**  
Irish Learners' Conversation Group  
9pm every Monday  
Conradh na Gaeilge Club  
6 Harcourt Street  
DUBLIN

**IRISH HUNGER-STRIKE COMMEMORATION COMMITTEE AGM**  
7pm Thursday 18th January  
Sparkhill Social and Cultural Centre (next to library)  
Stratford Road, Sparkhill  
BIRMINGHAM 11

(1990 Birmingham hunger-strike commemoration will take place on May 12th — sponsorship is requested)

**PICKET**  
'Justice for all'  
6-7pm Friday 19th January  
Outside Janelle Shopping Centre  
Finglas Dual Carriageway  
DUBLIN

**FUNCTION**  
Featuring: The Irish Brigade  
Saturday 20th January  
The '79 (formerly the Hunting Lodge)  
BALLYFERMOT  
Dublin  
Táille: £2.50

**FADA SOCIAL NIGHT**  
8pm Saturday 20th January  
Billy Doyle's  
Hill Street  
DUBLIN  
Music and crack

**FUNCTION**  
Saturday 20th January  
Conaty's (upstairs)  
City Quay  
DUBLIN  
Táille: £1.50

**REPUBLICAN COMMEMORATION**  
12 noon Sunday 21st January  
Assemble Green Street  
WATERFORD CITY

**VOL KEVIN COEN COMMEMORATION**  
Assemble 11.30am Sooley Church  
Sunday 21st January  
COUNTY SLIGO

**ANTI-EXTRADITION PUBLIC MEETING**  
8pm Monday 22nd January  
James Connolly Hall (opposite Town Hall)  
BRAY  
County Wicklow  
Speakers: Tony Sloan, Deirdre McKenna (fiancée of Jim Clarke)  
All welcome

**ANTI-EXTRADITION MARCH & RALLY**  
7.30pm Thursday 25th January  
Bobby Sands Memorial  
TWINBROOK  
prominent speakers and band  
(continued on page 14)



## Imeachtaí

(continued from page 13)  
**PUBLIC MEETING**  
**STOP EXTRADITON**  
8pm Thursday 25th January  
Ormond Hotel  
Ormond Quay  
**DUBLIN**  
Prominent speakers

**WELCOME HOME FUNCTION**  
for ex-POW Colm Lynagh  
Friday 26th January  
Creghton Hotel  
**CLONES**  
County Monaghan  
Admission: £3

**BLOODY SUNDAY MARCH & RALLY**  
March for British Withdrawal from Ireland  
Assemble 12 noon Saturday 27th January  
Hyde Park  
Marble Arch Tube  
**LONDON**  
Rally at Kilburn, London NW6  
Speakers from Sinn Féin, Jeremy Corbyn MP  
Ronnie Moody (Refugee Campaign),  
Guildford Four Campaign  
Coaches from Birmingham  
8.45am rear of Hall of Memory,  
Cambridge Street  
**BIRMINGHAM 1.**  
Tickets: Key Books, 136 Digbeth, B'ham 5,  
Tel 021 643 8081

**TERRY O'HALLORAN**  
**MEMORIAL EVENT**  
2pm Sunday 28th January  
Karl Marx Tomb  
Highgate Cemetery  
**HIGHGATE**

**BLOODY SUNDAY**  
18th Anniversary  
Commemoration  
Sunday 28th January  
Assemble 2.30pm Creggan shops  
**DERRY**  
Remember Bloody Sunday  
Release the Birmingham Six  
All banners welcome  
Bands wishing to take part  
contact:  
Elton O'Reilly or Tony Doherty,  
Derry 368926  
or 361949 immediately

**WELCOME HOME NIGHT**  
Ballad session and buffet for  
John 'Whacker' Humphreys  
7pm-midnight Saturday 3rd  
February  
The Deerhunter  
Sallynoggin  
**DUBLIN**  
Tickets: £4

**BARNES/McCORMICK**  
**50th ANNIVERSARY**  
Wreath-laying ceremonies  
11.30am Sunday 11th February  
Barnes/McCormick Memorial  
**BANAGHER**  
County Offaly  
3.00pm Sunday 11th February  
Ballyglass Cemetery  
**MULLINGAR**  
Organised by the  
Barnes/McCormick 50th  
Anniversary Commemoration  
Committee

## NOTICES DEADLINE

All notices must be  
in our Dublin or  
Belfast offices by  
5pm Mondays for  
inclusion in that  
week's paper.

# Murder and torture in Palestine

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL has accused the Israeli government of maintaining a shoot-to-kill policy in its attempts to crush opposition in the Occupied Territories of the West Bank and Gaza.

The international human rights organisation says 560 people have been killed by Israeli forces since the beginning of the Intifada (uprising). Another 70 died from tear-gas raids and 15 died after beatings by the military.

"Taken together, these figures add up to more than just tolerance of serious abuses and amount to real encouragement of them."

Below we print an account by a 15-year-old Palestinian youth, describing his experiences since the summer of 1988. 'Fayez' lives in a Jerusalem suburb. His testimony has been translated and published by the Palestinian Working Women's Committee in the Occupied Territories. It helps to explain the extraordinary spirit of resistance among young Palestinians.

## BLINDFOLED AND BEATEN

Fayez's story begins with his arrest at home near midnight in June last year:

"The journey to [Ramallah] prison was difficult — I was taken blindfolded with a Palestinian flag that the soldiers had found and was beaten for the whole journey. On the second day at 7am I was transferred to Dhahariya prison near Hebron. The bus journey was agonising because it took

seven hours — normally it would only be two and a half hours. I was blindfolded, my head was pushed between my legs and my hands were tied behind me. The bus driver kept stopping but I don't know why."

## TEAR-GAS

At Dhahariya, Fayez was left alone for four days but his interrogation began on the fifth and continued for a further 10 days, non-stop.

"For the 10 days I was in the room on my own. The soldiers beat me badly and sometimes they threw tear-gas into my room."

"At times they used the 'shabeh'. This means they hanged me outside by my hands tied together above my head. They threw water at me — at night this made me very cold."

"They also left me in the 'closet' — it is another way of interrogation. The closet is very small. There is no way of sitting down or moving. It doesn't have any windows or air and the walls are very rough."

After being taken before a military 'court', he was moved to Atlit prison. Fayez reports that there "were many children at that prison — aged anything from 13 to 16". While there, he was repeatedly taken before the military tribunal.



● An Israeli soldier in the Gaza Strip

"In the end I was sentenced to six months. I was accused of throwing stones at cars, raising the Palestinian flag and writing slogans on the walls. I refused to admit to any of these accusations."

Conditions at Atlit were ap-

palling. Up to 50 young people would be crammed into one small cell. "Atlit is near the sea and the 'shabeh' torture is very bad because at night it is cold. As a protest against the torture, the prisoners went on hunger-strike. The guards threatened



to force feed us by intravenous methods so we stopped the hunger-strike."

## RATIONS REDUCED

After Atlit, Fayez spent the rest of his sentence at Migdido, a tent prison in which rations were reduced as a punishment because prisoners were making decorations:

"In November we started a gradual hunger-strike. Our demands were for hot water and for our families to bring us winter clothes." A number of clashes with the prison guards followed this decision and the regular Israeli army was called in "to teach the prisoners a lesson".

"The army began beating the prisoners and sprayed gas in the tents. They shot in the air. Nobody was seriously injured in that incident but it led to more serious clashes. The conditions got worse and the prison authorities did not respond to our demands. When our families visited they would only allow us see them for 15 minutes from behind two rows of barbed wire in the open air."

Fayez was released in March last year, but this was not his last contact with Israeli repression. He was wounded when a soldier fired indiscriminately near his home and in March he was arrested once again, interrogated and tortured. He was released after four days but says "I keep feeling that I could be picked up at any minute".

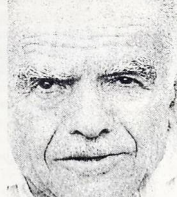
## Israeli Lebensraum

THE HORRIFIC SUFFERINGS of Jews at the hands of Hitler are often mirrored in the Israeli state's racist attitude towards Palestinians but this weekend a statement from premier Yitzhak Shamir made that reflection a lot stronger.

The territories occupied by Israel after the Six Day War in 1967 are now to be annexed permanently to provide room for 300,000 Jews who Shamir expects to arrive from the Soviet Union now that travelling restrictions have been lifted. In 1940 Hitler claimed the right to annex Poland and the USSR because the German people needed additional "lebensraum" ("living space") to the East.

The Zionists' 'justification' for making the West Bank and Gaza part of Israel itself is that the new immigrants will need additional land and that this will make the state "bigger, better and stronger" — an eerie echo of Nazism.

The statement issued by the Shamir government will provoke international outrage. The Palestinian Liberation Organisation has already proclaimed indepen-



● YITZHAK SHAMIR

dence for the Occupied Territories and is calling on foreign governments to recognise the new state.

Israel has shown itself incapable of stemming the mass public opposition to its rule in the territories. By claiming that these areas are now part of its own territory it is simply saying "No surrender" to the PLO. It is also threatening to expel even more Palestinians from their homes to make way for the new immigrants.



● A child uses a slingshot against Israeli soldiers in the West Bank



# Comhghairne

**COEN, Kevin (15th Anniversary).** In proud and loving memory of Vol Kevin Coen, Ogligh na hEireann, who died while on active service near Cassidy's Cross, County Fermanagh on January 20th 1975. I mease laochra na nGael go raib sé. Never forgotten by his friends and comrades in the Republican Movement, County Fermanagh.

**COEN, Kevin (15th Anniversary).** In proud and loving memory of Vol Kevin Coen, Ogligh na hEireann, who died on active service in County Fermanagh on January 20th 1975. We remember your bravery as our Irish republican soldier and pledge that our Irish republic will be victorious. From your comrades will be victorious. Movement, Sliog.

**COEN, Kevin (15th Anniversary).** In proud and loving memory of Vol Kevin Coen, Ogligh na hEireann, killed on active service on January 20th 1975. Ireland unfree will never be at peace. Always remembered by County Sligo Comhairle Ceantair Sinn Féin.

**DELANEY, Kevin (10th Anniversary).** In proud and loving memory of Vol Kevin 'Dee' Delaney, 2nd Battalion, Belfast Brigade, Ogligh na hEireann, who died as a result of an accidental explosion on January 17th 1980. Fuir sé b'as ag troid ar son na saois. Always remembered by his friends and comrades in the Belfast Brigade.

**DELANEY, Kevin (10th Anniversary).** In proud and loving memory of my dear husband and our dear daddy Vol Kevin 'Dee' Delaney, who died on active service on January 17th 1980. I lost my life's companion, a life linked with my own, and day by day I pray for you as I walk through life alone. I remember the day I met you, the day God took you and will till the end of time. Sometimes I think I'm dreaming and cannot believe it's true. To wake up each day knowing I'll never again see you. So put your arms around him Lord, and cradle him with care, for that angel is our Daddy, who is loved beyond compare. Always remembered and sadly missed by his loving wife Sadie and children Sean-Paul and

**DELANEY, Kevin (10th Anniversary).** In proud and loving memory of our dear son Vol Kevin 'Dee' Delaney, 2nd Battalion, Belfast Brigade, Ogligh na hEireann, who died on active service on January 17th 1980. RIP. St. Patrick, pray for him. In death as in life you remain an inspiration to all those who believe in the cause of Irish freedom. You are never far from our thoughts and are always in our hearts. Always remembered and sadly missed by his loving parents Marie and Tommy Delaney.

**DELANEY, Kevin (10th Anniversary).** In proud and loving memory of my dear brother Vol Kevin 'Dee' Delaney, 2nd Battalion, Belfast Brigade, Ogligh na hEireann, who died on active service on January 17th 1980. RIP. St. Martin, pray for him. Soft be the soil that covers his grave, proud be the country that bore him, green be the memory of his

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**DELANEY, Kevin (10th Anniversary).** In proud and loving memory of my dear brother Vol Kevin 'Dee' Delaney, 2nd Battalion, Belfast Brigade, Ogligh na hEireann, who died on active service on January 17th 1980. RIP. St. Paul, pray for him. As long as Ireland is unfree then only honourable attitude of revolt. Always remembered by his loving brothers Jimmy and Kevin.

**DELANEY, Kevin (10th Anniversary).** In proud and loving memory of my dear brother Vol Kevin 'Dee' Delaney, 2nd Battalion, Belfast Brigade, Ogligh na hEireann, who died on active service on January 17th 1980. RIP. St. Anthony, pray for him. I hold back my tears as I speak your name. No one knows the heart will always remain. No one knows the grief I share, when the family meet you're not there. You always had time to care, time to love, time to give. A helping hand, your last word to live. Always remembered by his loving sister Clare, Frankie and family.

**DELANEY, Kevin (10th Anniversary).** In proud and loving memory of my dear brother Vol Kevin 'Dee' Delaney, 2nd Battalion, Belfast Brigade, Ogligh na hEireann, who died on active service on January 17th 1980. They may kill the revolutionary, but never the revolution. Still sadly missed by his loving brother Malachy, Jean and family.

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soul that has gone to join the soldiers before him. Some may forget you now that you're gone, but I will remember, no matter how long. Always remembered and sadly missed by his sister Delia, Gerry and family.

**DELANEY, Kevin (10th Anniversary).** In proud and loving memory of my dear brother Vol Kevin 'Dee' Delaney, 2nd Battalion, Belfast Brigade, Ogligh na hEireann, who died on active service on January 17th 1980. RIP. St. Martin, pray for him. I mease laochra na nGael go raib sé. Remembered and sadly missed by his brother Tommy and Eileen, and his sister Maureen and children.

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**DELANEY, Kevin (10th Anniversary).** In proud and loving memory of my dear friend Vol Kevin 'Dee' Delaney, 2nd Battalion, Belfast Brigade, Ogligh na hEireann, who died in action on January 17th 1980. St. Jude, pray for him. Always remembered by John and Mary Ann Stone and family circle.

**GREEN, John Francis (15th Anniversary).** In proud and loving memory of Vol John Francis Green, North Armagh Brigade, Ogligh na hEireann, who was killed in action by British forces on January 10th 1975. I mease laochra na nGael go raib sé. Always remembered by all his friends and comrades in the Castledaney area.

**GREEN, John Francis (15th Anniversary).** In proud and loving memory of Vol John Francis Green, North Armagh Brigade, Ogligh na hEireann, who was killed in action by British forces at Mullish on January 10th 1975. They may kill the revolutionary, but never the revolution. Always remembered by Jackie, Bernie and family.

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memory of my Daddy, Vol John 'Bap' Kelly, who died on January 21st 1975. There is nothing in their whole imperial arsenal that can break the spirit of one Irishman who does not want to be broken. Always missed by his daughter Jacqui, son-in-law Gerard and grand-daughters Siobhán and Fionnuala.

**KELLY, John (15th Anniversary).** In loving memory of my Daddy, Vol John 'Bap' Kelly, who died on January 21st 1975. Each year we come together and we say a little prayer. Each year the pain increases as we turn and we leave you there. Always missed by his daughter Michelle, son-in-law Eamonn and grandchildren Sean and Amy.

**KELLY, John (15th Anniversary).** In loving memory of my Daddy, Vol John 'Bap' Kelly, who died on January 21st 1975. Some may forget you now that you're gone but I will forget you now that you're gone. Always remembered by his son John, Deborah and family.

**KELLY, John (15th Anniversary).** In loving memory of my Daddy, Vol John 'Bap' Kelly, who died on January 21st 1975. Soft be the soil that covers his grave, green be the memory of his soul that has gone to join the soldiers before him. Always remembered by his son Michael, Michelle and grandson Michael.

**KELLY, John (15th Anniversary).** In loving memory of my son-in-law Vol John 'Bap' Kelly, who died on January 21st 1975. Mary, Queen of the Gael, pray for him. Always remembered by Andy Fennell.

**KELLY, John (15th Anniversary).** In proud and loving memory of Vol John 'Bap' Kelly, 'D' Coy, 2nd Battalion, Belfast Brigade, Ogligh na hEireann, who was killed on active service on January 21st 1975. I mease laochra na nGael go raib sé. Always remembered by the Lower Falls Commemoration Committee.

**KELLY, John (15th Anniversary).** In proud and loving memory of our son friend Vol John 'Bap' Kelly, who died in action on January 21st 1975. Always remembered by John and Mary Ann Stone and family circle.

**LIGGETT, Francis (15th Anniversary).** In proud and loving memory of Vol Francis Liggett, 2nd Battalion, Belfast Brigade, Ogligh na hEireann, who was killed on active service on January 18th 1973. Fuir sé b'as ar son na saois. Always remembered by his friends and comrades in the Belfast Brigade.

**LIGGETT, Francis (15th Anniversary).** In proud and loving memory of my dear son Vol Francis Liggett, who died on active service on January 18th 1973. RIP. Mary, Queen of Ireland, pray for him. If I could visit heaven on this saddest day, maybe for a moment my pain would go away. I'd put my arms around you, Francis, whisper words to you, living life without you, it's the hardest thing to do. Loved and remembered always by his Mother, also Dianne and brother Jim.

**LIGGETT, Francis (15th Anniversary).** In proud and loving memory of my dear brother Vol Francis Liggett, who was shot dead on active service on January 18th 1973. We cannot count the many times we wished that you were here, or ever forget the love we had for a brother we love so dear. We cannot count the tears we shed from the day we had to part. Just the words, we love you, from the bottom of our hearts. Loved and remembered always by his sisters Marion and Eileen, husbands and families.

**LIGGETT, Francis (15th Anniversary).** In proud and loving memory of Vol Francis Liggett, who gave his life for Ireland on January 18th 1973. RIP. On his soul, sweet Jesus, have mercy. Still sadly missed but proudly remembered by his friends Mr and Mrs Shannon and family.

**MCCORMICK, Eamonn (18th Anniversary).** In proud and loving memory of Páin Eamonn McCormick, Fianna Éireann, who was shot by the British army while on active service on January 16th 1972. I mease laochra na nGael go raib sé. Always remembered by his friends and comrades in

**PRENDERGAST, The Casement/Nolan Sinn Féin Cumann, Stillorgan extends deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Mossie Prendergast.**

**PRENDERGAST, Deepest sympathy is extended to the wife and family of Mossie Prendergast. From the Twomey family, Belfast.**

**SHEEHY, Listowel Comhairle Ceantair Sinn Féin extends deepest sympathy to our friend Gerry Sheehy (Portlaoise) and family on the recent death of his father Jack.**

**SHEEHY, Sincere sympathy to Gerry Sheehy (Portlaoise) and family on the recent death of his father John (Jack). From Dan Murphy, Kilmorna.**

**Fianna Éireann.**

**McMAHON, Jackie (12th Anniversary).** In proud and loving memory of Vol Jackie McMahon, 3rd Battalion, Belfast Brigade, Ogligh na hEireann, who was killed by the RUC on January 18th 1978. "Life springs from death and from the graves of patriot men and women spring living nations."

**SLOAN, Michael (18th Anniversary).** In loving memory of Vol Michael Sloan, who died on January 11th 1972. Always in our thoughts. Always remembered by John and Mary Stone and family.

**STONE, John (15th Anniversary).** In proud and loving memory of our dear brother Vol John Stone, 2nd Battalion, Belfast Brigade, Ogligh na hEireann, who died on active service on January 21st 1975. St. Anthony, pray for him. We cannot count the many times we wished that you were here, or ever forget the love we had for a son we love so dear. We cannot count the tears we shed from the day we had to part. Just these words, we love you, from the bottom of our hearts. Still sadly missed and always remembered by his Father and Mother.

**STONE, John (15th Anniversary).** In proud and loving memory of our dear brother Vol John Stone, 2nd Battalion, Belfast Brigade, Ogligh na hEireann, who died on active service on January 21st 1975. Always his comrade John 'Bap' Kelly, Mary, Queen of the Gael, pray for them. Soft be the soil that covers his grave, proud be the country that bore him, green be the memory of his soul that has gone to join the soldiers before him. Always remembered by his sister Kathleen.

**STONE, John (15th Anniversary).** In proud and loving memory of our dear brother Vol John Stone, who died on active service on January 21st 1975. Always his comrade John 'Bap' Kelly, Padraic Pto, pray for them. There is a place in my heart that's yours alone. A piece of love no one can own. For deep in my heart your memory will be kept. I love you, John, and will never forget. Always remembered by his sister Teresa and brother-in-law Eddie.

**STONE, John (15th Anniversary).** In proud and loving memory of my dear brother Vol John Stone, 2nd Battalion, Belfast Brigade, Ogligh na hEireann, who died in action on January 21st 1975. Always remembered by his brother Francis.

**STONE, John (15th Anniversary).** In proud and loving memory of my dear brother-in-law Vol John Stone, who died on active service on January 21st 1975. St. Martin, pray for him. Proudly today your memory we treasure. Missing you always, forgetting you never. Always remembered by his sister-in-law Mary and family, Roslin, Marie, Colette and Sean.

**STONE, John (15th Anniversary).** In proud and loving memory of our dear uncle, Vol John Stone, who died on active service on January 21st 1975. Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on him. Time unfolds another year. Memories hold you very near. Simple words but very true, we will always remember you. Always remembered by Michael, Sean and Aaron.

**STONE, John (15th Anniversary).** In proud and loving memory of our dear uncle, Vol John Stone, who died on active service on January 21st 1975. Mary, Queen of Ireland, pray for him. Never more than a thought away, loved and remembered every day. Always remembered by Edward and Eamonn John.

**STONE, John (15th Anniversary).** In proud and loving memory of our dear uncle, Vol John Stone, who died on active service on January 21st 1975. Always his comrade John 'Bap' Kelly, Padraic Pto, pray for them. There is a place in my heart that's yours alone. A piece of love no one can own. For deep in my heart your memory will be kept. I love you, John, and will never forget. Always remembered by his sister Teresa and brother-in-law Eddie.

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## Buíochoas

GRATEFUL THANKS is extended to the people of South West Antrim, who so generously contributed to the collection organised on behalf of local prisoners' dependents prior to Christmas.

## Beannachtaí

**BULLOCK, Martin (Crumlin Road).** Happy birthday. Lots of love. From Anne-Marie, Mary, Seamus, Karl and Catherine.

**McCONNELL, David (H6-Block).** Happy birthday. Best wishes. From Sean, Brian, Marie and Theresa.





# THE FLYING COLUMN

WITH CHARLIE HAUGHEY still riding high on his EC presidential hobby-horse and doing his best to whip the country into pro-EC enthusiasm, certain buildings around Dublin are beginning to display the flags of EC countries. In doing so some of them, like the CIE offices in O'Connell Street, have taken the unusual step of flying the Union Jack, a thing normally avoided in the city for fear of angry citizens.

There is a long history of flag removal in Dublin as I was reminded when I perused my copy of *An Phoblacht* from September 1st 1928. It reports the jailing of three women and two men for tearing down Union Jacks displayed on various premises.

A rally in O'Connell Street "resolved that we congratulate the prisoners who removed the English flag from the streets of Dublin, and endorse their action, and we declare them worthy of the support of the Irish people".

Among the speakers on the republican platform that day was Fianna Fáil TD Robert Briscoe, father of Fianna Fáil TD and former lord mayor of Dublin, Ben Briscoe.

"DEMOCRACY will not succeed unless that election takes place on a basis fair to all parties.

"The government party is better resourced, better organised and has more direct access to the media."

So said Fine Gael MEP and former Alliance leader John Cushman. An admission from John perhaps, that the next election in the 26 Counties cannot be fair while censorship of Sinn Féin goes on? Or a complaint about Fianna Fáil dominance of the airwaves?

Alas, no. The week before Fianna Fáil Minister for Censorship and Extradition Ray Burke renewed his Section 31 gagging order, John Cushman was speaking about the opposition parties in East Germany. He left his

democratic principles where he found them — under the Berlin Wall.

BRITISH BASES in West Germany are coming under weekly rifle attack. One base, RAF Gutersloh near Hanover, came under attack three times in one week before Christmas. It has become something of a fad among German youths to take potshots at the Brits with air-rifles.

And while British troops serving in Sennelager were out getting their Christmas shopping, nearly a dozen returned to find their vehicles scratched with the initials "IRA".

The Brits have tried to keep the lid on this because all the attacks were carried out by West Germans who don't want them in their country either.

AT STRABANE DISTRICT COUNCIL on Monday, January 15th, DUP councillor Sammy Rodgers, responding to the spirit of the times in inimitable loyalist fashion, called on the British government "to close all unmanned roads between Northern Ireland and the Republic".

Rodgers fumed against the border communities who are re-opening their closed roads and called on the crown forces to "put them before firing-squads". Sinn Féin councillor Ivan Barr pointed to unionist hypocrisy when he reminded them that their local authority co-operated with bodies in the 26 Counties to promote tourism and industry in the region through which the border runs, cutting off natural hinterlands and retarding their economic development.

When the vote on Rodgers' motion was called only Ivan Barr voted against. Laurence McNamee of the SDLP, whose council ward, Derg, has 27 closed border roads, abstained and the motion was passed by seven votes to one. What was that John Hume was saying about republicans and the need to break down barriers?

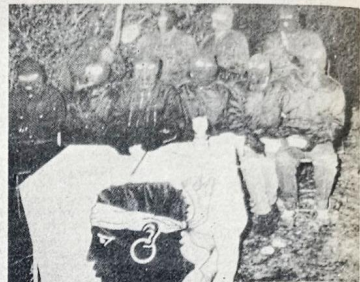
A BELFAST MAN was jailed in Dublin last week for five years for possessing mortars in County Donegal where he had lived for almost 20 years.

The *Irish Times* reported that Timothy Megarry and his family "had gone to live in County Donegal in 1971". That's it — no explanation why. Maybe they fancied a change of scenery, fresh air and idyllic rural life, or perhaps they'd won the sweep. The *Irish Times* didn't say.

Its London counterpart, *The Times*, however, dared to

venture further, telling that they'd moved to avoid "unrest".

Megarry and his family had been burned out of their home by loyalist gangs.



● Corsican National Liberation Front

NAKED FURY replaced bungalow bliss last Sunday when Corsican nationalists struck at another colony — a nudist colony.

Sixty armed members of the Corsican National Liberation Front breezed into the Naked City, 20 miles south of the capital of Bastia, advised the 'tourists' that they might prefer to get cover elsewhere, and blew up the 60 bungalows for wealthy pleasure-seekers.

THE WORKERS' PARTY news-sheet last week carried a full page of photographs under the heading, Images of '89.

Four of the eight snaps were of the WP's 'Bags of Guns' Mac Giolla, the WP's 'Peace Train', the WP's Pat 'Don't mention the UCD Cleaners' Strike' Rabbittie, and Proinsias 'Two jobs are better than One', de Rossa TD/MEP.

The WP's Images of '89 had no space for the emotional scenes in London when the British finally admitted they'd framed the Guildford Four and Gerry Conlon walked out of the Old Bailey 15 years too late for him and his late father, Giuseppe.



● TOMAS Mac GIOLLA



© CORNAC



That child out on the street... He's been running up and down for the last hour... with a green plastic waterpistol!



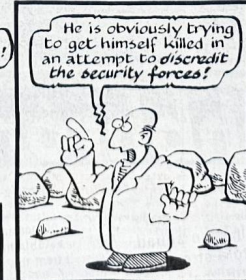
And he has not yet been surrounded and slaughtered by trigger-happy British soldiers!



Surely this proves to even the most jaundiced observer that the security forces are carrying out their duties with commendable restraint...



For perhaps it is a Kalashnikov cunningly disguised as a waterpistol! Perhaps it is not a child but a diminutive terrorist!!



He is obviously trying to get himself killed in an attempt to discredit the security forces!

## Dúirt Siad

Escape seems to be endemic to the prison situation in Northern Ireland.

— Paddy McEntee SC in the course of his supreme court argument against the extradition of Dermot Finucane.

Interfering with the rights of property and the highway...

The charges under the PTA for which 11 people, including Sinn Féin councillors Eddie Fullerton and Mitchel McLaughlin, were indicted after they attempted to open one of the many closed roads between Donegal and Derry.

It is highly ironic that constitutional politicians are making great play of borders being taken down all over Eastern Europe, yet they have very little to say when the RUC and British army dig their heels in to protect border fortifications in Ireland.

— Mitchel McLaughlin.