

# An Phoblacht

Iml. 8. Uimhir 7. 10p. Feabhra 22, 1977.

It shall be the duty of the government of this Republic to make provision for the physical and mental well being of the children, to secure that no child shall suffer hunger or cold from lack of food, clothing, or shelter, but that all shall be provided with the means and facilities requisite for their proper education and training as citizens of a free and Gaelic Ireland.

(1st Dail Eireann)

# 'BRITS MUST GO'

Ruairi Ó Brádaigh, Uachtarán Sinn Féin, speaking in Ballina at Proinsias Stagg Commemoration stated that the only way there would be a truce in Northern Ireland would be through the withdrawal entirely of the British forces and administration there. At least, the requirement for Provisional Sinn Féin would be a declaration in principle towards this happening. Ruairi was thus answering the speculation that has existed for the past week on the possibility of a "ceasefire."

That speculation had been answered most emphatically earlier in the week by a spokesman for the Belfast Brigade. Later in Belfast a spokesman referred to an interview given on French Television by the Belfast Republican Séamus Twomey in which he stated that attacks on security forces in the North and on economic targets, which he defined as factories, shops and offices, would be stepped up and that businessmen would also be attacked. He also claimed that attacks would be mounted on British cities.

Meanwhile the Ulster Central Co-ordinating Committee (ULCCC) have called for a ceasefire by "paramilitary" groups on all sides.

This request was promised a "close study" by a spokesman for the Belfast Brigade.

## 5,000 Attend Ballina

The rain had stopped as the people gathered outside St. Muredaís Cathedral in Ballina. They were there from the four corners of Ireland to pay tribute to the memory of a brave Irishman. The march was headed by a colour party of Cumann na mBan and included contingents of Fianna Éireann, Cumann na gCailíní, many Sinn Féin cumainn as well as many local people. The bands struck up martial music as the nearly 5,000 people made their way to the graveyard.

P.G. Kearney of the Ard-Comhairle chaired the proceedings in the graveyard. Wreaths were laid by the Stagg family, many branches of the Republican Movement, by I.C.R.A. and on behalf of the workers in the Asahi plant. A wreath was laid posthumously on behalf of Noel Jenkinson. The Last Reville was sounded by Fianna Éireann buglers before Ruairi Ó Brádaigh, Uachtarán Sinn Féin, was introduced.

## GRAVESIDE ORATION BY AN tUACHTARÁN

In the course of his oration Ruairi said: "Táimid anseo inniú chun aidhm amháin a chomhlíonadh, sé sin chun onóir a thabhairt do chúimhne laoch dár chine - Proinsias Stagg.

"It is well to-day when we are here to honour the memory of Proinsias Stagg to ponder on the words of Terence Mac Swiney who died on hunger strike in England.

"The soldier of freedom knows he is forward in the battle of Truth; he knows his victory will make for a world beautiful; that if he must inflict or endure pain, it is for the regeneration of those who suffer, the emancipation of those in chains, the exaltation of those who die, and the security and happiness of generations yet unborn.

"For the strength that will support a man through every phase of this struggle, a strong and courageous mind is the primary need - in a word Moral Force. A man who will be brave only if tramping with a legion will fail



An tUachtarán, Ruairi Ó Brádaigh, delivering the oration at the Proinsias Stagg Commemoration in Ballina.

in courage if called to stand in the breach alone.

## GREAT STRENGTH OF WILL

"Proinsias was possessed of this strength and made the sacrifice which Irishmen have made down the years. He is in line with Thomas Ashe from Kerry, Terence Mac Swiney, Mick Fitzgerald, Joe Murphy, Dave Barry and A. Sullivan from Cork, Tony Darcy from Galway, Sean McNeela and Michael Gaughan from Mayo.

"Proinsias was imprisoned on a trumped up conspiracy charge. He did not accept criminal status. He went on hunger strike along with

Michael Gaughan. He came off his hunger strike after Michael's death, when ordered to do so. Such was his discipline. He went on further hunger strikes and received false promises. He went on a final hunger strike with iron resolve, pitting himself against the British Government. Although his body was weak his mind was clear and strong until the end.

"Last year we witnessed the hijacking of Proinsias Stagg's body by the Dublin Government. The body was taken to the mortuary in Shannon Airport where illegal tests were carried out on it. The next day the body was taken by violence to Robin Church. We define violence as the illegal and excessive use of force. The next day the sham funeral took place. The coffin was carried on the shoulders of Special Branch policemen and buried in a grave dug by the Special Branch. The next day the Republican Movement rendered all honours due to their fallen comrade.

"Many people have expressed horror and shock at the brutal murder of an archbishop and two ministers by the Amin Regime in

(Ar leanuint ar chúil)



Séamus Twomey in a French Television report warned of increased attacks in the North and on British cities.

supplied photo shows a unit of Óglaigh na hÉireann on a training exercise at an unknown location.

## Latest

## Port Laoise Prison

The latest news from the jail is that on Monday (14th Feb.) the men ended their 48 hour fast.

The next phase in their protest was to refuse a meal a day which lasted from 10th February to the 17th. Recreation was also refused (one small room for up to 30 men).

Now the men intend to start from Monday 21st February to refuse all prison food prepared by the non political prisoners. Republican overtures to the NOP's not to make their food had an initial success. A few who supported the Republican demand were immediately thrown into solitary confinement. Their support will not be forgotten.

Radio's and cigarettes are still forbidden by the dictatorial regime.

Eight Republicans are now in solitary confinement.

# An Phoblacht

Imleabhar 8. Feabhra 22, 1977. Uimhir 7.  
44 Ceasnóg Pharnell, B.A.C., Eire. Guthán: 747811

**BRUCE ARNOLD**, the Political Correspondent of the "Irish Independent," in a well argued and documented article in his paper on February 13, pointed out that there was no constitutional obstacle to the Dublin regime signing the recent convention on "Terrorism" agreed by the bourgeois West.

The obstacles were political, nothing more (his point was taken up about a week later in *Leinster House* by *Fianna Fail*). He did not go into detail as to those political reasons . . . for political reasons, doubtless.

There is no reason why we should be equally reticent, especially as an analysis of those very same political reasons exposes the opportunism of the Dublin regime, its strange ambivalence and the consequent contradictions.

Consider a typical case, where a warrant for an arrest is processed by the Royal Ulster Constabulary and passed for action to the "Free" State authorities with the request for "extradition" (transfer of the individual concerned to the RUC in the Six Counties).

The individual is detained by the Garda Síochana and brought before a district court which orders his "extradition." An appeal is made against this order in a superior court, where the accused pleads that he was a member of Ogligh na hÉireann at the time of the alleged offence and, therefore, a political refugee. On the basis of an international convention the man or woman is set free.

The judge thus recognises, for the "Free" State (and the practice has not been challenged in the Supreme Court) that Ogligh na hÉireann is an armed political organisation at war with the British Empire (or with the Crown in the Six Counties) and that its refugee members are entitled to protection on the territory even when accused in duly processed documents of serious crime.

If, however, following a military engagement

## Blame rests with Crown

between an IRA and a Crown unit, an IRA member crosses the Border and is detained, his conviction of IRA membership will earn him a spell in Port Laoise Jail rather than protection.

When the convention on "terrorism" was being drafted, representatives of the "Free" State urged that it be written in such a manner as to provide for trial on "terrorism" charges in the state where the accused has been detained, as provided for the arrangement between London and Dublin in the Criminal Justice Law (which, as we pointed out at the time, provides for Crown law to be enforced throughout all Ireland for the first time since 1920).

The Crown has made no application for such enforcement in any case presented to "Free" State courts to date, very likely because the Crown wishes to push the contradictions to their logical conclusion, especially in view of the Strasbourg torture case, objections to cross-Border intrusions by Crown forces and other areas of disagreement.

This brings us to the "political considerations" mentioned but not detailed by Bruce Arnold and his *Fianna Fail* echo in *Leinster House*.

Most people throughout the 32 counties of Ireland by this time are aware that the Crown forces — the military and the RUC — have used (and continue to use) illegal and brutal methods to obtain convictions and to imprison Republicans and indeed Loyalists.

Those same people are aware that in Britain the same methods are in use and that the persecution continues in British jails. As far as the Six Counties is concerned, the point has been made and the charges proved before an international tribunal.

Thus, Irish public opinion would be outraged if the "Free" State authorities were to hand over the alleged "terrorists" to the tender mercies of the Crown forces and the corrupt judiciary of the Six Counties and Britain.

The truth is that no Dublin regime dare follow collaboration to its logical conclusion. Superfluges have to be adopted so that the alleged "terrorists" may be imprisoned on 26 Counties territory, giving the impression to a largely ignorant electorate — one which, though confused, is reliable in its basic instincts — that justice is being done.

Just how real that justice is has been shown, or is beginning to be shown, by the torture revelations, by the gross illegalities in other spheres and by conditions in Port Laoise Jail.

Truth will out, eventually and the moment of truth is at hand far sooner than the tricky legislators of *Leinster House* ever envisaged.

The statement from the dock of the Old Bailey, following the conviction of the *Brixton Brigade*, clarifies another aspect.

Brendan Behan put it another way, in the aftermath of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, that the soldiers with the little bombs are called criminals and those with the big bombs, heroes.

Nevertheless, most people are aware of the difference between the principled attempt to avoid the loss of innocent lives by means of timely warnings and the saturation bombings of Dresden and London.

If the ferocity of the war in the north-east and in Britain has escalated, as the dock statement pointed out, the blame rests squarely on the Crown forces who are waging a vicious war on the civilian population.

## Debe

# TINE AN CHONARTHA A MÚCHADH AG NA MEÁIN CHUMARSAÍDE

IS DOCHA gur thug Conradh na Gaeilge faoi deara a laghad pobliochtacha a fuair an t-earras as bhfuil deanta ag cuid de mbailí le tamall de sheachtainí anuas, mar agóidín in éadan RTE.

Dá dtabharfadh eagrais éicint éile faoi fheachtas chomh mór leis, ar éigean a bheadh an scéal míchta mar atá ag na meáin mhóra cumarsáide sa gcás seo. Dá mba iad na Mormóin nó na Finnpeithe lavé a ba chúis leis an agóid, meas sibh go mbeadh tuairisc beaga suarachta faoi na cúrsaí seo ar raidió, ar theilifís, ar na nuachtáin?

Is amhlaidh a aithníonn na nuachtáin gur eagrais é Conradh na Gaeilge a bhfuil thairt faoi 8,000 ball aige agus thairt faoi 60 faoin gcéad de phobal na 26 Chontae ag tabú leis (más fóir do na sárbhéanna).

Nuachtáin an Bhéarla tá iontu. Ní theastaíonn ó údaráis na nuachtáin céanna ceart na Gaeilge a aithint. Tuigean siad go gceitfidh siad neamairt a thabhairt ar éilimh seo na ceart ar mhíghlé le féin. Ceapann siad go dtreipfidh ar míneacht na nGaeilgeoirí má fhligann siad drochphobliocht nó an tos.

Ní chóir go mbeadh Conradh na Gaeilge ag súil lena mhálaí, gur mór mór má bhíonn eolas ag lucht a stiúraithe ar theachtas teange i dtíortha eile, go háirithe i nGaeilge agus sa mBeilge.

B'éigean do na trodaí ar son cearta teange sna tíortha sin feachtas fada leanúnach a dhéanamh, feachtas sách gear, scaití, chun an chraobh a bhualadh.

Tá a fhios ag an nmaith sebhéineach gur dream é, pobal na Gaeilge, nár thug ariamh, le breis is 50 bliain, faoi fheachtas leanúnach. Gaegach go maith a bhí gach agóid a raibh baint aige léi.

Má léim na lasraí go spéir ó am go chéile bhí an ghrioscach san fadú go bhada go leor ina dhiaidh. Deirtear gur rud é sin a fhainne lenár ndúchas. Ní theadar mé faoi sin.

Measaim go bhfuil cuid mhór air bhrath ar an gceinreacht. Ró-mhínic atá sé raithe: "Níor tháinig ar major chugainn" ag am na príainne. Agus féach an ghrioscach tá ar Ghluaiseacht na gCeart (ach amháin, b'fhéidir, i gCorr na Móna?).

## Nuachtáin a smachtú

NIOR MHISTE do stiúbhóirí an Chonartha a machnamh a dhéanamh faoi ghnótha a thabharfadh miseach dá mbail ag a chuirfeadh iachall ar nuachtán cithrom na Féinne a thabhairt don Gaeilge agus do nuachtáin faoi chúrsaí na Gaeilge.

Tá comhtháir idir dhá nuachtán an tráthnóla i mBeilge. Atha Cluath, chomh gear sin nár mhaith liom an lámh a chur isteach ann ar eagla go mbeadh dhifhostaíocht a imeadh na glóidóirí agus na n-rioscóirí mar thordair a léis. Ach dá gcaillfeadh an "Irish Independent" 6,000

cóip in aghaidh an lae ní chuirfeadh sin éinne as obair; ní chuirfeadh sé díreach leis an nuachtán; ach chruithódh an baicéad go bhfuil cumhacht an Ghluaiseacht na Gaeilge agus go gceitfidh air thabhairt ar an eagrais, go gceitfidh léiteáil go cithrom léi.

Gníomh gear a bheadh san fheachtas seo, rud a d'oirfeadh go maith don Chonradh. Ach an bhfuil an Conradh in imithe a dhéanta go héiteachtach? An bhfuil an oiread sin smachta aige ar a chúil bail?

Ar ndóig, mura bhfuil ar chumas Chonradh na Gaeilge a léiteáid de bheart beg a chur i gcrích go snasta cén seans tá an go gceitfidh sé beart i bhfad Eireann ní ba mhó ná sin i gcrích, mar atá riachtas a bhogadín i dtreo an chirt?

Ní raibh an FLM riamh chomh láidir is a bhí an Conradh, fú naitir ba laige dó; ach d'éirigh leis an FLM smacht a chur ar na bail, iad a stiúradh leis an póilís nár stáit a tháir.

Dá n-eagróidh Chonradh na Gaeilge brathreacht na nGaeil mar a rinne Séamas Mac Stiofáin thairt ar 100 bliain ó shin, d'éireodh go seoipte leis. Ach ní dhearna agus ní lean chosúlacht ann go ndéanfadh, cé go bhfuil an t-bhairt ar fáil go fairsing ar fud na tíre agus áir ar bheil é bhfuil Gaeil go lonnú.

## Brabús an Oireachtais

NI MINIC a chloiseann muid scéal faoi brabús bheith déanta ar imeachtaí na Gaeilge cé go measaim féin nach annamh a tharláid. M'á bun go m'chluimne, níor chaill Ghluaiseacht Chearta Sibhiltas na Gaeilge ann phingin ar fhéile ar bith a d'eagraigh sí.

Ach, ar an osum, tá sé amuigh agus an páipéar ag dul faoi phreas, go brabús arís ag An Oireachtas i gComnara anuas, mar atá £5,500.

Go mair Donnchadh Ó Súilleabháin, an rúnaí, an nuachtóir, mar dó féin agus dá dhifogairt ar an chreidteáid ag dul. Ach tá cuid éicint den chreidteáid ag dul, freisin, do Ghluaiseacht na gCeart, a d'eagraigh imeacht spéisiúla ar bhruach na féile, mar a d'éirigh, go háirithe an oíche bheadh ó Tigh Mharcais, áit a mbíonn fáite mhór roimh na Poblachtóirí i gCónaí, dála an scéil.

Tá sé deacair a chreidteáid gur £28,000 a chosnadh An Oireachtas ina iomláin. As sin a tháinig breis agus £4,000 do na duaineanna agus breis agus £4,300 chun An Oireachtas a chur ar stáise agus chun foc as an Teaspáintas. T'á fuíollach ann agus b'fhéidir go mbeadh ar áit géamais, amach anseo, a chur in iúl cén áit ar cathéad na scéilcheáir sin.

Níor thug pobal mór na Gaeilge, thairt ar 30 faoin gcéad de dhaoine na 26 Chontae, ach £1,500. Dá mbeadh gach bail de Chonradh na Gaeilge sásta punt

a thabhairt bheadh £6,000 ag An Oireachtas.

Is amhlaidh a thugann a lán £5 an duine. Fágann sin go bhfuil fóiréid phobal na Gaeilge sách suarach. B'fhéidir nach bhfuil ach thairt ar 500 ag thabhairt tafochtacha don fhéile is mó dá bhfuil ag an tír. Cúis náir dúinn.

Is dual dúinn — is dual domas, ach go háirithe — bheith ag tromaíocht ar Roimh na Gaeltachta. Ach £20,000 a thug an Roimh sír do An Oireachtas, cur leis a thairt suarach dá fá a thabhairt don Dealraíonn sé nach mbeadh An Oireachtas ann ach ab é d'fathóil na Roimne. Tá sin contúirteach agus potaas an stáit mar atá.

Níor mhiste do Choiste an Oireachtais machnamh a dhéanamh faoi choisti beg áitúla a bhnu ar fud na tíre chun aigeard a shaothrú don bhéile, trí oícheanta ceo agus a léiteáid mach nó mall cuirfear deiradeir. Leis an £20,000 dú muna náitáirionn cúrsaí as cuimse.

## Fhadhb "Amárach"

TA SE fóiruite arís go bhfuil "Amárach" i mbaol a dhúilte toisc nach bhfuil Tomás Ó Donnhaill sasta cur leis a thairt suarach dá fá a thabhairt don phingin in aghaidh na seachtaine.

Tá sé láite go gcaillfeann Comharcumann Chois Pharraige £800 in aghaidh na bliana ar an páipéar. Ar éigean a bheas an comharcumann in ann sin a sheasamh mórán níos faide.

Más fóir a bhfuil fóirite, bheadh an t-airgead tá a dhóir ar fáil go fáthúil ach páipéar an chomharcumann a dhéanamh de agus déis a thabhairt do chairde an Dálaigh bheith ag scríobh dó.

Leis an méid airgid tá ar fáil don páipéar fáil, léitháir níl ar chumas lucht a stiúradh nuachtán den seoch a dhéanamh de ná thabhairt fáil obair bháinín, obair chapail, obair bhunúsach, chun fóiréid a thairt chun féachaint chaithe go mbeid sé ar fáil, agus go fitecfeadh, sna siopaí, ní áitíomh foc as an gceinreacht bhreitheoireachta a bheadh rachairt air.

Dá mbeadh an tUdaráis amuigh agus go dnoilteach agus "Amárach" ag labhairt ar a shon. . . Dá mbeadh ceangal éicint idir an páipéar agus Raidió na Gaeltachta (an chuid is fearr des na cainteanna ar Raidió na Gaeltachta i gcéil ar an páipéar) . . . Ach sin aistíng.

Ach dá mbeadh 10,000 Gaeilgeoir sásta síntúis bliana thabhairt dó agus gaeiltas in éndí go gceinreacht gach duine díobh an páipéar thairt is a bheadh sé ar fáil. D'fhadaí fá dhóilín an Dálaigh a thabhairt agus an £200 a thabhairt thairt náis dó, lena rogha rud a dhéanamh leis.

An mbeadh Coiste Gnó, Chonradh na Gaeilge, sásta an scéal sin a phlé síl má bhíonn sé

ró-dhéanach? D'fhadaí páipéar Domhnaigh a dhéanamh de "Amárach" agus dá n-éireodh le sin d'fhadaí phleanáil fáil pháipéar laethúil.

Bhfuil an dáríreacht ag baint le Ghluaiseacht na Gaeilge: Ar ndóig, tá Conradh na Gaeilge fós fíin ceangailte le seáin an spait agus Tomás Ó Donnhaill ag maíomh as, go bhfuil "an Conradh im phóca agam" (i mBeilge is mó dó sin a rá: "I have the League in my vest pocket").

AG EISTEACHT dom le Raidió na Gaeltachta tugaim faoi deara go bhfuil *Fianna Fáil* ar a shandícheall i léithair na buaire, idir chruinnithe agus chiste na n-iascáirí. Níl *Fine Gael* ina chodhadh, ach oiread. I gComnara is m'á, is cosúil, atá an scéal amhlaidh. Chugainn an t-oghcháin . . .

Fógra dá laghad níor aithní mé faoi Shinn Féin, faoin gCumann Cabhrach, faoi *Fianna Éireann*, faoi Chumann na mBan, faoi gCumann na gCailíní . . . ná eile.

Bheinn buíoch de léitheoir a chuirfeadh in iúl dom an bhfuil cese ar threghaí faoi imeachtaí Ghluaiseacht na Poblachta ar Raidió na Gaeltachta? Má bhíonn, is cóir sin a phobliú. Mura bhfuil, an amhlaidh atá an Ghluaiseacht ina codladh "ó Shannhaig go Bealtaine" . . .

DI'ARR mé ar Ghluaiseacht na gCeart tá tamall fada anois a ladar a chur isteach ar na deontáirí tá ar fáil ón gComhphobal Eorpach trín gCiste Réigiúnach.

Dúras nach bhfaigfeadh an Ghaeltacht a ceart muna bheadh sí sásta troid fáil. Tá sé soiléir anois, as maíocht a fóiríodh ar na mallabáir, nach bhfuil aigeard an Chiste ag dul chun na Gaeltachta agus go bhfuil sé á chur amú ar obair a ba chóir bheith á dhéanamh ag an t-áitíreall agus ag na rialaití áitúla. Obair ar mhárlantán ghnáth, mar shampla, i mBaile Slighe.

Tá gearádh le bóthar mór leathan ó Bhearna go Cúimh agus is féidir an t-airgead sin a fháil ón gCiste Réigiúnach ach feachtas maith fínteach leanúnach a bhnuí.

Ní duine é Debe tá ar son an Chomharcumann, Ach thairt is atá sé ann, agus aigeard ar fáil iudh, aigeard a ba chóir bheith caite ar na háiteanna is boichte is cóir do gach éinne a dhícheall a dhéanamh chun go gceitfidh an t-airgead céanna sin áit sin, mar atá sé nGaeiltach.

Go dtí go mbeadh an t-infra-structúir bunaithe i gceart sa nGaeiltach is ísábh cheith ag ag súil leis an tionsclaíocht a bhfuil gé bheith chun obair chur ar fáil do na dhóine. Rud bunúsach san infra-structúir sin is ce príomhbhábair maith ó Bhearna go Cúimh.

Má bhíonn Sinn Féin beo i gComnara cuirfidh sé an feachtas sin ar bun Anois. Is cosúil nach ndéanfadh Ghluaiseacht na gCeart é, fataróir.

TA CARA maith ag Ghluaiseacht na Poblachta le fada an lá i ndeisceart Ghaeltacht Thír Chonnail. Níl de locht air ach na lochtanna a tháinig sé ar an gcóilín seo.

Dá dtabharfadh sé nuachtóir dúinn, agus go rialta, dhéanfadh sé obair ní ba fhóirte ná bheith ag sformúirteach leis.

Mar sin féin, is fearr an t-imeas ná an t-uaireas.

# Gorey Commissioners want British troops out of Ireland

BY five votes to two, Gorey Town Commissioners at their monthly meeting on Tuesday last passed a resolution calling for the withdrawal of British Troops from Northern Ireland.

## Connemara S.F. meetings

SUCCESSFUL after Mass meetings were held by Sinn Fein in Carna, Renyule, and Clifden, recently.

The main speaker at Carna was Irene King, from Galway and Sean Keenan from Derry at the other two.

The main theme of the speeches was "Brits Out - Peace In" and highlighting the plight of Republican Prisoners in Port Laoise, and British Jails.

The reception at these meetings was favourable and further meetings are being organised by Sinn Fein in the area.

The resolution, which was moved by Mr. Ml. Sheil (Sinn Fein) came by way of a motion from the Gorey Keegan-Parle Cumann of Sinn Fein.

It stated: "It was unanimously decided at a recent meeting of the Keegan-Parle Cumann of Sinn Fein that the following motion be placed before the Gorey Town Commissioners (in view of the critical nature of the turning-point, in terms of sovereignty in our national history) - "That we support the just demand to have British Troops withdrawn from our occupied Six Counties."

Colr. Bolger (Fine Gael) said that they had an elected Government to attend to their affairs and for that reason he must vote against the resolution.

Colr. Murphy said that similar motions had been passed by other local authorities in the country. "Are we to be a race apart in Gorey," he asked.

Colr. Ml. Hobbs (Fine Gael) who presided at the meeting in the absence of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, said that a similar type resolution had been passed at a trade union meeting the previous night but here it came from a political organisation. He was 100 per cent behind this motion as he felt that all Irishmen would want to see British Troops withdrawn from Northern Ireland.

The resolution was carried by 5 votes to 2. For the resolution were Messrs. Hobbs, Funge, O'Connor, Sheil and Murphy. Against it were Messrs. Bolger and Connors.

## Blueshirts show their (rotten) teeth

DUBLIN North were back on the streets again over Portlaoise Prison. This time, however, it concerned with a BRITS OUT - PEACE IN protest from the Southside.

The blue shirt Gardaí who failed miserably in provoking a confrontation at the three previous marches devised a new despicable approach under the guise of law and order.

This typical blueshirt tactic came in a co-ordinated attack on women and children knowing well the reaction of the youths and men. They then eagerly produced their batons and were assisted by Cooney's S.S. (Special Branch) who arrived out of the 'blue'. Order was soon restored by the organisers, much to the disappointment of Cooney's thugs.

There was then a public meeting at the G.P.O. on the theme 'Brits Out!'. This was addressed by Michael MacConmara, Sean O'Bradaigh, Andrias O'Ceallachain, Charlie McGlade and chaired by George Lynch.

There will be another Portlaoise Prison picket early in March and YOUR SUPPORT WILL BE NEEDED (Watch An Phoblacht for details).

Our pictures (below) show a section of the peaceful protest and the Garda attempt to provoke a confrontation.



THE SILENT  
MAJORITY  
DEMAND  
BRITS OUT!

### Advertisement refused

IN Co. Tipp, the local Sinn Fein placed an advertisement with the "Nationalist" newspaper as part of their "Brits Out - Peace In" campaign.

The Advertising Manager refused to publish it stating that if it was "sort of changed a bit" he would be happy to accept an ad.

Needless to say the local Sinn Fein members gave him an answer. End result ..... no advertisement. Still the walls around Tipp have got the message: Brits Out - Peace In!

Withdraw  
British  
forces  
demands  
G.A.A.

AMONG the motions for Congress and the Leinster Convention passed at the Co. Wexford GAA Convention was a calling for the withdrawal of British troops in Ireland. Following is the full text of the GAA motion:

"That, in pursuance of our National aims, as expressed in the official guide, and owing also to deliberate destruction of the Association's property and disruption of our games - the association, at Congress 1977, demands the withdrawal of British forces from Ireland."

Write a prisoner  
a letter a week.

### North Meath 'Brits Out' campaign

A VERY successful Public Meeting, organised by North Meath Sinn Fein, was held in Kells on Saturday, 12th February.

The speakers were: Mr. Niall Fagan, (Sinn Fein Ard Chomhairle), Mr. George Stagg, (Chairman, Co. Meath Comhairle Ceantair) and Mr. Tom Marry, (Chairman, Nth. Meath Sinn Fein). The meeting was chaired by Mr. Paddy Gogarty, Kells.

The local Cumann has involved itself in all aspects of the "Brits Out" campaign - distribution of leaflets, putting up posters, etc. Five after Mass meetings have been held and were addressed by Mr. Tom Marry.

### Co. Cavan arrest

SINCE the "Brits Out - Peace In" campaign began in Corlough, Co. Cavan a number of young men have been detained, photographed and finger printed. Local Gardaí are searching for paint and posters all over the area. "To be searching for paint is a change for them," says the local Cumann. "It is not so long ago since they were supplying gallons of it to a local simpleton when they had instructed to paint all sorts of 'tripe' on the roads of West Cavan and Leitrim," the cumann added.

The central theme of all meetings was the necessity for British withdrawal before any permanent peace could emerge.

BRITS OUT - PEACE IN

To build a New Ireland  
join Sinn Fein

Last week in Strasbourg, at the opening of the torture trial, the British representative gave a solemn undertaking that the five torture techniques never would be used again. In fact, R.U.C. and military mercenaries have never stopped using at least two of these techniques in the Six Counties. Furthermore, members of the Garda Síochána and of the 26 Counties' Prison Service are using psychological torture, including sensory deprivation, against Republican suspects and P.O.W.'s. The most notorious example of this is the solitary confinement punishment in Port Laoise Jail.

THE REPUBLICAN Movement is not the only source to say that the British are plying when they promise solemnly in Strasbourg in the Human Rights Court that they have ended their torture techniques forever.

The "New Scientist", one of Britain's most influential scientific and medical journals, reports a London University researcher as saying that the British are training their soldiers in these torture techniques still. He might have added "and also their police".

DR. Tim Shallice is described as a researcher into the science of the mind, behaviour and the nervous system and how torture can affect all three.

Recently, Dr. Shallice co-operated with the U.S. journalist, William Ristow ("San Francisco Bay Guardian") in examining, among other things, how serious the British were in phasing out the torture techniques.

They stated in the "New Scientist" that techniques, "branded as illegal and alleged to be torture, are still available within the British defence structures".

When they asked a spokesman for the British Defence Ministry why soldiers were still being taught these techniques they were told it was to prepare them for what might happen in the event of their capture by an "unscrupulous enemy"!

Some 240 British soldiers are subjected to a relatively mild form of these tortures. The corollary, according to the researchers, is that others are being taught to administer the tortures.

According to Lord Balniel of Britain, 17 officers per year were trained to torture people before the British tried out their methods on the "hooded men", following the internment drive in August, 1971.

According to the "New Scientist", the British learned the basic techniques from the Russian K.G.B. and then went one further, the "perfection" of sensory deprivation.

According to a London correspondent, Wormwood Scrubs is being equipped with such "control units", destined to be used to drive the Republican prisoners-of-war mad.

Our picture, reproduced from "The News Line" (February 3 last) shows special screens over the windows of cells in this London prison. According to a prison reform group these are part of a control unit.

The British Home Office has denied this saying the screens are designed to prevent prisoners passing contraband from one to another.

The paper quotes a former prisoner, Walter Probyn, who served time in a control unit in Wakefield Prison, as saying: "The units deprive prisoners of natural light, sound and contact and destroy the will to live".

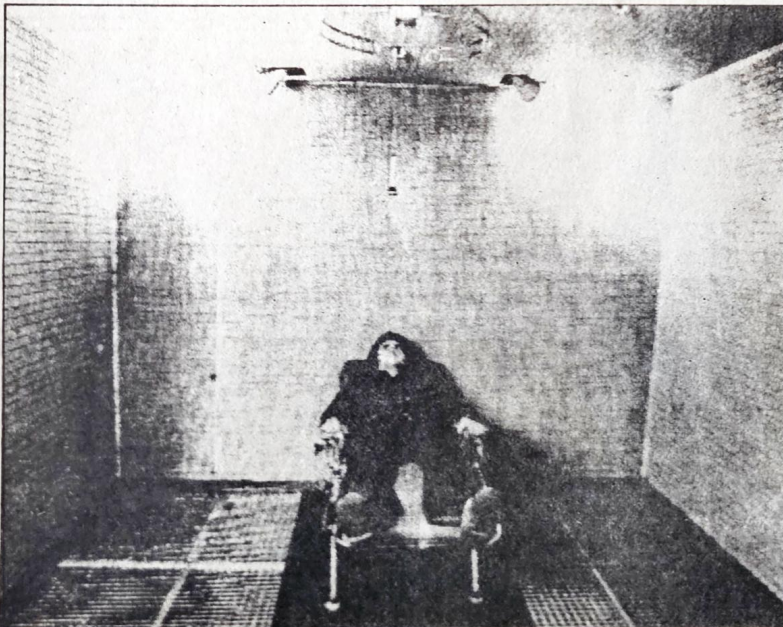
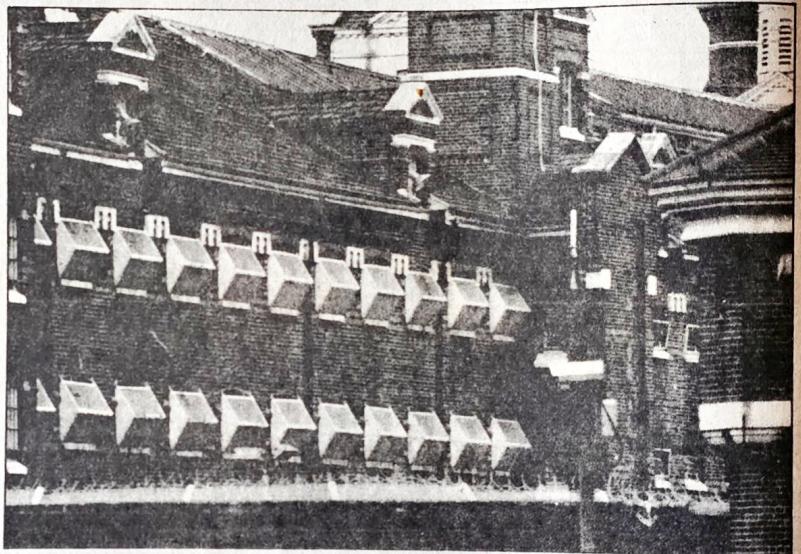
He is one of a delegation from the Criminal Penal Reform Group which protested recently to the Home Office.

Prison reformers have disclosed that special cells are being constructed in Brixton Prison and that they could be used, also, as control units.

A public inquiry is being demanded in Britain on this matter. It should be supported by the Irish in Britain. It could mean the difference between sanity and insanity for the Irish P.O.W.s.

Remember what Britain did to the Fenian prisoners about 100 years ago.

# PRISON TORTURE



ABOVE: Wormwood Scrubs . . . according to a London Correspondent Wormwood Scrubs is being equipped with control units destined to be used to drive the Republican prisoners-of-war mad. Our picture shows special screws over the windows of cells in this London prison. These are said to be part of a control unit.

LEFT: A sensory deprivation cell in a Terman jail similar to the ones used to disorientate the Baader-Meinhof defendants before their trial and like the padded cells now being built in Brixton.

**FIGHT FOR  
POLITICAL STATUS  
FOR ALL IRISH  
REPUBLICAN  
PRISONERS**

# THE BRIXTON BRIGADE TRIAL



Hugh Doherty

The trial of Joe O'Connell, Harry Duggan, Eddie Butler and Hugh Doherty which ended at the Old Bailey on 10 February with the usual massive sentences we have grown to expect in Republican trials was in many ways a victory for the lads.

Early in the trial they had instructed their lawyers that they wanted them to make only one point — that three of them had taken part in the Woolwich bombing and that Joe O'Connell had taken part in the Guildford bombing and that the people convicted for those bombings are innocent. When the jury were called, the lads exercised all their challenges, seven each, to get a jury that was almost entirely working class. There were three blacks on it and five women and a man who told the judge when called that he was an atheist. Witness after witness was called by the prosecution to "prove" that the lads did the 25 counts against them, 100 in all. The prisoners instructed their lawyers to cross-examine few but the ones who were cross-examined had a startling effect on the verdict.

## Hilton Hotel bomb

The police were cross-examined as to why, after being given a 20 minute warning they had not cleared the hotel or even the lobby where the bomb was. Higgs and Lidstone, two police "explosives" officers were cross-examined about their spurious charts and correspondances which purported to show how all the bombings with which the

lads were charged were part of a series. They were eventually forced to admit that if there was a "series" it should include Guildford and Woolwich for which four people had already been convicted on their "scientific" evidence. Higgs was also forced to admit that he himself had made a bomb, a photograph of which the police had mistakenly sent to defence lawyers alleging that it was a bomb the lads had planted. The "evidence" of these two was subsequently viewed with great scepticism by the jury.

## Police evidence

Commander Nevill, now head of the Bomb squad was cross-examined as to why he had done nothing when he found that it was members of the ASU who had done the Guildford and Woolwich and not the people he had convicted. He tried to squirm his way out by claiming that responsibility lay either with his superiors or his inferiors but not with him. Nevill, and the man who at the time of the lads' arrest was his henchman, Imbert, alleged that Eddie Butler and Joe O'Connell had made a series of admissions of the things with which they were charged.

## Statement

The first shock for the police came on 7th February when Joe O'Connell read a statement from the dock on behalf of all four. The jury craned forwards in their seats to hear his blistering attack



Joe O'Connell

on British imperialism and its many crimes throughout the world as well as the scorn he poured on the police and their experts. The judge, Cantley, tried to interrupt him, several times but Joe told him, "I am not talking to you, I am talking to the jury". Cantley's summing up was a re-statement of the prosecution case. He underlined the "evidence" against all the lads on all the charges. When the jury went out at 11 on 9 February, the police were laying bets that they would be back between 2 and 2.30. At five they were

"The despot would never understand that there's honour in being in prison, whatever kind of prison it may be, when one enters it with dignity, as a representative of a people that is fighting for its freedom, as a revolutionary with the task of carrying out a revolution, as a defender of the country's loftiest principles".  
 — Jesus Montane Oropesa.

still out and they asked the judge if they could have a copy of Joe's speech from the dock. He refused. It was not until 7.30 that they came back in with the verdict.

It was here that the police really got a nasty shock. They acquitted all four of charges of causing an explosion at a pub in Caterham which the police had claimed the lads had "confessed" to; two bombs, one in Putney and one in Hampstead, which did not explode and which police had said had the fingerprints of all four lads; a bomb at the Portman hotel which also failed to explode and a thrown bomb at the Trattoria Fiori which police explosives experts had claimed were an integral part of the series of bombings. The jury also reduced the murder charges for the Hilton Hotel to manslaughter, obviously regarding the police as responsible for the loss of life there. The jury also acquitted Hugh Doherty on the charges of attempting to bomb

Aldershot station, though the police claimed to have found his fingerprint on a pack of cards which was inside the bomb. They also acquitted him of the charge of bombing Edward Heath's house.

## Police stunned by acquittals

The police were stunned by these acquittals in what they had regarded as an "open and shut" case. They had planned to call a celebratory press conference that night but cancelled it. On the next day, the judge



Edward Butler

bombers who killed 40,000 women, children and old people in Dresden on two nights in May 1945. Cantley also "forgot" to commend Nevill and Imbert in his commendation of the police, restricting his remarks to the unarmed mob.

Despite the massive sentences, the four lads feel they made their points. The trial went as well as they could have hoped for and the response from the jury to the arguments they had raised about police evidence and to the statement from the dock as well as the fact that throughout they resolutely refused to laugh at the judge's jokes is an indication of the gap which is opening up between the English working class and their imperialist masters.

FOUR MORE IRISH SOLDIERS HAVE NOW BEEN SENT OFF TO ENGLISH DUNGEONS. IT IS OUR DUTY TO ENSURE THEY DO NOT SERVE A DAY LONGER THAN IS NECESSARY OF THE SENTENCES GIVEN THEM IN THE COURTS OF BRITISH IMPERIALISM. VINCEREMOS.



Harry Duggan

ordered the lads brought up to the dock for sentencing, but he could not even get that right. He gave no less than six verdicts which he had to change because he had given a heavier sentence than the law allowed. The British imperialist press did not mention this, any more than they mentioned the fact that the jury had acquitted the lads on many of the charges or that the British secret police were absolutely raging with the way the trial had gone. One of the prosecuting officers was heard to remark at one point that Joe O'Connell had conducted himself "with more dignity than the judge".

In fact the judge was so deflated he could not work himself up into the required frenzy for his final remarks. He referred to the bombing of "unarmed civilians" a remark which fell strangely from the lips of a man who during the war between England and Germany helped to service the Lancaster

## CARGIN REMEMBERS PATRIOTS

The small village of Cargin Co. Antrim was the scene of a large turnout of Republicans for the annual commemoration of Lt. Charles McCann and Volunteer Phelim Grant.

Sinn Fein Cumann from Derry City and counties Tyrone and Antrim were in attendance as were Republicans from Belfast; all were present with the common aim of commemoration and re-dedication to the aims and objectives for which these two brave men died 5 years previously. The gathering was presided over by Mr. Kevin Agnew who introduced Richard Behal, Ard Comhairle as the orator.

In his address to the crowd Mr. Behal said that the struggle was now reaching its climax and was sure to be completed on the military side in the very near future. He went on to mention Sinn Fein's national demand for a British withdrawal from Ireland and pointed out that this was the time when all true Republicans should resist pressures from opportunists who may try and use the situation.

From that he went on to relate the sufferings of the prisoners in English and Free State jails, who he said were at present suffering as much as the men and women in the Six-counties.

Before the meeting a crowd of about 600 people marched a short distance to the church yard where wreaths were placed by members of the men's families as well as representatives from O'Laughlin na hEireann and Sinn Fein. A colour party of Fianna Eireann preceded the march and the last band and reveille was sounded in memory of the two soldiers.

Afterwards refreshments were provided by local Republican women for which all were grateful.

# PRISON NEWS

## WORMWOOD SCRUBS

Shane O'Doherty (Derry) is continuing his demand for POLITICAL STATUS here. Since 10 last he has been wearing only a towel to keep warm as he refuses to wear the prison uniform of a criminal or to do prison-work. He is locked-up 24 hours a day, is not allowed any exercise outside and is segregated totally from the other political prisoners. "Privileges" such as a radio etc. are denied him, papers arrive days late and the mattress and bed, leaving him nothing to sit on except the floor. He keeps relatively 'fit and warm' by doing some yoga and other exercises and by walking up and down his cell.

At Christmas the prison authorities refused to allow parcels in to him from relatives and friends, and other imperialist power, the U.S.S.R. is less vindictive — and hypocritical with its political prisoners than this 'mother of democracy', Great Britain; there imprisoned dissidents receive regular food parcels from their families.

There have been several pickets on the jail in solidarity with Shane in recent weeks. During the most recent one wardens threw blocks of wood and other objects at the demonstrators.

## BRISTOL

Joe Duffy (Dublin), another of the P.O.W.'s allegedly involved in Hull riot last August, was taken to Winchester prison on 14 December last for "trial". He faced 11 charges re the riot, pleaded not guilty,

was not allowed legal representation and he then not surprisingly was found guilty on all counts. He lost 2 years and 3 months remission off his sentence and was sentenced to 10 months and 3 weeks in solitary confinement. This means that he will finish his punishment in October 1977 and have spent 14 months in solitary confinement of one form or another by then. He has as well lost all 'privileges' such as a radio and papers.

He is another Irish victim of the institutionalised violence of the British prison system, a system under which torture, both psychological and physical, has become an administrative practice, particularly but not exclusively in cases concerning Irish political prisoners.

## ALBANY, I.O.W.

After many denials, the Home Office now admits that Sean Campbell was seriously injured on 16th September 1976. Sean is now on hungerstrike in the hospital — wing of Parkhurst . . . lest anyone thinks that this is an improvement in his situation, Michael Gaughan was tortured to death in this same "hospital". Sean is surviving on milk and water daily, and continues his protest over the savage treatment of republican prisoners in Albany. Since the last edition of P.O.W. Eddie Byrne and Con McFadden were assaulted by the screws Con had bruising all over and Eddie was moved to the hospital wing of Parkhurst for treatment for his injuries which also continues his protest. All the prisoners who have been assaulted in Albany are taking legal proceedings against the Home Secretary.

Republican prisoners here are not allowed to sleep out daily but have to wait eight days before they can do so. In protest against such degrading treatment Brendan Dowd emptied the contents of the pot over the Deputy Governor and was given 41 days solitary confinement for his trouble and moved to Wandsworth. We intend taking this matter up with the Health Authorities in Newport because such conditions are certainly a health hazard.

## BRIXTON

The trial of Eddie Caughey and John Higgins is due to begin on February 21st at the Old Bailey. They have been charged with soliciting radio equipment last year, in addition John has been charged with soliciting arms. The chief prosecution witness will include self-confessed Special Branch informer John (of Angolan mercenary infamy) and several of his associates.

Patrick Hackett (Tipperary) is in solitary confinement for 56 days in B wing and has also lost all 'privileges' i.e. his radio, books and papers are withheld. Even his harmonica has been taken away from him. He sits in a chair all day as his bed is taken away early and not given back until 7 p.m. If he can survive 56 days out of the hospital-wing under these conditions (remember he lost an arm and a leg in an explosion) why was he not moved out of this dreadful hospital wing before now. His 'trial' along with Adrian Donnelly (Tyrone) and John Hayes (Dublin) is expected to take place late April/early May.



## HULL

Pressure is being brought on the Home Office to have a public enquiry into the riot in Hull Prison last summer. Humberside police have started an investigation into assaults on prisoners by wardens but one cannot expect anymore than the usual whitewash from them (Remember the case of the Winslow Green warders who beat-up Irish prisoners in 1974). M.P.'s, lawyers, prisoners' rights groups and the relatives will continue to publicise the degrading treatment given to all the prisoners here after they surrendered. An account by one prisoner alone gives an accurate description of how the wardens behaved: "I was severely beaten about the body, genitals and legs; had my head forced down into a lavatory bowl, handed a hot drink that had been urinated into and given blankets that had been defecated on". This account, as related on T.V. came from an English prisoner. The Irish political prisoners were treated much more disgracefully.

# Reaction to torture in Tipperary

"IT HAD now been established that the 'Cahir five' had been drugged during their detention".

This statement was made by Joe Stagg, Chairman of Irish Civil Rights, when he spoke at public meetings in Clonmel and Cashel. Both meetings were well attended and at the Cashel meeting three of the five tortured prisoners stood on the platform. These included the heavily bandaged Tom Connors who had jumped from the Garda Barracks top window to avoid further torture.

Other speakers included Uallter O Loinsigh, Ard Runai, John Hickey, just released from Portlaoise Prison and Eddie Doherty, Chairman of the South Tipperary Comhairle Ceantar. Denis Coonan chaired the Clonmel meeting and Michael Brown, the Cashel one.

Joe Stagg in the course of his address said that "the British forces of occupation must make known their intention to evacuate from the six north eastern counties, both militarily and politically. The mess that this country

finds itself in at the present time, the hate, the frustrations, the suspicions, the fears, the sufferings and the shedding of our own red blood have all sprung from the same unholy source, and that unholy source is British Imperialism, British exploitation and deception, plus British misrule based on the devilish concept of divide and conquer throughout this island for the past 800 years.

The people of the north feel that many of us here in the

south, to our everlasting shame, have chosen to conveniently forget about those who have borne the full brunt of the grindstone of British oppression since the Ulster plantation 300 years ago.

Alone of all the institutions in this island, the Dublin Government are standing out as the ones who want the British to remain. They want the British to hold on, so that they can hold on, bringing

in more emergency repressive legislation to foster everything British and to liquidate all that is Irish in this country. They want the British to hold on, and their feasting in the 'pork-barrel' of power would not be interrupted by the emergence of a new constitution for the whole of Ireland. They want the British to hold on so that the jobs they have created for their children and their grand-children won't be in any danger.

And let us examine for a moment the extremes they are prepared to go in to in order to preserve the red stain on the fourth green field of Ireland. A police force that was at one time one of the most respected in the world has now reduced

itself to a level of institutionalised cowardly violence that the history books will re-echo with shame.

On a personal basis, I ask you to identify with my murdered brother's last message to the people of Ireland, on this, the first anniversary of his death. "We are a risen people. Never again will we be kicked into the gutter, even if this means dying for justice. The fight must go on. Let my memorial be Peace with Justice".

John Hickey who was warmly welcomed at both meetings described solitary confinement conditions in Portlaoise. He referred specifically to bringing prisoners in cages into Mass. This he said was, a blot on the whole Nation.

"Our people have fought for centuries to be able to attend Mass in dignity and to have this horrible situation in Portlaoise where men are being treated like monkeys during the saying of Mass."

Here in Tipperary, we have had a recent example of the kind of thing I am talking about. Police torture has taken on such serious proportions here in this county that even the Unionists are screaming about it in Strabourgh. The bullies who carry out this type of state brutality and torture are loyal to no one. They are only interested in more stripes on their sleeves, more braid on their caps and more blood-money in their pockets.

In Portlaoise Prison prisoners and visitors are treated in a manner which would not be fit for animals in a zoo. And why? Because the British in Portlaoise have dared to put their fingers on the last remnants of the Empire that the Dublin traitors are doing their utmost to sustain.

People of Tipperary, you are of the blood of men like Sean Treacy and Thomas McDonagh - you who have sprung from the hot-bed of Sinn Fein, we ask you to identify with us in our campaign to demand a declared intention of a total British withdrawal from Ireland in exchange for amnesty for all political prisoners on either side of the Irish sea and to demand a new constitution that will make this country a fit place to live in for both orange and green without any taint of stain of red, white and blue.

## Civil Rights Association proposals

"THE Irish Civil Rights Association's reaction to the News Features in The Irish Times over the past 3 days on the activities of 'The Heavy Gang' in the Garda, is that these articles endorse what one half of the country is saying to the other half over the past six months," according to a statement released.

"We furthermore react positively, by making the following proposals: \* Free Legal Aid should be made available to anyone who alleges that he underwent brutal treatment while in custody, and wants to take a civil action against the Garda. It is too unrealistic of Mr. Cooney to be talking about people taking civil actions costing £2,000 when very often the people involved mightn't have their busfare home."

\* The Police Officer in charge of arrested persons should be personally responsible for that person's welfare and treatment throughout the period of custody, and to that end, should give his name, rank, and official address in writing to the detainee immediately after the arrest, and forward the same information to the detainee's next-of-kin.

\* This officer should preside over all sessions of interrogation, and if not available should be replaced by a named officer who will assume responsibility on his behalf.

\* The detainee should have the right to have his solicitor present before being interrogated.

"We appeal to doctors and lawyers who are prepared to go into detention centres to see detainees who need them to contact our Association," the ICRA said.

## Petition For Transfer Of Irish Political Prisoners From English Prisons



Michael Gaughan



Frank Stagg



Noel Jenkinson

AT PRESENT over 80 men and women are serving sentences in English prisons for political offences connected with the current British Troubles in Ireland. Of those so convicted, three have died in prison.

On 3 June, 1974, MICHAEL GAUGHAN died while being force fed in Parkhurst. On 12 February, 1976, FRANK STAGG died during a hunger strike in Wakefield. On 9 October, 1976, NOEL JENKINSON died in the top security unit in Leicester in unexplained circumstances.

Noel Jenkinson had been badly beaten on three occasions and had spent six months in solitary. Frank Stagg had spent nearly three years in solitary in a cell stripped of furniture and heating. Michael Gaughan contracted pneumonia after a force feeding tube penetrated his lung.

According to figures released by the Home Office on 26 July, 1976, 46 Irish political prisoners had been held in solitary in the previous 12 months "for their own protection" but against their will; according to the same source in the same period 33 of them had suffered assaults in prison. LIAM MACLARNON has served two years of his sentence to date in solitary; GERRY CONLON spent six months in Wandsworth in solitary with jag saws for company. In Albany in September, 1976, SEAN CAMPBELL had an arm, a leg and a finger broken and ribs fractured; FR. FELL got a fractured nose; EDDIE BYRNE was beaten unconscious; EAMON MACLARNON, JOHN McCUSKEY and CON MACFADDEN were also injured. In Liverpool in May, 1975, BRENDAN DOWD had his teeth kicked out; SEAN KINSELLA's arm was broken; in Manchester at the same time PAUL NORNEY and NOEL GIBSON re-

ceived severe bruising while in police custody. In Winslow Green prison in November, 1974, PAT. GULLFOYLE, MARTIN COUGHLAN, STEPHEN BLAKE, TONY MADIGAN, RAY MACLAGHILLIN, GERRY YOUNG, GERRY SMALL and JIMMIE ASHIE were all assaulted; in the same month JOHN WALKER, BILLY POWER, GERRY HUNTER, HUGH CALLAGHAN, RICHARD MCKENNEY and PADDY HILL received injuries while in police and prison custody. PAUL HILL has received injuries in Guildford, Wandsworth and Hull. In November, 1975, KEVIN DUNPHY was attacked in his cell in Parkhurst with an iron bar.

SHANE PAUL O'DOHERTY is currently held in solitary and refused all visits in Wormwood Scrubs because he refuses to wear uniform in protest at not being transferred to a prison in Ireland.

During the period 1972-75, according to Government figures, 27 soldiers convicted of crimes in Ireland were moved to serve their sentences in England. In the same period 22 civilians were also transferred to English prisons from Ireland.

Four Irish political prisoners have been transferred to Ireland, Dolours and Marian Price, Gerry Kelly and Hugh Feeney. They endured 205 days of force feeding.

ALL OTHER IRISH POLITICAL PRISONERS HAVE BEEN DENIED THIS RIGHT. We call on all individuals and organisations to support our demand that Irish political prisoners who are being brutalised in English prisons be given the same right as criminals in the British Army: THE RIGHT TO SERVE THEIR SENTENCES IN THEIR OWN COUNTRY.

## Statement Supported By Following Individuals ... And Organisations

- Dolours Price
- Marian Price
- Hugh Feeney
- Gerry Kelly
- Mrs. Della Gaughan
- Mrs. Mary Stagg
- Mrs. Nancy Jenkinson
- Una Toal
- Jim Blake
- K. Adair
- John Turley
- Francis O'Leary
- Paddy Devlin
- Rev. Frank Goodall
- Marie Conterd
- Fiona Uí Phlúicéir
- Sigrid Uí Bhronnadhá
- Liam O'Leary
- Frank Durkan, New York
- Paul O'Dwyer
- (President of New York City Council)
- Most Rev. Thomas J. Drury (Bishop of Corpus Christi, Texas)
- Teddy Gleason (President of the International Longshoremen's Association & Vice President of the AFL-CIO)
- Jack Keane (National President of the Ancient Order of Hibernians)
- James J. Comerford (High Court Judge, President of New York St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee)
- Joe Dowley (Assistant Attorney General, New York State)
- Rev. Sean M. Manus
- Maud Nevin
- Mrs. M. M. Corcoran & friends
- J. Keohane

- Francis M. Blake
- John Duggan
- C. Brennan
- M. Brennan
- Michael Toyn
- Dr. James Murray
- Dr. Raymond Murray
- Seamus Clark
- (Chairman Emergent Commemoration Committee)
- Sarah Humphrey
- Mary Shore, U.S.A.
- Dr. Sarah Clarke
- Frank MacDermott & Family
- Joe Stagg (Chairman Irish Civil Rights)
- John Kibben
- Mari and Helen Fitzpatrick
- Dr. Egan
- Dr. Birmingham & friends
- Michael, Rose and Helen Knowles
- Kevin M. Agnew
- Terence James McGonity
- Graham Devlin
- Mrs. Nora W. Walsh
- Charles O'Sullivan
- Liz Curtis and Alastair Renwick
- John and Vera Costelloe
- Grace O'Donnell
- Padraig Crotinan
- Ella de Barra
- G. Hogarty

- T. Betty
- C. Brennan
- M. Brennan
- Gerard Cawell
- Dr. James Murray
- Joseph D. O'Connor
- Maggie Ebdon
- Pat. McGowan
- Sean Hogan
- J. Barrett
- C. King
- C. McLoughlin
- H. Henry
- Donald MacLaughlin
- D. Crovan
- M. O'Callaghan
- Padraig O'Conchaire
- Karin Westman Berg
- Sion Berg
- Ann Mary Kyrg
- Bob McNeill
- A. Havenan
- Donald MacAmblagh
- Bridge McCauley
- Eddie Macateer
- Sympathisers, St. Joseph's Club
- Frank Maguire MP

- Luton Provisional Sinn Fein
- Rating Free
- The HAVOTOC Family
- International, Hoaland
- Comité Ictonic, France
- Sparr RID
- Revolutionary Communist Group
- Relias
- Irish Republican Socialist Club
- Up Against the Law
- Irish National Union, U.S.A.
- Anti-Drug of Hibernians, U.S.A.
- USA
- Canadian Athletic Association, U.S.A.
- United Irish Counties Association, U.S.A.
- Association for Legal Justice, Dublin Central
- Doctors Work, Liverpool
- Communist Workers Movement
- Country Doctor Unit
- D. Crovan
- London
- Moscow Area Committee, Communist Party of Great Britain
- Veteran Infantry Soldiers - U.S.A.
- United Irish Counties Association, U.S.A.
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REPUBLICAN POST BAG

DANGEROUS AND FOOLISH

The 'No Comment to make' attitude of the Department of Justice in Dublin in face of substantial allegations of brutality to detainees held in Garda barracks under the Emergency Powers Act is both dangerous and foolish. The practice of turning a blind eye to alleged use of 'methods outside the law to ensure convictions', instead of facing the accusations by courageously and openly investigating them, is something the government may deeply regret in the future. Already, certain postures indicate that the Dublin Government may find itself deeply humiliated, as does Britain now, pleading for leniency in Europe in the face of torture charges.

"An Independent tribunal that would investigate all allegations of ill-treatment of prisoners and people in custody is needed urgently. Private internal inquiries by custodians against them that allegations are being made will not

-An (Ath. Plaras Duill Dublin 7.

SOISIALACHAS DEBE

IS annamh dom ag ceartú D'éabé acht ní thagann "soisialachas" roimh saoire, ná ar chó-chúm le, igcúsaí réabhlóide. Ní mór saoire Ghael d'aithreimeadh ar dtús mar úrlár faoi pé córas eacnamach is féarr le muintir na h-Eireann.

San idirlinn ná scaiptear am ná argóint ar thealsínach eacnamaigh acht tugtar "le lán-neart" faoi athbhán na saoire gan a thuille mhóile. Uin láncoimeadh na ture uile, tíocheaídh planda na h-eacnamaíochta imlábh a mhaitheasa chom tairbhe na ture uile.

-F.T. O Leachairm 1601 Noriega St., San Francisco, Calif.

I gCuimhne

STAGG: "The Fitzsimmons/O'Hanlon Cumann, Sinn Fein, High Wycombe remember with pride Proinsias Stagg, murdered in Wakefield jail by the British Government, February 12, 1976. "Prison Bars can never contain the mind which wishes to be free".

STAGG: The Michael Larkin S.F. Cumann, Birr will always remember with pride Proinsias Stagg murdered in Wakefield jail on February 12, 1976. They may murder a revolutionary but they can never murder our revolution.

CRAFT CENTRE 44 Ceardog Pharnhill, Baile Atha Cliath

INDEPENDANT INQUIRY

PORT LAOISE

An article in the Irish Press of 18th February makes mentions: "that a rare request by the jury in the Moutjoy conspiracy case to visit the top-security jail was granted by the Director of Public Prosecutions and the Minister for Justice."

Would the Director of Public Prosecutions and the Minister for Justice now grant the Republican prisoners at Port Laoise jail the right to have an independent enquiry into the prisoners complaints relating to the sub human conditions and ill treatment which the prisoners are subjected to under the dictates of Mr. Cooney's orders and that of governor O'Reilly. Since Mr. Cooney holds the title of Minister for Justice he should be seen to administer justice in the prisons; yet he is noted for his statements that Republican prisoners have no rights. It is very regrettable that these prisoners were never favoured with TRIAL BY JURY - they therefore were left to the mercy of judges who are elderly, who left to come to their decisions egged on by the sole opinion of a Garda Superintendent, followed up by police brutality to obtain conviction - previous to a so-called trial. Since Port Laoise jail is a top security jail let the prisoners have the same rights as accorded to the Moutjoy prisoners in The Circuit Criminal Court.

Mr. Cooney should not fear the outcome of PRIVATE investigation into Port Laoise prison conditions if HIS PRISON RULES ARE JUST. Let each child of the State be cherished equally according to the wording of the Constitution, according to such words we would like to be assured that State vengeance is NEVER dished out, even to those whom the courts consider to be 'terrorists' or criminals, such tags should have been abolished when Britain ceased to dominate in this part of our island.

-Una Toal (Mrs.), Newry Road, Dun Dealgan.

MURDER OF FRANK MOYNA

ON 25th January, 1977 the Paratroop regiment killed a resident of our district, Mr. Frank Moyna. These soldiers callously watched this man

die of a heart attack, refusing him medical attention and actively prevented anyone else rendering medical or spiritual help.

This death sparked off a wave of feeling in the residents of this district and a petition signed by 98% of the people of the area was delivered into Roy Mason's office at Stormont Castle by 4 women residents, in a forceful request to have the Parachute regiment removed from the area.

A reply in writing was promised from the Northern Ireland Office, but none has appeared. However, there was a 5 day spell of peace when there were no patrols to be seen in the area and the Clonard people experienced an air of calm and peace. Now the Paras are back in force and the harassment has commenced once again, house raids, arrests, beatings.

In the wake of Mr. Moyna's death many political groupings protested and the face-saving reaction on the part of the Brits was to allow an 'official inquiry'. No inquiry has ever taken place and now that the heat has gone out of the situation the Brits and the R.U.C. have become complacent once again, no more need to worry about another 'Paddy death'.

The people of Clonard area are very, very angry. Those who were present both prior to and subsequent to the death of Mr. Moyna have yet to be informed of any 'official inquiry'. It is the opinion of Sinn Fein in the area that the inquiry has already been held and that Brits concerned in the whole affair 'exonerated' by their colleagues in the R.U.C. as being involved in the death of this man.

The residents themselves have informed us that they expected no reply from Mason and no inquiry from his hirlings in the British Army and R.U.C. -P.R.O. Clonard Martyrs' S.F. Cumann, Beal Feirste.

Easter Sunday Commemorations

The Lurgan branch of Cumann Uaighneann na Laoirachd Gaedheil (National Branch Association) will hold their annual commemoration on Easter Sunday, 10th April 1977, at the following centres: DERRYMACASH: A monument will be unveiled at the grave of First Lieut. Michael Crossey (R.I.P.) A parade will assemble at Ballinamoney Cottages at 11.30 a.m. MAGHERY: ceremony in cemetery at 12.00 noon. PORTADOWN: ceremony in cemetery at 1.00 p.m. LURGAN: assemble Francis Street at 2 p.m. (moving off at 2.30 p.m. sharp).

HONOUR IRELAND'S DEAD

Coiste Cuimhneachain na Poblachta

(Republican Commemoration Committee)

Applications for speakers for Easter Commemorations should be made not later than March 21st, 1977, giving time and full details to:

An Runaí, Coisde Cuimhneachain Na Poblachta, 44 Parnell Square, Dublin 1.

ORDER YOUR EASTER LILIES NOW

Price: £10.00 per 1,000 (cash with order) AVAILABLE FROM: Mrs. P. King, 29, All Saint'S Park, Raheny, Dublin 5.

DUTCH PROTEST AT WILLIAMS VISIT



Betty Williams went to Holland and the conscience of Long Kesh followed here (see picture).

Thanks to our Dutch comrades Betty'S visit was not all "Tulips in Amsterdam (oh my God!!!)

Our good friends there made sure that the real message of Peace for Ireland was heard "Brits out - Peace In".

As the meeting progressed one of the Dutch comrades took over the microphone and after much argument finally gave it up after a promise that a question and answer discussion would take place. Needless to say this promise was reneged on. (Like our Betty isn't known for her gift without lovely Ciaran beside her).

During the "speech" Betty was interrupted much to her obvious displeasure by a former

Internee who didn't take the "Escape trial". The former internee reminded Betty that she never suffered nor fought against internment. She had nothing to say about the British Army on the R.U.C. (bad that is).

After this the members of the "Ierland Komme Nederland" moved beside Williams with a banner proclaiming "Ireland unfree will never be at Peace". The members succeeded again in taking over the meeting but finally were ejected by large numbers of police.

Quite a few of the women present were so shocked at the behaviour of the Dutch Police that they left the meeting in protest.

\* Our picture shows Princess Beatrix greeting Betty Williams, while in the background members of the "Ierland Komme Nederland" hold placards showing a tortured internee from Long Kesh.

COMHBHRON

All the members of the Terence McSwiney Sinn Fein Cumann, Shannon, Co. Clare, wish to sympathise with their chairman, Mr. Thomas McDade on the death of his mother, Mrs. E. McDade (Belfast). Ar dheis De go raibh a nam.

CROCK OF GOLD

(S.F. National Finance Committee)

Further to last weeks announcement in this paper, the S.F. National Finance Committee's scheme for fund raising has been finalised and will be in operation shortly.

The Scheme shall be known as the Crock of Gold Scheme.

Full details of, and instructions about same will be sent to all Comhairli Chuighi Comhairli Ceanntair, and Cumainn throughout the country.

Every member must play his/her part as never before. Remember that success requires effort. Your effort will not be in vain.

The N.F.C. is an Ard Comhairle Committee set up as per rule 24, B2, of the S.F. constitutions and subject to Ard Comhairle approval, its decisions are binding.

-George Lunch, Chairman.

An Cumann Cabhrach

(Baile Atha Cliath)

A supper ceili will be held at Ostan John Devoy on

Thursday, 17 March

RINNCE ..... 8.30 p.m. to 1 a.m.  
TAILLE ..... £2.00

Bus leaves 44 Parnell Square at 8 p.m.

# Ballina honours Proinsias Stagg



Members of the Stagg family taking part in the Commemoration parade.



A view of portion of the parade through Ballina.

(Ar leannúint ó le h) Uganda and subsequent secret burial of the bodies. This event ranks alongside the treatment of Proinsias Stagg's body. It shows the close relationship between tyrants everywhere.

"Proinsias Stagg's death led to widespread sorrow throughout Ireland. In the protests that followed three of his comrades died. Thousands from all over Ireland attended his funeral.

"In the past year three people who were closely connected with Proinsias have died.

"First Derek Highstead who organised so well in England during the hunger strike died in mysterious circumstances in England.

"Next Noel Jenkinson, his fellow comrade died in unexplained circumstances in a lonely British prison cell.

"Last October Maire Drumm who had been such a pillar of strength to the Stagg Family during the funeral was brutally murdered in Belfast.

## PRISONERS BRUTALISED

"But what now of the Republican prisoners in England. Still they are brutalised, have suffered broken bones and limbs and have to suffer many other forms of torture. In the North we have prisoners naked in H Block in Long Kesh seeking political status and not too many miles from here we have prisoners protesting against the cruel conditions they have to endure in Portlaoise.

"Only in the last week have the brutal deeds of the Heavy Gang become public knowledge through the columns of the press.

"Only now are people learning of the brutal deeds done in Prisons and Police Stations around the country. And it is the memory of Proinsias Stagg which has helped the young men to endure the terrible tortures they have suffered.

"I would like now to say a few words concerning the 'Peace' Movement. All through the long months when Proinsias was suffering they were silent. Through the long months of the truce when the sectarian assassinations were at their height they were silent, but



Mrs. Stagg, mother of Proinsias Stagg, laying her wreath on her son's grave.

when the British Government were in difficulty they were quickly on the streets, shouting peace, but with never a mention of justice. We all want peace, but we must have justice also.

"In recent weeks we have heard talk again of ceasefires, but we all know that a ceasefire will result if the British Government declare their intention to leave Ireland.

"In conclusion I would like to quote again the words of Terence Mac Swiney:

"For one armed man cannot resist a multitude, nor one army conquer countless legions; but not all the armies of all the Empires on earth can crush the spirit of one true man. And that one man will prevail."

"Such was Proinsias Stagg.

"We know now that freedom will be won, but it is up to us to ensure that it is not won in our children's generation, but in our own generation."

## SUNG WITH DIGNITY

P.G. Kearney thanked Ruairi for his fine oration, and asked the people to leave the graveyard with dignity and not to be provoked by the Gardai. Amhrán na bhFiann was sung and the assembled people went their way.

## NEWS FROM THE NORTH

### SATURDAY, FEB. 12

**CO. ANTRIM:** The sustained attacks against the R.U.C. resulted in the death of an R.U.C. reservist at his home near Cloughmills. The reservist was driving into the driveway of his home when a fusillade of bullets from an automatic struck him in the

head and chest, killing him instantly.

**CO. DOWN:** A seven man R.U.C. mobile patrol was ambushed as it moved along near the roundabout at Narrow-water Castle. Fire was returned but no hits were reported on either side. This particular stretch of road has become infamously known as Ambush Alley.

**BELFAST:** Two upper stories of John Aiken's Printers were destroyed after an incendiary device exploded. Entrance to the building is believed to have been gained through a grill in the side wall.

A man standing at the corner of Upper Meenan St, was fired on from a passing car. A single bullet hit him on the neck. His condition was later described as 'serious'.

### SUNDAY, FEB. 13

**BELFAST:** The home of another leading businessman was attacked, thus continuing the series of such similar attacks. Two men drove up to the house on a motorbike and opened fire with automatics. One of the men then planted a bomb. Meanwhile the family of the businessman rang the R.U.C. from their Upper Antrim Road home. The R.U.C. arrived, spotted the bomb, and cleared the area. When the bomb exploded it caused minor damage.

**ARMAGH:** A mobile Brit patrol operating near the 'border' at Tullydonnell on the New Downhamilton/Dundalk road was ambushed from several points. Over a hundred shots were exchanged. No injuries were reported on either side.

### TUESDAY, FEB. 15

**DERRY:** A bomb exploded at the premises of Tillie and Hendersons shirt factory at the junction of Abercorn Road and Carlisle Square.

A telephone warning was rung to the R.U.C. stating that two devices had been planted.

As the area was being cleared the bomb exploded.

A youth who was passing by at the time received slight cuts.

**BELFAST:** A British Patrol ran for cover after a sniper opened fire from a point above the Suffolk Road and Home Drive junction.

The Brits were unable to return fire as they were totally unaware at the time where they were being fired from.

**TYRONE:** The main Aughnacloy Caledon road closed for OVER A WEEK was reopened after Brit-Bomb disposal units finally dealt with suspect devices left at the side of the road.

### WEDNESDAY, FEB. 16

**CO. FERMANAGH:** Around midnight an RUC Reservist was hit three times by bullets as he was leaving Kinawley

RUC Station near the Cavan border.

The RUC man was wounded in the neck and wrist.

His attackers escaped.

**BELFAST:** An explosion at a house in Lower Windsor Ave. caused slight structural damage. Two people in the house received slight cuts.

### THURSDAY, FEB. 17

**TYRONE:** A suspect box discovered in a shop doorway on the Caldeon, Dungannon road exploded but there were no injuries. Later a bomb in a duffle bag, placed at a cafe in Dungannon was defused.

**BELFAST:** An RUC patrol operating in Edgar Street was fired on by men operating from two points. No hits were reported.

### FRIDAY, FEB. 18

**BELFAST:** Four buses

were hijacked and burned in west Belfast, petrol-bombs were thrown at Ardoyne bus depot and the controversial Parachute Regiment was involved in a gun battle in which the soldiers fired up to 200 rounds, damaging 20 houses.

Two buses were burned at Glen Road and two more at Monagh Road, and the gun battle began a short distance away in the Whitelock area on a foot patrol of members of the 2nd Parachute Regiment. The British Army Press Office said that the patrol was fired on on three separate occasions during a 20-minute period.

The paratroopers were supported later by members of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers.

In Springfield Park, West Belfast a blast bomb exploded, while in Ardoyne eight petrol bombs were thrown over the wall of the local bus depot.

## Torture: Legal action pending

"THE EXISTENCE of a Garda 'Heavy Gang' (called 'Special Murder Squad' in official circles), has been well known to the Republican movement for a long time, as has the identity of some of its members" said a statement issued by the Irish Republican Information Service.

"This squad has been involved in torturing suspects in several political cases and has been utilised in various parts of the country. They were used, for example, in the brutal torture of those arrested in Kerry in April '76 and in Cavan Garda station in May '76. Legal action is pending in all these cases. They were involved more recently in incidents in the Portlaoise area."

"The Republican Movement has always maintained that brutality and torture has been used on people held for questioning under the Emergency legislation and has consistently called for an independent public inquiry as distinct from an investigation by the gardai of complaints against themselves.

"Such an inquiry must extend to all instances of brutality towards all prisoners, not only in garda barracks but also in Port Laoise Prison," the statement ended.



OUR picture shows some of the injuries suffered by a youth who was stopped by the Paras in West Belfast recently. His forearms and face have been slashed — he had to receive 11 stitches in one very deep wound.