

# REPUBLICAN NEWS

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## ARMY OPENLY OCCUPIES R.V.H.

Shortly after 9 p.m. on Wednesday the 28th September, the British Army curfewed off the Falls Road from Springfield Road corner to Belfast Childrens' Hospital. Over 100 army vehicles [cranes, trucks, lorry lorries, saracens] and soldiers from different regiments were involved.

The Brits began constructing a metal screen so as, they said, to protect bricklayers who would complete the building of the 10 foot high security brick wall (see REPUBLICAN NEWS, 27-8-77). This wall is a sop to loyalism and is meant to consolidate the British Army citizenry within the State.

Secret British Army spy-posts in the grounds have been uncovered regularly. An IRA sniper opened fire into one such post last Friday, 23rd September, on the Grosvenor Road.

In the past the British Army has stated that it has no interest in the Royal Victoria Hospital; and that the current construction work is to prevent petty theft of

medical supplies. But what contradicts this is that they are building a 'rocket-proof' metal surround (British Army Press statement).

Equally in the past the Eastern Health Board has stated its neutrality and denied that the RVH is a British Army Hospital Fortress. Yet all the facts, from the presence of the open patrols, to the spy-posts, to the canteen meals for the Brits, and the establishment on Wednesday of two roof-top posts (above level 9) would contradict this, and indeed we have further information to add to last week's front page story.

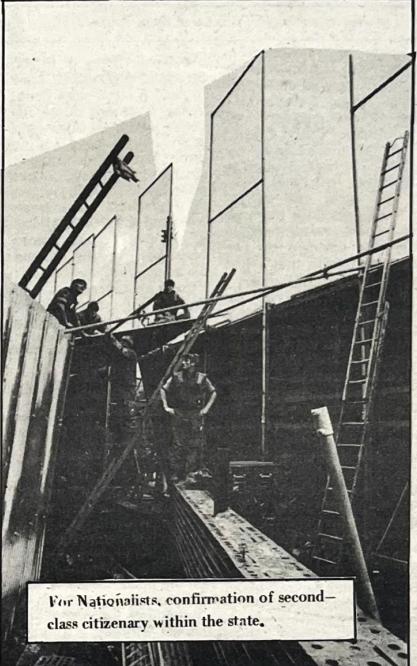
Since the 16th September the RUC has been using the Photographic Department in Level 9 to process and print security film. [The RVH is 150 yards from Springfield Road RUC-British Army barracks, and Castlereagh the normal centre for photographic intelligence is over-worked with presently a log-jam].

Another consignment of film was brought in on

Monday morning and it has been alleged to us that a senior hospital employee, Bill Patterson, gives the orders for the films to be developed. He also sits on security council for the RVH and has been reported as saying confidently that the wall will be finished by the British Army.

On Wednesday morning the civilian bricklayers (sectarian scabs who had been offered big bounty money as well as Brit protection) had second thoughts about building the wall and went home to their loyalist areas. The Brits had timed the work to coincide with the meeting in London between British Prime Minister James Callaghan and Jack Lynch (P.M. of 26-counties) so that the news wouldn't be dominated by their military invasion.

Life for commuters and the Peoples' Taxis in West Belfast was severely disrupted and there is large scale resentment at the sealing off of the hospital. A suspect van bomb was placed outside the building,



For Nationalists, confirmation of second-class citizenry within the state.

but was cleared later by the British Army.

"LET THESE AUTHORITIES ACCEPT THEIR DUE, THAT THEY SET THE PRECEDENT FOR THE USE OF FORCE IN THE BUILDING OF THIS WALL WHICH IS RESENTED BY OUR PEOPLE."

These previous issues of Republican News trace the continued collaboration between the Brits and the hospital authorities.



R.V.H. at Falls Rd. 'Rocket-proof' metal surround.



## PRISON STRUGGLE



the story of continuing resistance behind the wire

# PRISON STRUGGLE

Barbed wire

A REVIEW OF THE NEWLY PUBLISHED BOOK 'PRISON STRUGGLE' BY OUR OLD FRIEND BROWNIE

Since my release from Long Kesh and my absence from the pages of Republican News, Peter Arnis hasn't bothered me an awful lot. Prison hasn't bothered me an awful lot either. A case of out of sight out of mind. Like I did send the 'Dark' a few cigars (four big ones last week) and dropped in the odd postcard or two but apart from that I just went about my business.

Peter Arnis arrived last week: "Will you review a pamphlet for us?"

"What is it about?"

"Well," sez he, "it's the one about life inside Long Kesh. You know the one the boys did themselves."

"Aha," sez I. "You mean the one that we've been waiting for all this time!"

"Well look, we don't have to go into all that. The question is will you review it?"

"Of course I'll review it."

Mind you with this attitude I could see how Solon seems so repressed on Page 2 each week.



So I got a copy of Prison Struggle, and settled back to read it. It is very good. While there are numerous books about prisons and prison life I have yet to come across one actually written in prison, about prison, and the atmosphere of grey drab Long Kesh cages and the POWs efforts to survive comes across very well in the 60-odd pages.

The photographs (and there are many) are excellent and they give us a

by Brownie

peek into the closed world of the 'Lazy K'. I must confess that none of us thought they would come out so well. Flossie's sketches and cartoons capture the mood and the detailed descriptions of life on the inside. Despite each chapter being written by individuals, all have the same thread running through them. It is the clear and unbreakable thread of resistance, of determination to survive and a cheerful optimism in the future.

All of us should read this little book, and as Kieran Nugent has just finished his first year 'on the blanket' we should make a special

Republican prisoners talking at the wire inside Long Kesh

effort to pass the book on to friends at home and abroad.

Ex-Prisoners in particular will find themselves just a wee bit "homesick" but sure that's a risk they'll have to take. Many of the men who helped to write this wee book are still in jail, some since released are back in again, this time in the H-Blocks (I'm thinking here in particular of Bobby Sands and Sid Walsh), Paddy Molloy and Tommy Loudan are in the Crum, and Danny Lennon has been killed.

The least we can do is buy it and read the book they helped to write. I found it informative, interesting and entertaining, and the Republican Press Centre, who print and distribute it, have done us all a service.

The POWs, with their Prison Struggle, have found a way of continuing the war.

Buy a copy yourself and I'm sure you'll agree with me.

ADH MOR.



ON THE JUNGLE JUICE!

Some photos from the book



LECTURE ON PEOPLES' COUNCILS  
This photo from PRISON STRUGGLE shows prisoners receiving a political lecture inside a compound in Long Kesh



IN THE WASH HOUSE

Prisoners washing up: photo from Prison Struggle



## PRISON STRUGGLE



the story of continuing resistance behind the wire

Prisoners inside the cages make their own entertainment and their own 'home brew', as this photo from Prison Struggle shows.

## Raffle Result

RE: "August Bank Holiday Raffle Draw" (Birmingham).

1st Prize: £50. Ticket No. 1796.  
Mr. F. Moran, London.

2nd Prize: £25. Ticket No. 2012.  
J. McMalley, Luton, Beds.

3rd Prize: £10. Ticket No. 0584.  
A. Shipeck, Watford, Herts.

We would like to offer our sincere thanks to all those who supported the "Raffle"; and look forward to your continued support. Secretary.

## THE GHETTO BOY

On stacked dead heaps against streets of slaughter  
The boy bargained dreams from fields of slaughter.  
Commanding games with cops and soldiers  
Selling death earthed in a magical toylond.

"Dirty little bastard", the officer advocates  
Packed against the scope of the gun turret,  
As if the armoured car was part of a set  
And the populated streets his very own track.

"Fire gas, fire plastic bullets! There he is, take aim."  
The officer's spoilt men are foiled again.  
But again the guns advocate—The playground's mine  
The train, the tracks, the torturer's rack—The runaway's sign.

Called home, the boy announced his glory  
When parents, shocked, demanded his story.  
"Near death I was, in a bloody heap.  
Building castles from rubble and old mortar."

MADRA RUA  
LONG KESH



# NEWS FROM THE NEW LODGE

Harassment of Personnel in the Sinn Fein Advice Centre, New Lodge Road, Belfast, is continuing to increase. Two and three times a day Brit patrols enter the premises and deliberately harass those inside by attempting to lift books and literature and mocking the wall plaques and posters.

Recently Sinn Fein members using verbal resistance to these incursions have been arrested and in some cases falsely charged with assault. Last week Bobby Lavery appeared in court charged with assault, (see last weeks R.N.) and was fined. On Saturday night he was again arrested and charged with assault.

A foot patrol passed the Centre and two approached the doorway. Bobby was standing in the doorway with a young man who was making a complaint. One of the Brits said, "this is Lavery, he is a cocky bastard." Then he put a rubber bullet into his gun and slammed it into Bobby's stomach.

In his last case he was told to "Fuck up," and that they didn't care who said what. The Centre Staff decided to lock up to avoid further trouble and when they done this the Brit Corporal said that everyone could leave except Bobby. He was then asked how many kids he had murdered that day and when he refused to answer he was arrested for non-cooperation.



"THEN HE PUT A RUBBER BULLET INTO HIS GUN AND SLAMMED IT INTO BOBBY'S STOMACH."

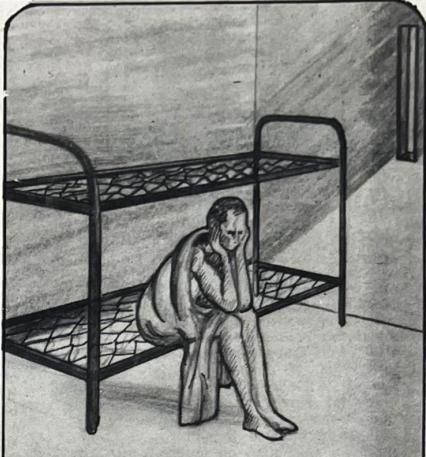
## BELFAST

When in Nth. Queen St. Barracks at no time was assault mentioned until Bobby complained that he had been hit with a baton gun. He was handed over to the Police and charged with assault.

During the time Bobby was in Nth. Queen St. the Brit Major came to the Centre to investigate what happened. An eye-witness was present at the time and pointed out the Brit concerned in the assault on Bobby. The Major seemed surprised that he still carried his baton gun and asked the Brit if he hit Bobby Lavery. The Brit denied it.

We believe that this incident and others are a direct plan of harassment against Sinn Fein.

Local people are increasingly using Sinn Fein Advice Centres, and the Brits see the Political danger of our alternative system. Their daily incursions into the Centres are attempts to both break the confidentiality of local people making complaints, etc, and to intimidate Sinn Fein members, hoping to weaken the growth of revolutionary Republicanism.



## BLANKET

## HORROR

Why am I here  
Myself I ask  
That's easy answered,  
BLANKET HORROR

Man's basic needs,  
I am refused,  
But I'll never give in,  
Even though abused.

Why am I here?  
Myself I ask,  
That's easy answered,  
Freedom was my task.

I've fought for freedom  
I will again  
For our struggle can never  
Be in vain.

Wrapped in a blanket.  
Can this be hell,  
I long for my home,  
No: this prison cell,



Members of Short Strand R.A.C. passing Mountpottinger R.U.C. station.

## SHORT STRAND RELATIVES ACTION COMMITTEE STAGE PICKET

South Fermanagh  
I.R.A. claim  
responsibility for

### ambush

An IRA active service unit in South Fermanagh claimed responsibility for a gun attack last weekend on a two-vehicle Brit mobile patrol at Ballagh Cross near Newtownbutler.

The IRA statement said: "In the ambush two British soldiers were wounded when both their landrovers came under our fire. The Brits did not return fire."

The Short Strand RAC held a picket outside St. Matthew's Community Centre today 27.9.77. Lord Melchett, the British Minister in N.Ireland concerned with social services and youth activities, was to attend a meeting at 2.00 pm. with local members of St. Matthew's committee.

The objective of the picket was to highlight the inhumane conditions the political prisoners are living under in H5. Protesters carried placards asking the question: "What about the Social amenities of 'H' Block Long Kesh, Melchett?"

The hypocrisy of Melchett, pretending to be concerned about the youth of the Short Strand is obvious to all, when he shows absolutely no concern for the youth of H-Block some of whom are in total isolation for the past 9 months and

suffering the side effects thereof. These men and women are protesting at the refusal by the B.G. to give them political prisoner of war status which is their by right and not privilege. These prisoners are combatants in a National Liberation struggle not a criminal escapade as the N.I.C. propagandists would have us believe.

A local member of the RAC in Short Strand commented, "While we have no objection and in fact welcome all improvements in youth facilities in the area. We totally abhor Melchett's wilful neglect and ignorance about the conditions inflicted by his govt. on the youth from the Short Strand in H-Block and their comrades from all over Ireland."

PRESS RELEASE  
REPUBLICAN PRISONERS OF  
WAR  
LONG KESH PRISON CAMP

This month has witnessed the first anniversary of the "blanket protest" in the H Block Long Kesh. For one year now our comrades in the Block have patiently and defiantly endured all the physical and mental hardships which a frustrated British Occupation Administration have thrown at them. Through the blatant misuse of solitary confinement and other physical and psychological pressures they have attempted to force our comrades to degrade themselves by acknowledging and accepting the classification of "criminal."

We the Republican P.O.W.'s imprisoned in the cages of Long Kesh salute our comrades courageous and gallant stand against British Imperialist oppression.



Picketers outside the St. Matthews Community Centre  
Short Strand.



## BOOK REVIEW

by JUAN SOSA

### 'A CRITIQUE OF ARMS' Penguin 1977

The publishers introduction to this book maintains that "with Che's debacle in Bolivia, the demise of Allende in Chile and the defeat of almost all the guerrilla movements across Latin America, the prospects for revolution on a continental scale, which had looked so good in the early sixties, now seem very dim indeed." It would seem that Debray, who in 1967 wrote *Revolution in the Revolution?* a classical text on guerrilla tactics based on his interpretations of the Cuban Revolution, now accepts this verdict as he has become a busy campaigner for Mitterrand, the reformist Socialist Party presidential candidate in France. Nevertheless, Debray raises important problems which must be considered by all of us who are fighting against imperialism and for a democratic socialist society.

A substantial part of this book is dedicated to a critique of the "foco" theory which maintained that small groups of armed men could actually precipitate a social revolution on their own, neglecting the mass movement and acting as a substitute for it.



According to this conception, armed revolutionary struggle ceases to be complementary to and organically linked to the rising struggle of the masses but rather excludes the self-activity of the masses. The need for a people's war is neglected as the "vanguard war" is launched in a straight confrontation between armed bodies of men. Debray maintains that he was wrong in 1967 to counterpose the launching of a guerrilla "foco", to the

building of a revolutionary party, which is really a false polemic he now maintains.

Now, if Debray's critique of his previous position are useful there are still big political weaknesses in his new book. For example he criticizes the Tupameros of Uruguay on their military tactics and other things but not on their political weak points such as their support of the collaborationist Frente Anglo in 1973 and of the so called Peruvian wing of the army around the same time. But Debray really comes unstuck when he goes on to discuss "The Testing Ground of Chile" and particularly the possibilities of defeating the military coup which occurred in September 1973. He maintains that "no informed person could seriously blame the Unidad Popular (Allende's government) for not having armed itself in time." He lays a lot of stress on the immense military capacity and advanced technology of modern armies, concluding that "it is a steamroller which nothing and nobody can stop." The whole



political situation at the time and particularly the treacherous role of the Chilean Communist Party is downplayed and the serious possibility of effective military opposition to the coup is dismissed out of hand. With this logic the IRA might as well pack up and go home if it is outgunned by the Brits! Again quoting the publishers, "A Critique of Arms" is supposed to be "a classic of revolutionary theory which, in its encyclopedic breadth and political sophistication, recalls the work of Lenin." James Connolly comes much closer to Lenin than Debray ever will, but it is still a book well worth reading for the important historical lessons it draws on the Latin American revolution which is far from dead as Penguin Books Ltd makes out. It's expensive so make your library order it!



Mothers of Prisoners on the Blanket in 'H' Block at a Press Conference in Paris.



Three of the five mothers from Belfast and Derry seen here picketing outside the British Airways offices on the Champs d'Elysees, Paris.

## IRISH MOTHERS BRING PROTEST TO FRANCE

During a two day visit to Paris five Northern Ireland mothers from Derry and Belfast succeeded in breaking the wall of silence built by the British propaganda machine around the situation of Irish Political Prisoners. On September 19th at a press conference held in Paris and attended by a dozen journalists from influential daily papers including *Le Monde* and the widely circulated Breton paper *Ouest France*, they highlighted the struggle of their own sons for political status in Magilligan and on the blankets in H Block Long Kesh. They asked for support from the French public opinion which, they claimed, had been misled by the publicity given to the peace movement in the French and International media. "What the Peace People said is British policy on

Ireland. Now you are given a chance to hear the other side of the story." "The constant harassment of working class Republican ghettoes in the North, the killings torture and imprisonment."

### DEFENCE COMMITTEE FORMED

At the press conference it was also announced the launching in France of an Irish Political Prisoners defense committee formed by members of the French comitee Irlande along with various prominent individuals concerned with human rights including solicitor W. Zwie, spokesman for the MAJ (Movement for judiciary action) who attended the Murray trial last year and Protestant Minister Dora Valayer famous in France for her work in favour of Prisoners. The programme of this committee is to pressurize the British and Irish Governments in to granting a general amnesty to all political prisoners by means of a large petition campaign and, at the end of this year, a tour of ex-prisoners to several cities in France. On September 20th this visit culminated in a blanket protest in front of British Airways offices on the well known Champs Elysees Avenue, under the eyes of dozens of astonished passers by, several press photographers and under the nose of four puzzled French special Branch Men. Now the women are already on their way to the second stop of their European tour. They will go on publicising the conditions and struggles of Irish political prisoners. We want to make H Block Long Kesh a spot on the world map that every body will know about..

# “REPRESSION AND RESISTANCE”

BY  
PETER  
DOWLING

Peter Dowling takes a look at the reasons for the recent increase in Brit brutality and the need to strengthen popular organisation within the areas.

The recent increase in Brit brutality in West Belfast and other parts of the six counties is no accident. And it is not just a question of particular Brit regiments, such as the Royal Marine Commandos, being more arrogant and vicious than others.

It is a question of what their masters require.

• A fierce Alsatian guard-dog can be kept on a tight or loose chain to enable its master to control the extent of its savagery.

In the same way, the bigot Mason and other Brit war-lords could keep their uniformed “animals” under control if they so wished. In fact they have no such wish. For the Brit “order-of-the-day” is increased repression against republicans and against resistance areas.

Brit brutality flows from their failure to achieve a “political solution” and from their increasing frustration at their inability to beat the IRA.

#### ORANGE FLAVOUR

Since the 1974 UWC stoppage brought down the Assembly the Brits have found it impossible to find an “acceptable formula” for six-county rule.

Increasingly they have been drifting down an Orange path away from “power-sharing” and away from “political solutions” involving the “official” representatives of the nationalist community.

Thus the dangers of “antagonising” the nationalist community and such “official” representatives as the SDLP, have become much less relevant to current Brit policy. Current “solutions” have an increasingly Orange flavour to them.

These developments on the political front have opened up the road to increased repression of the nationalist community.

At the same time since the erosion of the 1975 Truce not only has there been increased Republican military activity, but also street resistance by the people has been stepped up.

So the Brit war-lords see the need for even more repression. And the response of the Brit-in-the-street is increased brutality.

The steel fist of military repression is re-inforced as brutal thrusts are made to smash all resistance. The Brit “blanket of terror”, which covered Turf Lodge on the Friday after the visit of Elizabrit, was just one such thrust.

#### REPRESSIVE MEASURES

A number of measures have been brought in.

In place of internment we already have signed “confess-



ions” extracted by systematic torture.

And the “criminalisation” part of the Brit’s “Ulsterisation” policy has been stepped up. “Criminalisation” of not just captured Republican “suspects” but of popular resistance and of all methods of struggle.

This is the Brit-thinking which lies behind the closure of various “illegal” drinking clubs; and which could become even stronger, i.e. through the evictions of squatters in West Belfast.

The Brits intend to stamp their “law and order” upon us as hard as possible. They aim to limit, or to destroy, any form of grass-roots organisation where “subversion” can be fostered. To destroy the breeding

grounds of “insurgency” (and of Irish culture).

Their aim is to clamp down on all forms of Republican rule and of “hostile” local community organisations. Current harassment of the Falls’ taxis and the recent closures of shebeens are but the thin end of the wedge.

#### JACK McCARTAN

What the Brits objected to about the Jack McCarran, the murdered manager of the Andytown PD club, was what he symbolised. Not just determined republican resistance and defiance, but also republican power.

This was what lay behind the Brit black propaganda placed in the “Sunday Times” through Chris Ryder. Despite the lies, what came across clearly is how much the Brits fear the “alternative” control of the Republican Movement and the people.

For Ryder: “(McCarran) was really the symbol of the attempts by the Provisonalists to control the Catholic community of West Belfast, not by consent but by extra-democratic force.”

That is, he was a symbol of the replacement of the false “democracy” of Westminster by control by the people.

Whether the murderer was an individual Brit with vengeance in his heart, or an assassin of the SAS, the Brit war-lords were well pleased with that night’s work.

Jack McCarran—  
a defiant symbol  
of Republican  
power—murdered  
by the Brits.

**CEILLI**

Featuring Jim Lynn Ceilli Band.  
Dancing from 9.1 a.m. Taillle  
60 pence.

A memorial Ceilli will be held in Gulladuff G.A.A. Hall on Friday the 7th October 1977.

Brits attempt to create a climate of fear.

Such definite trends underline more than ever the need to strengthen popular organisations within the areas.

To suppose that increased repression will automatically breed successful resistance would be a foolish mistake.

Successful resistance will only be fostered if people can see some meaningful way of organising to protect themselves.

#### POPULAR OPPOSITION

Brit brutality can work over a long period. It has worked in many countries throughout the world during the dozens of counter-insurgency “operations” conducted by the Brits in the last thirty years. Kenya and Malaya are just two examples.

Popular opposition needs to be organised. In every area, resistance committees such as the Relatives Action Committees, Tenants Associations, and local action committees, continue to need every encouragement. If the people are left alone in their houses and flats, to suffer the Brit repression, then their resistance can be broken.

As many people realise, it is necessary to take to the streets to show the massive popular opposition to the Brits, and to express solidarity with one another.

#### COLLECTIVE RESPONSE

Collective responses through meetings, marches and all types of opposition to the Brit presence are needed to successfully compliment the armed struggle of the IRA.

Only the united strength of the people expressed through community organisation will be enough to maintain individual spirits through the struggle ahead.



We must re-inforce the “extra-democratic force” that the Brits fear so much. And thus build towards “alternative” bodies such as the Peoples Assemblies. For the republican struggle will stand or fall by the success of the organised strength built within the community.

**SUPPORT THE RESISTANCE  
STRUGGLE! BRITS OUT—  
DEMOCRACY IN!**

#### FOOLISH MISTAKE

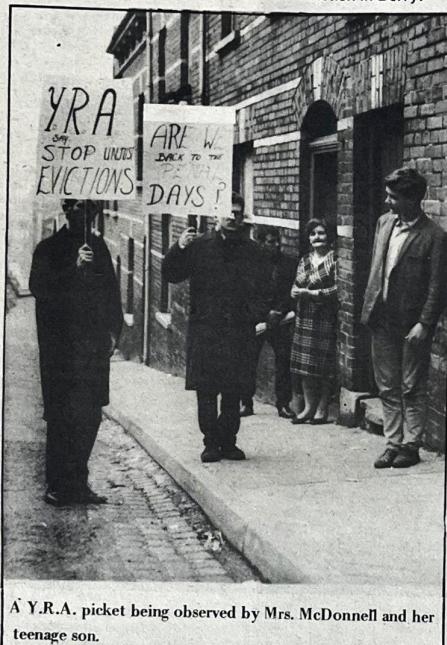
It would come as no surprise if amongst their next moves the Brits were to attempt further directly repressive measures. Possible attempts could be made to stifle republican political organisation and publicity. Further naked military repression is on the cards as the

# THE SIEGE OF HARVEY STREET

With the present campaign of evictions in the Lower Falls area of Belfast, we present an article by Scopoli dealing with an eviction which took place in Derry in 1967.

Ten years ago this month, a wave of discontent spread throughout the Bogside district which was to lead to the formation of the Derry Housing Action Committee, which in turn was to play an important role in

did not intend to leave her home like a lamb, as had been so often the case for years before. Her determined fight to maintain her home is now not merely a matter of local history, but her name will long be associated with the struggle for civil rights and equality, and the most fitting monument to her memory is that her's was the last eviction in Derry.



A Y.R.A. picket being observed by Mrs. McDonnell and her teenage son.

the history of the early civil rights struggles. The cause of this discontent was the eviction of a forty-eight year old widow, the Late Mrs. Ellen McDonnell, and her two teenage children from their home at 17 Harvey Street. Mrs. McDonnell, unlike the scores of others families who had been faced with eviction,

During the Autumn of 1966 a number of evictions had taken place, the majority being carried out by hired ' heavies' of rachmanist landlords. In September and October many people facing eviction contacted the Republican Movement and a series of public protests were organised to highlight the

plight of hundreds of families who had been on the local corporation housing list, sometimes for as long as fifteen years. The Derry Journal of October 7th, gave a report of one such meeting; 'At an open-air meeting sponsored by the Derry branch of the Young Republican Association on Wednesday night, protests were made against the eviction of a young married couple and their two children from a corporation owned house at Creggan last week. Mr. Paddy Kirk said that eviction laws still operated in Ireland. In Derry Rachmanism was rife, with landlords who charged £4.10 shillings a week for one furnished room. More evictions were pending and it was time something was done about it. Mr. Jim O'Doherty said . their representatives in the Guildhall "would be better attending to the interests of the people on issues like this than attending functions behind closed doors at which toasts to the Queen were drunk." A petition protesting against evictions being carried out where the evicted family had no alternative accommodation was passed among the attendance for signature."

## CAMPAIGN AGAINST EVICTIONS

For months the Young Republicans spearheaded a campaign in the city against evictions, and on a few occasions where families were threatened with physical abuse by 'heavies' the local Command of Oglach na h-Eireann were requested to assist by making their services available to protect these unfortunate families. The very mention of the Irish Republican Army was usually enough to protect the families from the hired

thugs of the Rachmanists, but those who did not take the army seriously enough later found such to their cost.

Usually the local Rachmanists bullied their tenants *on-to* the street, without even so much as a court order to make it all 'legal'. Many working-class families, because of the high costs involved in legal wrangles, were reluctant to seek the aid of solicitors and the courts. Often there were as many as nine families in one large house, and these were evicted sometimes for the sole profit motive of the owner who had come across a more desperate family that was able to pay a higher rent. The local council, dominated by Orange Tory capitalists, closed a blind eye to these goings on; mainly because like some of their 'nationalist' counter-parts they had money tied up in such properties, usually hiding behind middle men. On the misery of the homeless they grew fat, and were obviously highly annoyed at the 'interference' of the Y.R.A. and Oglach na h-Eireann which some had the audacity to describe as "nothing to do with republicanism". This was the social background to the events which were to lead up to the siege of Harvey Street.

## RESISTANCE

Many working class families began to become more militant in the knowledge that the local republicans would assist them in resisting unjust evictions. During November 1966 the widow at 17 Harvey Street received an eviction order. Seeking the aid of the Y.R.A. was her first action, after the local clergy, councillors, and others showed her total indifference. The threat



The late Mrs. McDonnell, making her way unaided to the ambulance after neighbours witnessed her taking a heart attack.

was discussed by all branches of the movement; and a decision was arrived at that the family, who had lived there for many years, would be defended by every means possible. A twenty-four hour picket was placed on the house, and placard carrying youths paraded the street to highlight the family's plight. Neighbours provided tea and sandwiches to the picketers, and hundreds of leaflets were distributed. Towards Christmas, due to mounting public pressure a stay of execution was obtained from the courts. A lull in the struggle came which was to last some months.

# UNITED WE STAND

SIDELINES ON THE MOTORWAY PROBLEM.

## MOBILIZE SUPPORT

Anti motorway people in Belfast are doing everything in their power to mobilize support to protect areas like Hamill St. In the highly likely event of the M1-M2 link-up being pushed through Hamill St. will be demolished.

For more than thirty years, from the first plans for a ring road were put forward, dozens of different groups and individuals have shown their opposition to the concept of massive roads being forced through built-up working class areas and thereby tearing the hearts out of

these well established communities.

## UNITED WE STAND

The individuals and groups mentioned had varying degrees of success but none were nearly as successful as the motorway action group who are at this

Mrs. Heaney and family evicted from their Hamill St. home on Thursday last by the Housing Executive R.U.C. and the British Army.



# VEY STREET



## BY SCOPOLI

The Belfast Telegraph of July 11th, 1967 reported, "Crowds gathered in Harvey Street, Derry this afternoon as Young Republicans moved barricades into the house of widow Mrs Ellen McDonnell who with her family faces an eviction threat. Inside six Young Republicans played records and prepared for 'three months siege if necessary'".

Mrs McDonnell said, "I would leave without any trouble if I thought I was wrong. I have been on the Housing Trust list for 19 years," she added. "About 40 of us will maintain a vigil in shifts," said a Y.R.A. spokesman. "Last night we began barricading. We don't know when the bailiffs will come. I suppose it will be after they are finished with the other eviction in the Bogside."

from the house, as a hearing was to take place in a Belfast court the following morning. Their legal advisors informed them that there was high hopes for success as the local council was duty bound to provide alternative accommodation under Statute law. The case was to be heard in the morning, but the local council, police chiefs, and bailiffs had other ideas. The house was deserted but for the family on that morning, when a special branchman, posing as an inspector from the Electricity Department was admitted to the house, supposedly to read the meter. Once he established that no republicans were in the dwelling, the street was invaded by police cars, and bailiffs began to break down the front door, while the rest of the family were still in bed. On hearing the rattle of axes and crowbars, the family began to reinforce the barricades and effectively blocked off the stairs, while the agents of the state, some forty in all, gradually gained entry.

The Irish News of August 3rd 1967 under the heading "Captain Boycott Tactics in Eviction of Derry widow," stated "The Republican Labour Party in Belfast lashed out last night at the Captain Boycott tactics of yesterday's eviction in Derry of 48 year-old widow, Mrs. Ellen McDonnell and her 13 year old son. Mrs. McDonnell threw cups, plates and cutlery at police and bailiffs when the eviction from her home began.



R.U.C. frog-marching evicted widow's son to Victoria Barrick after the family is evicted from their Harvey Street home.

Prior to, and following the eviction, many messages of support were received, and many appeared in the local press, one from an exiled son....

The Editor,  
Derry Journal.

Sir,  
May I, through your newspaper, thank the Young Republican Party for having looked after my mother's and family's interests in the recent months. In view of the recent eviction, my family and I are deeply indebted for gallant and spirited action in their hour of need.  
Hugh J. McDonnell.  
Bath.

moment attempting to draw up a fourth strategy to put to the inquiry "Transportation for Belfast". The motorway action group have consulted a fair cross section of the people who are to be affected by any plans concerning transportation for Belfast. The reason for their success is the fact that the motorway action group themselves represent a fair cross section of opinion from the areas that really matter; namely areas like Hamill St., Shankill, Divis Flats, Markets, Ormeau and

North Queen St. etc. They are people standing together with a common objective: that is to end the motorway madness planned for Belfast. They are Belfast people who want the people of Belfast to have a say in any plans made for their town.

### ALMOST UNBELIEVABLE INCIDENT

Within the past week an almost unbelievable incident occurred in Hamill Street. The people of Hamill St. the same people who, and let them make

no mistake about it, will need the assistance of all affected areas of Belfast to save their homes from being demolished, stood by and allowed a family with three small children under four years of age to be evicted.

### RUC AND HOUSING EXECUTIVE

The eviction was carried out by Housing Executive Bailiffs assisted by the RUC. The man of this particular household was not at home at the time which makes it seem even more despicable. With no

of the Young Republican Association arrived, and one of them spoke to the crowd from a downstairs window. He said, "Fellow citizens, today we have witnessed an eviction which could not have taken place across the water. This is owing to the laws which are in force in this area, laws which have been kept by the Housing Trust and the authorities." After attacking the police for their ill-treatment of Billy McDonnell, he called on the people to lodge a protest at Victoria Barracks and was later held there, together with another man who had entered to lodge the complaint.

Within weeks of the Harvey Street eviction, homeless families began to organise. Immediately on arrival at Hospital Mrs. McDonnell was told by doctors that they would only release her when the local authorities provided her and her family with suitable accommodation. Within a matter of days the family was re-united, and with the help of local republicans set up home again in Aran Court in the Creggan Estate.

### NEXT WEEK THE HOMELESS ORGANISE

from their homes.

### TREATED THE SAME

The family evicted were squatting and if this was the reason that people refused to go to their aid then they were wrong. If the powers that be decide to push ahead with the M1/M2 linkup and go to the courts for eviction orders the now legal tenants of Hamill St. will have the same status as squatters and will be treated in the same despicable fashion by the RUC and bailiffs as were the family evicted last week.

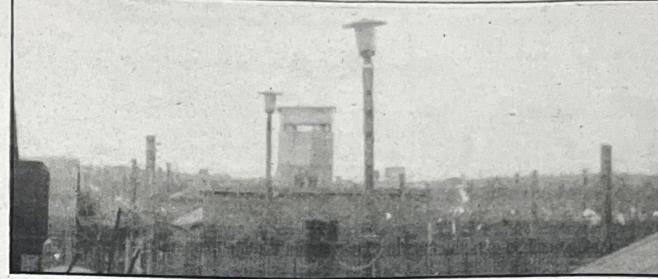
Recent months have seen an intensification of the war on both the military and propaganda fronts in a last gasp effort by the British to defeat the IRA. On the military front there has been a drastic increase in British Army harassment of Republican areas and of the Nationalist population itself. This has included more house searches, illegal collection of data by soldiers, more arrests for screening, more brutality on the streets, widespread torture of suspects by the RUC and indiscriminate chargings of innocent people with IRA type offences and their subsequent remand to prison. This increased military and RUC activity seems to be sanctioned at a high level. This would explain why all complaints to high authority about Brit and RUC brutality are without fail, denied and dismissed as propaganda, no matter how convincing the proof may be.

It now seems that the British are going all out to defeat the IRA and that they both are using every means in their attempts to do so. They are determined to put activists in prison, and so they have sanctioned torture to obtain forced-confessions which will be used as the sole evidence in non-jury courts to convict activists and supporters and render them eligible for heavy sentences. This is simply a well disguised form of internment. Innocents are caught up in this drag-net, but the Brits are prepared to tolerate this, believing that when this happens it will cause fear among the ordinary nationalist people who will realise that they are as likely to be arrested and charged with IRA operations, as the volunteers who carry them out. This fear will cause people to turn against the IRA and inform on them, or so the Brits think. Besides this, the additional amount of charges will serve to augment Mr. Mason's weekly security report where he quotes facts and figures including the numbers charged with "terrorist type offences".

The propaganda offensive runs parallel to and depends for its effectiveness on the military offensive. It is simply a war of words and has been recognised by Mr. Mason as being as important as the military war. He now conducts a weekly security report to the press in which he spews forth a well rehearsed succession of distorted facts, figures and semi-truths. He uses only those facts and figures which serve his point most effectively and he ignores other important details. For example in the security report for the week ending on Monday 5th, September, 1977, Mason claimed that there was "a continuing downward trend in the level of violence". He supported this theory by claiming that the number of shooting and bombing incidents for August 1977 showed a considerable decrease on the figure for August 1976. This one claim highlights clearly the propaganda purpose behind these weekly security reviews.

What Mason said was strictly true. However, he neglected to say that for the decrease in shooting incidents during this August as compared to last August there was an increase in Brit and RUC casualties of several hundred percent as a result of them. In August this year four British soldiers were shot dead and nine others including a major, were seriously wounded. As regards bombing being down on last year—this also is strictly true, but misleading. The amount of actual bombing has shown a decrease, but incendiary attacks, which are classified as arson, have increased and are now costing the British more than the bombing campaign could ever hope to. In other words, for the expenditure of less bullets and explosives, the Revolutionary IRA are hitting harder where it counts, in Brit lives and in cash. Statistics show that if present trends continue then the year 1977 will have the highest state force casualty rate for several years. Therefore, Mr. Mason's propaganda to the effect that the IRA is being defeated is absolute rubbish, and should be treated as such.

Mr. Mason delivers deliberate boosts to his propaganda offensive from time to time. For example, the recent Queen's visit to the province was an obvious propaganda ploy. Despite the fact that the Queen only made two brief excursions from the royal yacht, and then only to quiet and remote places where she met carefully screened people, Mason claimed the visit as a major propaganda victory.



# LETTER FROM MAGILLIGAN



Another obvious ploy was the recent British propaganda promise of £1,000 million to the North of Ireland. This promise was simply aimed at winning over people and fooling them into believing that being part is worthwhile. However, since that announcement a prominent economist has stated that it is not as good as it seems, and that in fact, more than half of the money will never be granted as the necessary conditions attached, will never be fulfilled. The setting up of the new police complaints tribunal is also a propaganda ploy. Here we have Mason providing a tribunal to investigate police misconduct, but in fact it will have its hands tied. However, its very existence will help Mason considerably, when he is denying allegations of torture against the R.U.C. in dismissing them as lies, he will point to this tribunal which he will say, has found no evidence of torture.

Censorship of the media has also been invoked by Mason as another weapon in his propaganda offensive. He is a staunch believer that publicity helps the IRA and therefore should be stopped. Evidence of this was witnessed recently when an ITV programme dealing with the Queen's visit was banned. This ban was later lifted but part of the programme's sound was censored and blacked out.

There are several reasons for the intensification in both the military and propaganda wars by the British. Firstly, they want to create the impression that the IRA is being defeated among the people back in England, who are getting increasingly annoyed at what seems to them as an unending war in this country. They will not tolerate any further prolongation of this war. In the North of Ireland the British want to convince both the Loyalist and Republican peoples that the IRA is being defeated. The Loyalists are constantly criticising British security policy, but they will be satisfied when they see 'Catholics' being arrested, charged and imprisoned. This is what Mr. Mason is now giving them. By creating the impression among the nationalist population that the IRA is being defeated, the British hope that people will become war-weary and will decide to give up the struggle and thus avoid further agony and misery at the hands of the British Army after every IRA operation. The idea is to punish the local population so that they will become fed-up with the IRA.

The signs are that the present harassment of the nationalist population plus the torture and murder of members of that population will continue for some years yet, as the British try desperately to defeat the IRA. The British hope that in a few years they will have succeeded in reducing violence "to an acceptable level" and by that time the population will have become so war-weary that they will accept anything the Brits offer, just to get peace. From all appearances the Brits would offer a revival of the old Stormont system and all this would entail. The Brits have already given up any plans they might have had to set up a power-sharing government in this country.

Two Loyalist strikes were sufficient to convince them that to pursue this course any further would cause them a lot more trouble than they have now. They have therefore given the SDLP the long awaited brush-off and even Fitt, Hume, etc, now realise that the only solution to the Irish problem lies in a united Ireland.

The nationalist population in my opinion have now got two choices. The first is to call it a day, surrender completely and let everything sink back to a pre-68 state with the B-men, sectarianism etc. Anyone who is under false illusions that things might perhaps be different should consider some recent events at local government level. The local councils could be described as being representative of ordinary grassroots opinions on both sides because the local councillors are taken from the ordinary people. Recently it was proved that Cookstown local council, which is predominantly Loyalist, had been guilty of discrimination in their appointments to local posts in recent times. Ballymena local council, which is also predominantly Loyalist, showed their bigotry recently by refusing to help the local GAA Club.

There is no reason to suppose that any other areas in this province would react any different from Ballymena and Cookstown. Therefore, a revived Stormont regime would be no different from the previous one. The leopard never changes its spots.

The second choice which the minority has is to go forward, to continue the struggle against the Brits and to fight until we have achieved our goal. This is the only solution to the Irish question which offers freedom, peace and equality to all. To achieve this the people must resist the ever-present British oppression and they must show the foreigner that his imposed solutions will never be accepted no matter how much violence he may use in his attempts to make it acceptable. Too much has already been sacrificed. Too many have already died. This fight will not be left to our children but will be continued until victory Brits out.

P.R.O Republican Prisoners.

Magilligan POW Camp.

“THE  
REVOLUTIONARY  
I.R.A. ARE HITTING  
HARDER WHERE IT  
COUNTS, IN BRIT  
LIVES  
AND IN CASH”



A few weeks ago a letter from an Irish American appeared in one of the local papers. Initially, it dealt with the visit of one of the so-called 'Peace People' to the American city of Detroit and it disclosed how poorly supported that visit had been despite the 'Peace' people's claims to the contrary. However, more importantly the gentleman concerned asked a number of very pertinent questions dealing with the War of Liberation presently being waged in the 6 occupied countries.

On close examination when condensed these questions could basically all be incorporated in the one question i.e. is the Irish Republican Army the cause or effect of the present conflict? In other words is the Republican Army the instigator of the war or is it a symptom of the political instability of the present partitioned island?

We in Long Kesh appreciate only too well how complicated and involved the situation here is and with our many contacts with individuals in England, Europe, the U.S. etc we understand how confused people outside Ireland can become over the war in Ireland. Unfortunately it is not only in other countries where we find uncertainty, confusion, and bewilderment about the "troubles".

Thanks to their very skilful manipulation of the media the British have ensured the continuing ignorance of many Irish people. This astonishing fact can be readily grasped if one examines the letter columns of our local papers. Here also, as with our Irish American correspondent, numerous questions appear dealing with the motivation of those involved in the conflict, in particular the Republican Movement. As with our Irish American friend these questions can in general all be summarised as; is the Irish Republican Army the cause or effect of the conflict?

#### TEMPORARY SOLUTION

The first thing to remember about the situation here when trying to answer that very important query is that the division of Ireland by the British took place against the wishes of the majority of the Irish people and even those "Republicans" who supported it as part of the settlement with the Brits in 1921 believed that it would only be temporary, no more than 3 or 4 years. It was intended by them to be no more than a breathing space in which to firmly establish themselves; unfortunately, the British never had any intention of giving up their control of the 6 county area with its profitable businesses and fixed it so that the Boundary Commission gave a report acceptable to their side.

When the "Northern Ireland" state was therefore established it was blatantly sectarian in nature, had an inbuilt permanent Protestant majority and was controlled by the Unionist ascendancy class. For the next 50 years they had total control over their internal affairs and went about ensuring their privileged position. This they did by gerrymandering local election boundaries so that even in areas like Derry where Nationalists were in the majority there were more Unionists represented elected. Widespread discrimination took place in the building and allocation of housing and in the distribution of employment. One example of this discrimination in practice can be seen in a table for the provision of advanced factories (these are built by the Stormont regime and leased to foreign



## weekly commentary from behind the wire

or local industries at very low nominal prices.

### AREAS OF ADVANCE FACTORY SPACE BUILT BY THE STORMONT REGIME 1945-65:

AREA	POPULATION	ADVANCE FACTORY SPACE (sq. feet)
DERRY	53,762	455,580
LARNE	16,350	777,700
BALLYMENA	14,734	550,000
LURGAN	17,700	541,000

Derry which in all the above cases has at least three times the population in no instance has the greatest advance factory space available.

In an article written 10 years ago and recently published in a local paper, Mary Holland described why the riots of 10 years ago were taking place:

"The voting figures for Londonderry—a quarter of the electorate is disenfranchised in local elections—is about par for Northern Ireland. The Official Government handbooks shows that 933,724 people are entitled to vote in parliamentary elections for Westminster and 694,483 for local elections. For parliamentary elections as in the rest of Britain anyone over 21 can vote but in Northern Ireland there is property qualification for local elections. To get a vote you must be a resident occupier; that is the person who actually pays the rent or owns the house or a resident occupier's wife.

"There is also the company vote by which a limited company with a valuation of more than £25 has up to 6 votes in a local election. The disenfranchised include everyone living in tenancies which do not conform to stringent conditions laid down for a "separate dwelling unit" that is everyone over 21 living in lodgings or with their families. I met one young M.P. in the Ulster Parliament at Stormont who has never yet voted in a local election because he has lived in his parents home.

"This means that houses in Northern Ireland are a crucial political weapon: Discrimination in housing in Ulster is commonplace. It exists because the houses

in any area are allocated not on a point system by a housing committee as in England but to people who will vote the right way... The point was putment policy. Unemployment increases emigration Alderman in Enniskillen, Co. Fermanagh: 'We are' of the Catholic vote. And not going to build houses in the South Ward and cut a rod to beat ourselves with later on. We are going to see that the right people

in Londonderry is unemployed; in Catholic Strabane the figure is closer to one male in three. This is deliberate government policy. Unemployment increases emigration and everywhere there is the same conclusion summed up by a moderate and middle aged lawyer: 'I give this country 5 years.



are put into these houses and we are not going to make any apology for it!...

The real problem in Northern Ireland has to do with people who have control of the jobs, houses and power in a locality being frightened by the increasingly insistent demands of the have-nots. The population is just on 1,500,000 and the 1961 census showed that Roman Catholics were 34.9% of the population. Yet the Unionist Party controls 57 out of 68 local authorities even many where there is a Catholic majority... 20% of the male popu-

The Unionists fears of the early Civil Rights Movement led them to employ the R.U.C. and the B specials to prevent protest marches and demonstrations.

If something is not done in that time there will be violence."

Those short extracts from Mary Holland's article of 10 years ago give one a first hand account by an outsider of the effects of Stormont rule.

Conditions such as described above laid to the formation of the civil rights movement in 1968. For the 2 years or so that movement campaigned for

such things as "one man one vote"; fair political representation; no discrimination in jobs and the allocation of houses etc.

The Unionists feared this movement as they realised that it could undermine their absolute supremacy. They therefore employed the RUC and the B Specials to prevent protest marches and demonstrations. In the end open force was used and people whose only crime was to demand their basic human rights were murdered.

This in particular is something which many people now seem to forget. The IRA is blamed for starting the killing and for being sectarian and yet the first people to die were Catholics killed by the "security forces". Fr. Raymond Murray in a recent letter to the press in which he bitterly attacked the judicial system said "The first man to die in the present 'troubles' was John Gallagher, one of my own parishioners. The report of the Scarman Tribunal found that his killing by the Ulster Special Constabulary was totally unjustified. Yet no one has been charged with the killing. From that fateful night on the night of 14th August 1969 the rot set in. Many reckless and deliberate killings of innocent civilians by security forces have followed, no one has been jailed for them."

When the fighting broke out in August 1969 the IRA was almost non-existent thanks in the main to the pro Moscow/Stalinist line which Cathal Goulding and others were following which called for reformist politics. As a consequence of this unpreparedness and the reformist line being adopted a division occurred which resulted in the rejuvenation of the Republican Movement. This rejuvenation or rebirth occurred because of the repression, the beatings, killings, discrimination etc which was taking place. People began to realise that reformist politics whether it was the Nationalist Party type, Repub-

lican Clubs type or SDLP type could not succeed in solving the basic problem of partition. For that reason the working class people of the Republican ghetto areas have for 8 years now supported the struggle of the IRA to liberate our country from Britain.

In answer therefore to the original question; is the IRA the cause or effect of the conflict? We trust that this short article will have helped convince you that the IRA is not responsible for the war but that it is in fact the social, economic and political system which is to blame and which must now be destroyed if peace, justice and prosperity are to be ever established in Ireland.

# THE BRIGADIER'S BAD APPLE COLUMN

## the Brigadier

Evenin' all,

It's been a busy week for me. First of all the GOC called me in for a talk about some of my boys. He was in a terrible state and wanted to know why. I didn't get the Castledawson scandal, as he called it, hushed up. Why should I? I had to tell him off a bit I'm afraid. He's worried because it's going to come out that a large section of the Castledawson UDR are being charged with robberies, raiding Magherafelt UDR centre for gear two years ago and murdering old Sam Miller whose body has just been found tied to a concrete post in a flooded quarry. So what, that's what I say. Just because some of our members like Thomas Yearl (21) of Millburn, Craigadick, Maghera, Billy McClenaghan (20) of Bridge View house, Ballinahone and his brother Gordon, whose just been hauled back from Birmingham on a murder rap, are all implicated doesn't mean we should panic. All the dirt will come out soon but that won't do us in the UDR any harm at all. Remember after the odd atrocity like the Miami Showband massacre recruitment to the UDR rose. I'm proud of our lads in the Knockloughrim—Maghera—Castledawson area and will report on their criminal activities soon.

Meanwhile commiserations for UDR member Ivan Pitts, McMaster Crescent, also from Castledawson. He's just been fined £35

for drunkenly firing his Walther and then telling the police he'd been attacked by 'terrorists'. They didn't buy it, I'm afraid, since they know that the biggest terrorists in the area are the UDR themselves. Still, we'll be sorry to lose Ivan. The boys in Khaki have been getting a few mentions in the courts recently too. There was Alan Stanley Mason (21) stationed at Lisanelly Camp who got a six month suspended sentence and £50 fine for assault—it happened that the brave Alan's victim was a 15 month baby. And the Black Watch is keeping up its record too. Privates Raymond Brown (19) and Andrew Honeyman Beattie (21) both stationed at Ballykinlar have been charged with attempted rape and assault. While in Lurgan four lads from the 36 Heavy Air Defence Regiment, Royal Artillery, Graeme Horwood, Robin Firman, Stephen Dawson, and Frederick Lattimer have all been accused of looting the Brownlow Arms Hotel of over £200 worth of cigarettes and drink. Chicken feed boys, wait until you see the sums involved when the Grand Central gang—or a few of them—are charged soon over looting Royal Avenue. Sad news from England too. No sooner had I got over the shock of learning that one of our boys in blue Constable David Rayner (34) had been convicted of using Cheshire

police HQ telephone to make a long series of obscene phone calls than I read that one of our strongest supporters and law and order stalwart has been convicted of nicking books from the Army and Navy stores. This is William Montgomery, Tory MP for Altrincham and Sale. William, a former parliamentary secretary to Margaret Thatcher, was fined £60 with £70 costs after being caught red handed. He claimed he was under the influence of drugs at the time—not what I'd call much of an excuse Willy!

Rather letting the side down—worst of all, one of the books he was stealing was 'Mr Speaker, Sir' by the abominable Selwyn Lloyd. I notice that Mrs. Thatcher didn't give him a reference, let's hope Alrey Neave doesn't get caught with his hand in the till or she'll ditch him too.

Bye for now, I have to go and fiddle my mess bill. I'll just put it down to drinks for Chris Ryder.

P.S.

Congratulations to Norman Earle on only getting 2 years for killing his father-in-law outside the Taughmonagh UDA club. But why did the papers describe him as a 'security officer' when he was the UDA Commander for South Belfast at the time?



# GERMAN SOLIDARITY

We condemn the brutal treatment of captured Irish Freedom Fighters by the occupational forces in Northern Ireland, as well as by the authorities in Britain.

Prisoner of War Kieran Nugent is now over 1 year in naked solitary confinement, refusing to wear prison clothes and demanding, along with 180 comrades also in naked solitary confinement; the rights of prisoners of war, which include wearing their own clothes.

In Britain Shane O'Doherty is in naked solitary confinement with the same demand.

These measures of the British government against

imprisoned members of the Irish Liberation Movement is in accordance to the fascist annihilation project of the Federal Republic of Germany's government, against imprisoned anti-imperialist fighters in the FRG.

We demand the immediate fulfilment of the prisoners demands:—Prisoner of War Status. Comrades from Hamburg.

(The above letter was sent to British Embassy in Bonn, Roy Mason and Callaghan, British Prime Minister).

## BRITISH EMBASSY IN BERNE PICKETED

On 14th September more than 20 anti-imperialists and socialists showed their solidarity with Kieran Nugent, who has been on the blanket for one year, and his comrades in H-Block, Long Kesh by picketing the British Embassy in Berne, Switzerland. Before the picket started, the participants, some of them in blankets, marched to the city centre where a leaflet was handed out to passers-by, which explained the situation of the 180 men on the blanket and the political context of their refusal to wear prison garb, e.g. the attempt of the British Government to criminalise the freedom fighters in order to weaken the liberation movement. The pickets carried placards with the following slogans: "British troops out of Ireland", "One year of struggle against the criminalisation of the liberation movement", "Against the abolition of Political Status for Irish prisoners", "Northern Ireland: The real terrorists are in Westminster", "Solidarity with the fighting prisoners" etc. As soon as the picket started on the grounds of the British Embassy, the embassy staff called for the police as they feared an attack on the embassy. But despite the presence of some police officers who tried to harass the people on the picket-line, the picket continued for over an hour. The following note for the British Government was refused by embassy staff: "We protest against the inhuman treatment of the imprisoned resistance fighters and against the attempt to criminalise the Irish liberation movement by abolishing Political Status for the prisoners. We demand: Immediate withdrawal of British troops from Ireland, the release of all prisoners, self-determination for the Irish People.

IRLANDKOMITTE



## BELFAST SINK FEIN CALL ON VATICAN TO REFUTE THEIR ALLEGED SUPPORT FOR BRITISH RULE IN IRELAND

Belfast Sinn Fein views with concern the alleged statement of the Pope yesterday that he 'Expressed admiration for what he termed Britain's temperate and well balanced policy of conciliation in Northern Ireland.'

Belfast Sinn Fein are well aware that this piece of news was released through British sources and is an attempt by the British to hide their move back to an Orange state in the six occupied Counties, and at the same time to convince the Catholic population of

Ireland that the Vatican supports British rule in Ireland. Belfast Sinn Fein calls on the Vatican to refute the British premier's claim that the Vatican supports British rule in Ireland. For British rule in Ireland is non-jury rule, brutality in prisons, torture of political suspects and a political system that is only held together by the repressive methods of a Government whose only policy is to build bigger and better jails for its ever increasing number of political prisoners.

## BRIGADE STATEMENT

We have been asked to release the following supplied statement from the Belfast Brigade, Irish Republican Army.

"Belfast Brigade have discovered that the housing executive intends using the RUC and Bailiffs to implement 16 eviction orders against families in Republican West Belfast. "We will hold a number of senior officials in the hous-

ing Executive directly responsible for this double-edged repressive policy, which causes undue suffering and invites the RUC into the Ghettos to implement a British court order.

Belfast Brigade."

## NOTES FROM QUEENS UNIVERSITY



The Student Movement in Ireland has never been over enthusiastic in its support for the struggle for National Liberation in its own country (maybe because it is Stick-ridden) but always ready to telegram congratulations to successful freedom fighters in Angola and Vietnam. Such is their warped sense of loyalty to anti-imperialists!

But recently, at Queen's in particular, the student leadership has been expressing great satisfaction that the 'troubles' are over for good and every one can get back to 'as it was.'

In an interview with a well known musical newspaper, Student Social Secretary at Queen's University Eamonn McCann was stated as

having said: "The troubles are 99.9 per cent over." Other Queen's representatives have reportedly stated that British investment in the occupied six counties has cut unemployment, and this has been responsible for whatever drop there has been in violence; others that the IRA have now become a kind of Irish mafia who maintain just a sufficient level of intimidation to oil their protection rackets! (smells of Thiepval Barracks).

A report against punk rock which appeared in a communist newspaper was attributed to the Republican Movement by one student leader who described it as "some or the crap the Republican Movement over here are putting out." This distortion of basic

facts can only serve to play into the hands of the forces of occupation and prove harmful to the standing which the Republican Movement has among students here and in Britain.

With many student members now languishing in British hell-holes, the leadership in colleges throughout the land has chosen to ignore their plight and merely give comfort by their remarks to those who lock them there.

And may we as students remind our unions that as long as there remains a British presence on Irish soil, there shall never be a day of proper peace in Ireland. NI SIOCHAIN GO SAOIRSE.

## NEWS FROM ENGLAND

SEAN O'CONAILL

Sean O'Conaill, who is an Irish political prisoner serving a life sentence for the shooting of a British Army officer in Otterburn army camp on 18th April 1974, is now seriously ill in Parkhurst prison hospital on the Isle of Wight. It is believed O'Conaill had been ill for some time, but in early August, just twenty minutes before his sister arrived from Ireland to visit him, he was suddenly moved from Gartree to Albany. On arrival there his health gave fellow prisoners great cause for concern but friends who inquired were told that he was well. However, a week or so later he was moved down the road to Parkhurst prison hospital. His solicitor was told on Monday 19th September that he was not seriously ill. The following day he was told that his condition was very grave and he confirmed this when he visited him on 21st

September. Application has been made for Sean to be taken out of prison in view of his condition. To date, two weeks after this application, the Home Office and Merlyn Rees whose special responsibility this is, have been unable to decide. They did not have the same difficulty in deciding that middle class swindlers like Savundra and Poulsen should be released from prison due to ill health.

### SOCIAL SERVICES

The civil servants are not content with torturing Sean on this issue; they have also decided to torture his family. His wife and three children live in Newcastle which is a whole day's journey from the Isle of Wight. The Social Services in Newcastle have decided that the family can travel down to see Sean and return in one day and have refused to pay for more than one overnight stay. His family would therefore

only be able to see Sean for a matter of an hour or so if it were left to the faceless nonentities who have the say as to whether working-class people are allowed to maintain family links. We have also discovered that Sean's wife thought he was still in Wakefield prison from where he was moved over 10 months ago. Her letters to him were not forwarded by the prison authorities and Sean had assumed that she no longer wished to communicate with him. This kind of calculated sadism is what we have come to expect from the British Home Office and its fascist lackeys in the prisons. Sean's request to see Jacqueline Kaye of the PAC has been refused by the Home Office.

### RELEASE

The PAC is demanding that Sean O'Conaill be released immediately in view of the gravity of his condition and it is a



## 2nd BATT., BELFAST BRIGADE ACT AGAINST CRIMINALS



### Youth from Clonard area punished

demand supported by all his fellow prisoners who have known Sean in Hull, Wakefield, Gartree and Albany over the last three years and who have told the PAC of the tremendous solidarity and courage which Sean has displayed throughout the time he has spent in the jails of British Imperialism.

Prisoners Aid Committee, C/o 182 Upper St. London N.I.

### Editor's Note:

In a report in last Tuesday's 'Irish Times' it was announced that Sean O'Conaill is to be moved to a civilian's hospital.

We have been asked to issue the following supplied statement to our office:

"Second Battalion Irish Republican Army, Belfast Brigade, last night (29.9.77) carried out another severe punishment on a youth from the Clonard area, who had been engaged in criminal activity. The last two weeks has seen an escalation in our campaign to smash and destroy the 'criminal' element in Nationalist Ghettos. Like the British War Machine they are the enemies of the people.

However, if they cease their activities they can easily be assimilated back into the community."

# 'GREEN CROSS '73'

"Green Cross '73" is a charitable organisation set up to help alleviate the hardships caused to the relatives of political prisoners in the occupied six counties. Each week these families receive a small amount of money. With even more political prisoners than at the height of internment a figure of £4000.00 is paid out weekly. This figure is met only through the generous donations of individuals, clubs and a wide range of voluntary and charitable groups. It is worth noting that for all donations received an official receipt is given, indeed at the end of its financial year Green Cross issues a yearly report giving details of monies received and spent and this is published in the local press.

# HE SOUGHT NO PERMIT TO HONOUR IRELAND'S DEAD

Noel McCarthy sought no permit from the Free State police to honour Ireland's dead last Easter when he sold Easter Lilies in the streets of Cork City. So on the morning of Saturday the 24th September he was arrested and taken to Limerick Prison to serve a sentence of one month.

Noel who is Chairman of Cumann Brian O'Sullivan, Sinn Fein, Cork comes from a staunch Republican Family whose connections with the Republican Movement date back to the 1920's. He believes that since Ireland's dead sought no permits to fight for Freedom he should seek none to honour their memory. Noel is no strang-

er to Limerick prison; for the last seven years he has served a period through every year either for selling Easter Lilies or for selling An Phoblacht and Republican News. In 1974 having spent three months on remand in Portlaoise prison on a charge which even the Special Criminal Court could not find him guilty, the day after his release he was re-arrested and sent to Limerick Prison for selling An Phoblacht some months before. In November 1976 on the day of his release from Limerick Prison having served a sentence for selling Easter Lilies and An Phoblacht he was back on the streets of Cork once more selling papers after he had arrived home.

# PROTESTS IN DUBLIN

Members of the Relatives Action Committee participated in protests in defense of the Political Prisoners in Dublin last week-end. On Saturday 24th women relatives wrapped only in a blanket took part in a march organised by Sinn Fein. This was to highlight the conditions of the prisoners, who are fighting to defend Political Status in H-Block Long Kesh, C Wing Armagh Jail, and B Wing Crumlin Road Jail.

At the rally at the G.P.O. two members of the RAC addressed the meeting. The speaker on behalf of the Central Relatives Action Committee stressed that the campaign by the RAC was to establish that a War of National Liberation was being waged in Ireland, and therefore that our prisoners have the right to the protection and rights given to all prisoners of War. The speaker gave details of the harassment that the POWs have been subjected to. Solitary

convention. Mrs Holden a member of the Turf Lodge RAC who has a son in 'H' Block said that she rejected completely British propaganda about her son and all the political prisoners. Her son was no criminal, he fought for the ideal of a 32 county Republic. The very fact that all the political prisoners have had to withstand a vicious campaign of Brutality, and still they refused to bow to British pressure shows that they are political idealists. On Sunday members of the RAC picketed the all Ireland Final at Croke Park; leaflets were given out explaining the position of the RAC and appealing for support for the Political Status Campaign. P.R.O. Central Relatives Action Comm.tee.

## Birthday greetings

SEAMUS DELANEY  
Remand A Wing.  
616  
Birthday 2nd October

From Mother and Father  
and Brothers.  
Friends from Ballymurphy  
"Chin up"

## In Memoriam

# CHECKPOINT

A notice of motion by Mr F. Browne at Monday's meeting of Louth County Council "demanding the removal of the British Government-inspired checkpoint on the Omeath Newry Road" was passed without much discussion.

local people as residents were leaving the area to take up employment and residence in other areas because of the checkpoint. Mr.T. Elmore seconded and said that the Omeath meeting had agreed to give their own Minister an opportunity to pursue the matter.

QUIGLEY  
5th Anniversary. In proud  
and loving memory of  
Vol. Jimmy Quigley 2nd  
Batt. Belfast Brigade  
Óglaigh na HÉireann.  
Murdered by British  
troops on the 29th Sept.  
1972. Mary Queen of the  
Gael pray for him. Always  
remembered by the  
Seamus Burns—Charlie  
Hughes Sinn Fein Cumann  
and the Committee and  
members of the Lower Falls  
Martyrs Band.

QUIGLEY

## I g Cuimhne 5th Anniversary

In proud and loving  
memory of Vol. James  
Quigley 2nd Batt. Bel-  
fast Brigade Oglach na  
hEireann murdered by  
British Troops on the 29th  
Sept 1972

McCabe/Quigley Cumann.  
Ballymun - Finglas.

## REPUBLICAN NEWS

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