



REPUBLICAN NEWS

Vol. 7 No. 26 SATURDAY, JULY 2, 1977

England/Scotland/Wales 12p PRICE 10p

SDLP SPLIT OVER RUC

A major split has developed inside the S.D.L.P. over recognition of the sectarian, paramilitary R.U.C. with the political reactionaries represented by Gerry Fitt and the political reformists by Paddy Devlin. This is not the first occasion on which the political differences between Fitt and Devlin have manifested themselves publicly.

With the S.D.L.P. coming under increasing political pressure from the British government, the "Official" Unionists and the Alliance party to support the R.U.C. in return for "devolved legislative government to a new 'powersharing executive'", the Fitt faction has been compromised into advocating an equivocal acceptance of the R.U.C. This equivocation was reflected in last week's finely balanced press statement issued by the S.D.L.P.'s executive committee, which condemned, "those who commit murder or any other crime in this community", recognised "that recent events, in particular the loyalist strike and efforts to bring to justice sectarian murderers in Belfast, have widened the acceptance of the impartiality of the R.U.C. in some areas", and wished to make a "positive and constructive contribution in the increase in the growth of that impartiality".

ality".

They then mentioned four main issues which they claimed "clearly inhibited many people in this (Nationalist) community from accepting their impartiality". These ranged from torture at Castlereagh and Cookstown, failure to apprehend sectarian murderers outside Belfast, the Strasbourg torture cases, to "the screening of recruits into the R.U.C. Reserve". The S.D.L.P.'s public comment on these issues was in fact an embarrassed response to the indisputable evidence that the R.U.C. was continuing, as a matter of policy to torture political prisoners, evidence supported by the S.D.L.P.'s mid-ulster "representative" Paddy Duffy who commented, "I have seen evidence of police brutality in both Cookstown and Castlereagh police stations that would send a shudder down the spine of any civilised person".

In the wake of such evidence Gerry Fitt, agitated by political jibes from Alliance leader Oliver Napier, commented on BBC's "Scene Around Six" that he looked forward to the day when the R.U.C. would be back patrolling the Nationalist ghetto areas of the six occupied counties.

In a brilliantly composed reply to the S.D.L.P.'s 'main points of concern' designed to generate confidence and enthusiasm

among the Nationalist people, the RUC Chief Constable Ken Newman assured the SDLP that claims of "ill-treatment" were unfounded and that "not only were such allegations being manufactured but that some prisoners were going to the extreme lengths of injuring themselves to throw blame on the police", (Irish News 25.6.77).

In reply to Newman's "absolutely incredible" statement, the Association for Legal Justice pointed out several recent cases, which contradicted his claims, including the cases of Peter McKenna from Cookstown who was awarded £4000 damages following what the ALJ describes as "his being savagely beaten during police interrogation", and Terence Magill from Turf Lodge in Belfast who, in the course of an "interview" with the RUC sustained burp marks to his back, right arm and behind his left ear, as a result of which the 'judge' refused to accept RUC 'evidence' against him.

Obviously embarrassed by what had taken place previously three prominent members of the SDLP, Paddy Devlin, Cormac Boomer and Dr. Joe Hendron, issued a joint statement which "expressed deep concern about the consequences of Mr. Newman's recent statement on the ill treatment of suspects, although it had many useful points to

make", (Irish News 28.6.77). What in fact was being said was that Newman had made a political blunder further damaging the already tarnished image of the SDLP in the Nationalist ghetto areas, this was the "consequences" of the statement. Nowhere did the statement indicate that three of the four main issues to which the SDLP had referred had



been studiously ignored, nor did it define what the "useful points" of Newman's statement had been. Unlike Fitt politically isolated from the ordinary people, Devlin is aware of the continuing hostility of the Nationalist people towards the sectarian RUC and consequently a conflict of political ideology is emerging. On the one hand undisguised support for British imperialism on the other a more subtle appreciation of what exploitation (in the broadest sense of the word) is about.

As the split within the SDLP develops and widens the Irish Republican Army will continue to sustain its attacks against the hated RUC in the ghetto areas, reflecting the mood of a people who have rejected for good the tools of Protestant Orange ascendancy, the symptom of British imperialist domination.

LURGAN IRA STATEMENT

Statement from North Armagh Battalion I.R.A. We claim responsibility for the kidnapping of a man, in Tegnahan Estate Lurgan on Saturday night 25.6.77. Two weeks ago the man's car was hijacked: he was told where it could be recovered later and was warned not to report the incident to anyone. However he chose to ignore the warning and immediately informed the police. As a result he placed our volunteers in grave danger. We will not tolerate such behaviour and warn anyone whose car is hijacked to follow exactly any instructions which are given. Failure to do so will result in similar action being taken.

BELLS

The Irish News

'ACTION' CALL TO NEWMAN BY SDLP



2 more to appear on 'Bloody Friday' bomb charges

RUC off our list if troops pull out of the Province

NEWMAN'S APPEAL FOR TRUST IN POLICE



WEST 'KILLS' OFF THE COALITION

THE "IRISH NEWS" - THE NEW MEDIATOR BETWEEN THE SDLP AND THE RUC.

ULSTERISATION---CRIMINALISATION

Brit policy on Ireland has for some time now been encompassed by the two terms "Ulsterisation" and "Criminalisation". Both are simply terms to cover the present phase of the Brit counter-insurgency war. They have brought with them their own jargon such as "the primacy of the police", "Godfathers", "Mafia-like organisations", which in

turn attempts to condition people to think in these terms. The purpose is to arrive at a situation where small numbers of troops (SAS) become the striking force backed-up by increased numbers of RUC; UDR and RUC Reserves, and undercutting the IRA's support by labelling it as criminal, isolating them and leaving the ghettos free of resistance to the insinuation of the RUC.

"Ulsterisation", introduced by Rees and implemented by Mason, resembles closely the American policy of "Vietnamisation". "Vietnamisation" was the run-up to the American withdrawal from Vietnam and "Ulsterisation" likewise appeared to precede a Brit withdrawal from Ireland. The idea was enhanced by an apparent economic withdrawal going on at the same time. In fact the apparent economic withdrawal was a result of a world-wide depression and "Ulsterisation" simply a new Brit initiative to defeat the IRA. Together they created the illusion of a Brit withdrawal.

"Ulsterisation" was seen as a means of relieving some pressure on the Brit government. Domestically there is discontent with the war in Ireland and resultant British deaths. The government is also under pressure to fulfill its NATO commitment and some of the Army hierarchy are known to be uneasy at the effects, Ireland has on the Army. By rotating large numbers of troops here at regular intervals the British Army becomes unbalanced. Trimming an army for counter-insurgency warfare is all very well but it restricts and complicates its capacity to engage in conventional warfare under NATO. "Ulsterisation" is a means of rectifying this situation. By building up the local forces (RUC Reserve and UDR) they are able to withdraw some troops (which in turn

adds to the impression of withdrawal). The local forces then take an increasingly active role and back-up smaller numbers of specialist soldiers (SAS) who in fact need areas free of ordinary soldiers as they oft times complicate their operations. If the local forces can also become accepted as the forces of law and order and not as a sectarian paramilitary army propping up British rule then an added benefit has been gained.

In past articles we outlined some of the ways the Brits have of operating by creating conditions to suit their policies, capitalising on them and using propaganda to condition the population and cover any ugly cracks showing through. In March 1975 the Gard-

and therefore no political war. Every act of violence is therefore criminal and so the population should throw its weight behind the forces of law and order. 50% remission is a means of speeding this up and at the same time a weapon to prevent released prisoners going back to the IRA. Under the scheme anyone released and then arrested and sentenced for a subsequent act must serve the remainder of his first sentence as well!!!!

South Armagh saw some horrific assassinations at the beginning of 1976. The desperate situation was used by the Brits to announce publicly that the SAS were coming to Ireland. Even though they were already here the announcement was significant. For a few months

so in order to further the policies of criminalisation and Ulsterisation conditioning people through propaganda and by the public introduction of the SAS respectively.

Up to now the Brits were reluctant to make public the presence of the SAS in Ireland for fear of repercussions from public opinion. They are part of Ulsterisation however and so conditions had to be created to allow this public announcement with no more than a ripple of condemnation from expected sources. Much later Mason announced they were to be employed elsewhere in Ireland following their success in South Armagh. Ulsterisation was slowly but surely becoming a fact.

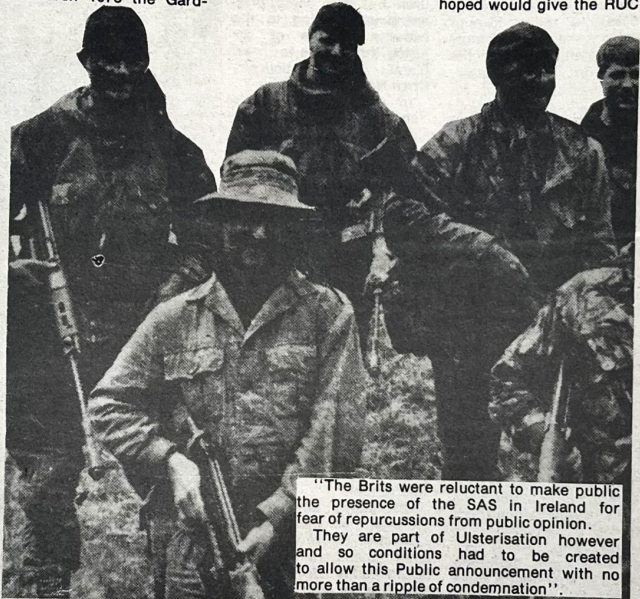
Criminalisation it was hoped would give the RUC

effects. Ulsterisation created an impression of withdrawal when in fact it proved merely a policy of streamlining the forces of the Brit Government better suit their purpose and relieve some of the pressure from England, and NATO. For overseas consumption the struggle is localised making it appear an internal conflict.

Criminalisation is an illusion built on propaganda and the suffering of prisoners. If it is successful the war in Ireland will be thought of as a criminal campaign and so the Brits will be no longer seen as colonialists. Thus support for the IRA financial or otherwise, is curbed, isolating them from the people and leaving the way open for the re-introduction of the RUC into Nationalist areas.

Both policies are part and parcel of the British war effort. In previous articles we tried to show various aspects of the British strategy and the workings of their war machine. In "Ulsterisation" and "criminalisation" both in prosecution and intent, they are at their most subtle and cunning. Both policies are still with us but to some extent they are giving way to Mason's all-out war on 'terrorism' characterised by blatant, open torture, murder and repression. Indeed both these policies laid the foundation for this coming phase and both in this and in themselves they are classical lessons for us on the strategy of British colonialism.

Beir bua,
Slán, SOLON.
LONG KESH.



"The Brits were reluctant to make public the presence of the SAS in Ireland for fear of repercussions from public opinion."

They are part of Ulsterisation however and so conditions had to be created to allow this Public announcement with no more than a ripple of condemnation".

iner Report advocated the ending of internment and Special Category status. At first they appeared liberal pronouncements but Gardiner in fact was the herald of "criminalisation".

The ending of internment came with the ending of Special Category status and the introduction of 50% remission apparently two for one but not so, as all three add to the policy of criminalisation. According to British politicians, without internment and Special Category status there are no political prisoners

now South Armagh had been labelled a special case because the population were totally anti-Brit. It was, they said, a guerilla war in South Armagh and the drastic state of affairs required special anti-guerilla forces—enter SAS. The situation in South Armagh was contrasted to Belfast to try to separate the two using one to illustrate the other. An illusion was being created.

Events in Belfast were referred to in terms such as "gangsterism" "Mafia-style operations" Chicago gang-land wars.

And then South Armagh was pointed out in contrast and was used to drive home the terms. There never has been any difference between the IRA and its campaign in South Armagh Belfast or anywhere else. It had to be made appear

greater scope and isolate the IRA from the people. Last year Ireland was treated to the term "the primacy of the police". Whether this proved fact or fantasy the images it created added weight to the policy of criminalisation, if not at home then abroad their propaganda is as much directed at other countries as it is at Ireland. We have been treated to this type of propaganda for a long time now. The object is more than propaganda however, they want to condition and control peoples minds while working away behind the scenes building their war machine. Criminalisation on the one hand complemented Ulsterisation on the other. It had to be because of the increasing role for the local forces.

Both Ulsterisation and Criminalisation have physical and psychological

AUSTRALIAN LETTER

A Chara,
I trust the following information may be used to counter act the Brits wishful theory that the Irish abroad and particularly in Australia, have lost interest in our struggle for Irish Independence.

Sat. June 11th. Connolly Association of Australia Broadcast first of a series of Radio Programmes. The series involve a short story on the signatories of the 1916 Proclamation, with up to date Rebel folk music. Best of all the association has permitted the Eire Nua Club (affiliated to Sinn Fein Melbourne) to read the up to date news on the struggle in Ireland. E.g. The first news article broadcast was by Fr. P.O'Duill taken from Republican News. The programme will be a regular feature on 3C.R. Melbourne each Saturday at 10.30 a.m.

Green Cross Australia

BY SOLON

Long Kesh

SOLIDARITY IN BRITAIN

The British State machine, has for some time been active in a series of repressive acts all of which is aimed at the suppression of free discussion and constructive debate on the question of British imperialist policies in relation to Ireland. Since 1974, by the use of the Prevention of Terrorism Act, 2,251 people have been arrested, 507 of these have been held for up to 48 hours, 243 over 48 hours, 93 have been deported, 40 charged with 'serious' offences, and 65 with minor offences. Many Irish activists have been forced underground, with the result that only a handful within the Irish community are prepared to mount the public platform, join the picket line, or even speak up at their trade union branch.

The existence of this Act has led to resistance in the form of agitational groups such as the People Against the Prevention of Terrorism Act, better known simply as "PAPTA" and the Trade Union Committee Against the P.T.A. Film, shows, plays, legal aid for arrested persons, leaflets and picketing of police stations have been regular activities for these groups. PAPTA in recent days has published an excellent pamphlet entitled, "Apart- held in Britain-An analysis of the P.T.A." and this has been sponsored by trades councils and union groups. This 48 page pamphlet which includes photographs, and political cartoons is written in everyday language and is a strong advocate for Irish self-determination.

It gives us a very detailed picture of what life is like these days in Britain for our compatriots, and is well worth 25p (including P&P), available from; June Crawford, PAPTA c/o 182 Upper Street, London N.1.

PRISONERS.

In addition to the great work being done for republican and socialist prisoners by bodies such as Sinn Féin or other exile political groupings, the Prisoners Aid Committee, which is mainly a London-based organisation, is

foremost in exposing their sad and horrific plight in jails scattered all over Britain. This organisation, although numerically small, has far reaching influence, and its regular publications such as "THE IRISH PRISONER" gives some idea of just how industrious its members are on behalf of our jailed compatriots and comrades. This 40 page magazine is filled with photographs, interviews, international reports, letters from prisoners, and historical articles; available from the PAC, c/o 142 Drummond Street, London NW1, price 50 pence. Other publications, such as a newsletter are available on a regular basis.



TROOPS OUT!

In recent weeks the Troops Out Movement (T.O.M.) has split, mainly in the London area, with branches outside the capital remaining intact and generally unaffected. The reasons for this division, which is indeed regrettable at a time when we in Ireland are endeavouring to build anti-imperialist unity, are varied and complex, but reports that the movement has folded-up are far from the real truth. In fact both wings of the movement, one calling itself the United Troops Out Movement, are busily engaged in planning future activities. The T.O.M. plans a two day Open Conference in London on the 2nd and 3rd July, at the White Horse Hotel, Church Rd., London N.W.10, which will have a very far reaching agenda to cover, and the first session will be opened by a member of the Irish Front, Derry, delivering a prepared paper on the current situation in Ireland.

WAR CRIMES.

Towards the end of this year, or more likely in 1978, an International Tribunal of British War Crimes Against the Irish people, which has been initiated by PAPTA, and supported recently by a national student's Conference on Ireland, will take place in London. The aim is to draw together a mass

of evidence on the treatment of Irish men and women by the British State, using the widest possible range of sources. Evidence will be presented to a panel of people renowned internationally for their defence of human rights, and the Tribunal will be open to delegates from Trade Unions and Labour Party organisations as well as interested observers.

A number of people are expected to attend from both parts of Ireland, but in the main these will include ex-internees and prisoners, relatives of people murdered or maimed by the Occupation Forces, as well as prominent anti-imperialist activists.

IRISH FRONT TOUR.

Planning committees have been set-up in both Manchester and London to organise another tour of speaker meetings which will take place in mid October. A two man team will address audiences all over Britain, and venues will include Labour and Workingmen's Clubs, Universities, Polytechnics, Community and Tenant Groups, as well as addressing public meetings in all the major cities which will be stewarded by socialist groupings. In late

May, a "mini-tour", which was to act as a prelude to the more extensive October tour, covered a number of centres. During the tour the Front's three speakers were interviewed by all the leading socialist newspapers, as well as the Time Out and Leveller magazines. On their return they described this tour as "highly successful", adding that greater emphasis should be placed on getting the republican-socialist message across, particularly in Britain where the ordinary working class people were at the mercy of a controlled media.

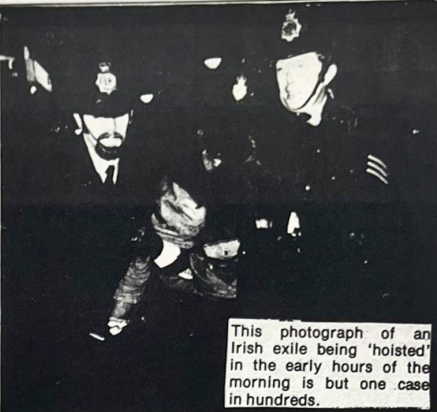
LABOUR MOVEMENT.

The Labour Party Conference to be held at Brighton, commencing on Monday October 3rd, will again be a major focus for the various solidarity groupings. In recent years thousands of leaflets have been distributed, M.P.'s and leading party officials lobbied, and the

highlight of the week is always the public meeting for party delegates, which is usually very well attended.

The Labour Movement Delegation to Ireland, (LMDI), which visited Dublin, Belfast and Crossmaglen last year, has recently published its lengthy report. The delegation composed of over sixty elected and sponsored trade union delegates, have since their return from Ireland been busily engaged in holding report-back meetings all over Britain. Plans are afoot to convene an autumn conference, at which the delegates will present their report, which reflects a unanimous call for the withdrawal of British Occupation Forces from Ireland.

In the Fifties and Sixties it was Paki-bashing. In the Seventies it's Paddy-bashing. Who will be next in the Eighties?



This photograph of an Irish exile being 'hoisted' in the early hours of the morning is but one case in hundreds.

By SCOPOLI
DERRY.



WAR NEWS

"Belfast Brigade IRA Claims responsibility for the execution of P.O. Milliken yesterday 23/6/77 in Clifton Park Avenue. This screw was involved in the torture and oppression of prisoners, and as a direct consequence of his actions in implementing the British Government's policy of depoliticisation he was shot.

"The Irish Republican Army in West Antrim claims responsibility for the attack on the RUC in Ahoghill on 23/6/77 Three RUC Personnel were

seriously injured in the attack. As the RUC come to the forefront in the war we will be expanding our operational area against them. They will have nowhere to relax.

"The Irish Republican Army in Crossmaglen claim responsibility for the bomb attack on British forces in South Armagh last night 23.6.77. Two Brits were seriously injured and the morale of the rest shattered. The people can be assured that the war of liberation is being fought well and is being won."

We have been asked to release the following supplied statement from the Belfast Brigade, Irish Republican Army. Belfast Brigade claim responsibility for a bomb attack on Cliftonville bowling club Sunday night this club is used by the RUC Special Branch and any such building will be a target for the Republican Army.

The Brigade also claim responsibility for a fire bomb attack on the Silver Grill Restaurant, Cornmarket Belfast.

For a gun attack on the British Army at 16.30 Hrs yesterday Thursday 23rd June Lenadown Ave, Andersonstown.

In this attack three soldiers were injured one was shot in the head, another in the leg and the last in the back.

For the bomb attack on a Supermarket, Oldpark Rd on Tuesday 21.6.77.



DERRY NEWS...DERRY NEWS...DERRY NEWS....

THE HARASSMENT OF THE FISHER FAMILY

Typical of the harassment which the British Army went on the Republican people of the Creggan Estate is the story of the harassment of the Fisher family. As in all areas of Derry we have families who have been

blessed with sons and daughters with the courage and dedication to play their part in bringing peace and justice to our country. Such is the Fisher family from the Creggan Estate. The eldest girl was released from Armagh

jail in June 1976 and since that time the family home has been periodically searched.

Approximately every three weeks the Brits arrive for a dawn raid. The children are made to rise in the cold under the mocking eyes of a foreign army and forced to huddle together in the living room.

The parents must then stand by while the home is searched, ever fearful that the Brits will plant some incriminating evidence. Personal papers and letters are read without permission and their possessions and clothes are pawed over.

The aged mother of Mrs Fisher who suffers badly from arthritis is always made to get out of her bed and the family

must dress her under the eyes of female Brits. Mr. Fisher loses a day's pay and this has been his lot on other harassment searches.

The daughter is harassed every time she passes a Brit patrol on the streets. They shout her name and make insulting remarks. She always ignores them but recently a patrol ran after her and arrested her. The girl was taken to Piggery Ridge Army base and then to the RUC barracks where she was detained for over six hours, ver badly abused and insulted. She was later fined fifteen pounds over this incident.

The young children of the family receive the same treatment on their way to and from school. The embarrassment these children have to suffer would never be allowed in any decent society, but what else can be expected from the former "Masters of the world."

STATUS PROTESTS IN DERRY

At Saturday's protest on Political Status, which has been held for the last eighteen months in Waterloo Place, Derry, a large number of Brits and RUC failed in an obvious attempt to intimidate the watching people. Land rovers and foot patrols moved through and around the protest.

Needless to say Sinn Fein and the people are used to this. The Brits questioned the young people but this form of harassment of "We know you Paddy" has failed miserably in the past and the teenagers always return every Saturday.



Graffiti on Derry wall

NORTH DUBLIN NEWS

EMERGENCY POWERS ABUSED AGAIN.

Harassment by well known Special Branch men continues in Ballymun. A member of the McCabe/Quigley Cumann was arrested for a second time while on his way to the weekly meeting place. He was taken to the Bridewell and held until 1 p.m. the next day. While he was still being detained Branch Men Raided his home and picked up a neighbour who was not a member of Sinn Fein. He too was brought to the Bridewell, fingerprinted and questioned. The wife of the Cumann member has been harassed several times by the Branch who now enter their home with a warrant.

Squatters Evicted.

Due to bad housing, poor pay, and unemployment many families are forced to squat. There is very little help available for such people in our present day society. However, from a humanitarian point of view the concern of such people and their needs cannot be left to hope and the elements, as were 3 families in our area on June 15th, particularly the family on Finglaswood Rd, W. Finglas. The Cumann members with the help of the local priest brought mental comfort and other assistance to that particular family. Our thanks to those who collected and contributed to a local collection for their benefit.

P.R.O. McCabe/Quigley Cumann.

DERRY HONOURS DEAD VOLUNTEERS

On Sunday 26th June a large crowd attended the commemoration of six members of the IRA.

Wreaths were laid by friends and relatives, Oglagh Na Eireann and Sinn Fein. The oration was given by a member of Sinn Fein. A decade of the rosary was then said followed by a minutes silence for the volunteers. The following is the text of the oration.

We are here today to honour the memory of Staff Cpt. Joe Coyle, Lt. Tommy McCool and Volunteer Tommy Carlin who died on active service on the 27th June 1970.

Vol. Gerard Craig and David Russell who were killed in action on the 24th June 1974 and Vol. Bernard Coyle who died on active service on the 30th June 1976.

Today we honour men of different ages but who had the same ideals Joe Coyle, Tommy McCool and Tommy Carlin, were founder members of the Provisional movement in Derry when the RUC aided by unionist mobs ran amok in Derry. These men decided that they could not stand idly by and allow this to continue so they planned to defend the people of Derry, and during the preparation of this defence they tragically lost their lives along with two of Tommy McCool's children. It was their gallant action that inspired many young men and girls of the calibre of Gerard Craig, David Russell, and Bernard Coyle to carry out that defence of the Irish people.

Like all other volunteers in the Freedom Fight they realised that the only way to achieve Peace with Justice in this island was by the removal of British interference. This they knew could be done in two ways. One by the strong military action and the other by effective Political

action.

They played their part and payed the supreme sacrifice now we must pay them a debt and play our part.

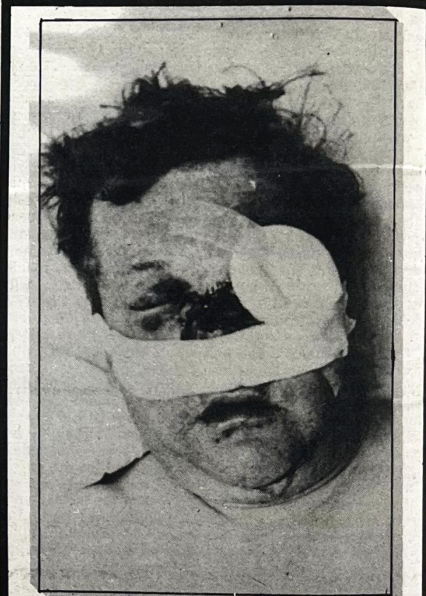
The road to freedom is a long and rough road but we should not let this deter us from travelling that road. This did not deter the dead sons of Ireland nor does it deter many of our youth who are suffering daily at the hands of the occupying forces. Many of these young people are being dragged from their homes and taken to torture centres where after severe torture and brutality at the hands of the RUC bully-boys they are signing false statements. This is the same RUC whom the quising party the SDLP are asking people to accept. This bunch of Political opportunists have conveniently forgotten all the crimes carried out by the RUC on the Irish people.

They have sold every principle they ever had for a tiny bit of power. Surely this party of hypocrites are politically bankrupt and have nothing at all to offer the Irish people as an alternative to sectarian politics.

Our dead comrades paid the supreme sacrifice for an ideal. That ideal is the same as all those men and women who have died in every freedom struggle over the last 800 years.

We, if we call ourselves Republicans, cannot deviate from this ideal which is a 32 county Socialist Republic where there is ample opportunity for Catholic, Protestant, and dissenter.

This can only be achieved by a British withdrawal from Ireland and the setting up of a just, social and economic system which would give everyone a living in dignity



The face of Mr. Samuel Robinson who was brutally assaulted several weeks ago. A British soldier at a checkpoint fired a rubber bullet into his face at point-blank range.

He lost his left eye, his nose was broken and he is scarred for life.

and happiness. This is the only basis for Peace and prosperity, a new 32 county Federal system would guarantee the rights of all. Such a system would provide for the rights of the Irish people, and the right of the people of Ulster to self determination. A nine county parliament is the key. Only selfish party politicians would oppose it. They desecrate the memory of Ireland's dead! Finally we can pay tribute to Joe Coyle, Tommy McCool, Tommy Carlin, Gerard Craig, David Russell and Bernard Coyle by strengthening our determination to see an end to British

rule in Ireland once and for all. We must show people that we are trying to help them instead of making selfish gain for ourselves.

We can show people that by being true Socialists and Republicans we can solve our peoples problems. Our dead comrades practiced the true principles of Republicanism and each were a credit to their families, and the movement they served. Let us not undo this great work by being selfish and inward looking but let us go from here today and live up to their standards by being better Republicans.

AMNESTY FURTHER ACCUSED

COURTESY OF
'THE P.A.C. NEWS'



TROOPS OUT CONFERENCE

by Brendan Steele England

The Prisoners Aid Committee (London) has noted with interest that a group from Amnesty International has arrived in Dublin to investigate allegations of torture and ill-treatment by gardai and prison authorities. We are curious as to the timing of this move, coming as it does at the same time as the Belgrade Conference at which the Soviet Union is expected to reveal information on British repression in the Six Counties and shortly before the final judgement by the European Court on the torture cases brought against Britain. We are even more curious about this move when we reflect on Amnesty's apparent lack of interest in the ill-treatment of Irish people in the Six Counties and in Britain itself where its HQ is based. Their record in this direction is very bad.

Although Amnesty did, late in the day, adopt some internees as "prisoners of conscience", they have singularly failed to extend this interest to those "convicted" before the notorious Diplock courts by a single judge on unsupported police or British Army evidence or "confessions" extracted by violence. Amnesty have not, as far as we are aware, taken up a single case of a person tortured by the RUC or the British army despite the documentation of such cases by the Association for Legal Justice and individuals like Fr. Faul nor have they investigated the conditions being endured by Kieran Nugent and his comrades in H Block of Long Kesh.

The attack on human rights in England itself has left Amnesty relatively unmoved. They have championed the cause of Pat Arrowsmith and are help-

ing her to bring a case to Europe against the British government over the issue of the Incitement to Disaffection Act under which she was briefly imprisoned. However, the fact is that the Act which has most deeply affected those politically active on the question of British Imperialism is the Prevention of Terrorism Act. No victim of this Act has been helped or adopted by Amnesty.

Over the past three years the PAC has given Amnesty information relating to the torture and ill-treatment of Irish prisoners. Amnesty refused to recognise the brutal forced-feeding of prisoners as constituting torture. Amnesty was given statements relating to the torture by police of six Irishmen following the Birmingham bombs of November 1974. The aim of the torture had been to extract "confessions". Despite the close parallels with cases of Basque nationalists taken up by Amnesty, the case rated only a passing mention in Amnesty's news bulletin. The cases were not pursued and on inquiry some time later, we were told it was "too late", despite the fact that the men are serving life sentences. Information was also given to Amnesty concerning the ill-treatment in prison of the late Proinsias Stagg while he was on hunger strike. Nothing resulted from this. Nor have Amnesty taken up the cases of those unjustly convicted for the Guildford and Woolwich bombs nor of the Maguire family nor of Judith Ward.

Earlier this year Amnesty, with the NCCL and Howard League for Penal Reform produced a "report" on the savage beating of six Irish prisoners in Albany in September last year. This report nowhere refers

to the political nature of this assault. Furthermore, although it expresses "concern" at the immensely long periods in solitary inflicted on these men, a delegation to the Home Office only managed to wring the munificent promise that in future prisoners held in solitary would be entitled to have a pencil and paper!

Last year the British section of Amnesty held a meeting against torture in London. The chair-person, Gwyneth Dunwoody, refused to allow a motion to be put concerning the treatment of Irish prisoners. This meeting well exemplified the political nature of Amnesty. The "audience" shouted down a Chilean girl who had been tortured in Tres Axiomas prison when she tried to explain how the Chilean junta used torture for political purposes. They listened quietly to a Russian girl who said that torture of political prisoners in the Soviet Union consisted of forcing them to mix with ordinary criminal prisoners and keeping their visitors waiting some hours at the prison gates before admitting them.

Organisations like Amnesty are not politically "neutral". We must ask why they have decided to investigate the ill-treatment of Irish people in one part of Ireland while viewing it with such unconcern in another part and in England. We must also ask why Amnesty International chooses to have its HQ in the torture capital of Europe, and why it is headed by an Englishman who has never gone on record as condemning the attacks on human rights made by his own government.

Yours etc.,
Jacqueline Kaye.

Support is growing for the Troops Out Open Conference which is to be held in London on 2nd and 3rd July. This conference is to help build a movement which will be as broad-based as possible. A movement which is in favour of the immediate withdrawal of British troops in order to allow self-determination for the Irish people.

More than fifty people attended a planning meeting in Birmingham last weekend. There were representatives of, or messages of support from, every Troops Out Movement branch except for the odd one or two. There were also representatives from various British left groups and from Sinn Fein (Home Counties), Prisoners Aid Committee, Peoples Democracy, and Revolutionary Struggle.

The Open Conference will be held on the 2nd and 3rd July at the White Horse Pub, Church Road, Willesden Green, London NW10. It will start 10.30 a.m. both days. Overnight accommodation can be provided and there will be a creche for children.

A speaker from the Derry Irish Front has been invited to open the conference with an introduction on the situation in the North. On the Saturday afternoon there will

be four workshop discussions. One on Troops Out propaganda and the campaign for Free Speech against Brit censorship. Another on the methods and problems of work in the British Labour Movement. Another on the campaign against recruitment to the British Army, and the work of an ex-soldiers group. The last on Brit repression such as the plight of Irish political prisoners and the Prevention of Terrorism Act.

There will also be a discussion on past and present problems of building an anti-imperialist movement in Britain. The Sunday sessions will be discussion and voting on perspectives and structures for the movement.

Everybody supporting the demands of the movement is urged to attend the conference where they will have full speaking and voting rights. This conference promises to be a genuine and determined attempt to forge a Troops Out Movement which can unite significant forces around a positive programme of action.

More details can be got from:

Troops Out Conference
c/o Rising Free
182 Upper Street
London N1.

INTERNMENT COMMEMORATION RALLY IN LONDON



PRISONERS
AID
COMMITTEE

Provisional Sinn Fein in England will hold a National Rally and demonstration on Sunday July 31st to mark the 1971 introduction of Internment without trial in occupied Ireland by the British Government. The Rally will assemble at 2.30 outside the crown down Edgeware Road to Hyde Park, where the rally will be addressed by members of Sinn Fein from London, North of England and the home counties. Speakers from other revolutionary org-

anisations in England will also address the rally. The march will be led by the James Connolly flute band from Glasgow, Scotland. All members of Sinn Fein and their supporters and sympathisers are urged to support the rally by attending in person. All Cumann and Comhairle Ceannair banners should be displayed. A dance and social will be held on the eve of the rally, tickets and further details can be had by writing to Box 8 182, Upper Street, London, N1.

SUPPORT IRISH P. O. W.S IN ENGLISH JAILS

Read "The PAC News", which contains the latest information on Irish political prisoners in English jails (85p inc. postage).
Buy Irish Prisoner Cards (165p inc. postage).
Buy Marx-Connolly posters - Free All Irish Political Prisoners (20p inc. postage).

Available from: Prisoners Aid Committee, c/o 182 Upper Street, London N1, Sussan.

Read "The Irish Prisoner" (65p, including postage). It contains articles on the Birmingham, Guildford and Woolwich trials; the case of Shane Paul O'Doherty; the story of the hunger strike and death of, Proinsias Stagg, and the life and death of Timothy Noonan. Also other articles and prisoners letters.

TRUCE 75

by Peter Dowling

For the Republican Movement there were many gains to be made from the 1975 Truce. It provided useful breathing space. An opportunity to regroup, to reorganise and to turn resources in a more outgoing fashion within the community.

It enabled us to gather strength and to brace ourselves for the on-coming struggle.

It laid emphasis on Republican sincerity and discipline. In sharp contrast to the insincerity of the established politicians and the indiscipline of the Brits regular army.

As Orange and Brit attacks continued against Catholics, it confirmed once more in practice, the real source of the violence.

But there are two specific items where the balance sheet of the Truce is worth closer examination. Two crucial fields on which the tug-of-war between the forces of imperialism and of republicanism took place.

One was the effect of releasing many hostages. The other was the role of Truce Incident Centres.

HOSTAGES.

Firstly, on hostages. Those interned were released and some concessions made on sentenced prisoners. This had the benefit for the Brits of removing an obvious "Catholic" grievance. But there were dangers.

For while removing a grievance like internment could under-cut the desire

to struggle. It might have the opposite effect.

The SDLP had failed to honour their pledge on internment. Now the Provos could be seen to have ended internment, and thus gain credibility.

OUTRAGE.

In addition such releases could obviously strengthen the Provos organisationally. That is why Brit army chief General King screamed in outrage.

Meanwhile some sentenced prisoners were let out a bit early and four imprisoned Republicans were transferred back from Britain to Ireland.

These measures were meant to indicate that a "Genuine and Sustained Cessation of Violence" would lead to progressive steps on all Republican prisoners in Ireland and Britain. Expectations which were not fulfilled.

Nevertheless the Truce balance sheet on hostages was positive. Increased credibility and organisational strength for the Provos, despite and as a result of, the removal of an obvious "Catholic" grievance.

INCIDENT CENTRES.

The second field to be looked at is the role of the Truce Incident Centres. Like most aspects of the Truce these were potentially double-edged.

At the surface level they simply provided a mechanism for maintaining the Truce by reducing the chances of a communicat-

ions failure about any particular "incident".

But in reality they offered much more from both points of view. They had much deeper significance.

For the Brits they offered the possibility of getting the Provos to "police" their own areas. The Brits thought they might pull the Provos into a role of co-operation with the forces of "British Law and Orange Order".

QUEEN'S WRIT.

So while the idea of Incident Centres did offer the remote possibility of "collaboration" this was only a small part of the picture.

Their importance was to have precisely the opposite effect. They boosted Republican authority within the nationalist areas at the expense of the establishment.

The Centres offered the Provos fresh opportunity for organising within the nationalist areas. They could be used to assist in organising the boycott of the Constitutional Convention and dealing with people's daily problems.

The Centres offered "official" blessing to the Provos for where the Queen's writ did not run. That is why the SDLP, Sticks, Orangies and Free Staters screamed so loudly.

ECONOMIST.

In fact the right-wing business-orientated section

As Orange and Brit attacks continued against Catholics, it confirmed once more in practice, the real source of the violence'.
Photo: McLoughlin's Bar, New Lodge Road, Belfast, bombed in April 1975.



of the British ruling class was also well aware of these possibilities. This is shown by their authoritative organ, the London weekly "Economist". My attention has been drawn to the editorial of May 10th, 1975 which ran as follows.

"The IRA is potentially the biggest beneficiary of the Convention. It has projected itself as politically responsible by its cease fire and has won the gratitude of the released detainees and their families. By the boycott of the election the IRA has helped to fulfill its own prophecies of the futility of the Convention exercise. And, when the Convention

begins to break down, the IRA will be able to cash in on its long restraint, calling again for unlocked back doors and more positive aid too, from the Catholic community".

As we now know this was a fair prediction.

ADVICE CENTRES.

In no way did the Provos, through the Incident Centres, become instruments of Brit rule by remote control, as "Peoples Democracy, or example, wrongly suggested they would.

More valid criticism would be our failure to make full use of the opportunities provided by the Truce to organise pol-

THE 'BIG' COMPUTER

HOW GOOD IS IT?

It has become increasingly clear to observers of the Irish political scene that, when the British Army meekly confirms the use of controversial equipment, the admission itself has much more effect on the civilian population than the actual machinery

could ever have. The public in general tends to be over-awed in the face of the Establishment's apparently endless resources, and becomes as a result increasingly more pessimistic while gradually losing the will to resist their oppressors. The universal dismay

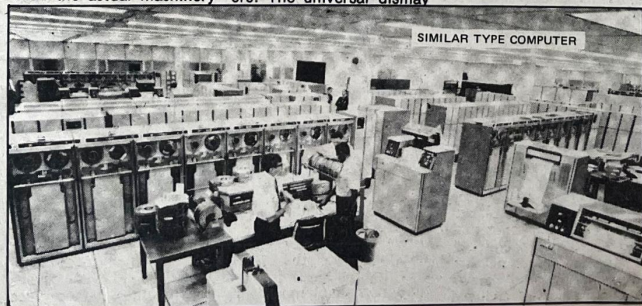
expressed when the Brits calmly disclosed the use of the high-powered I.C.I. 1900 series computer banks in their "relentless pursuit" of Republicans reflects the public's susceptibility to the suggestion that it is point-

less to struggle against the space-age technology arrayed against them.

In fact nothing could be farther from the truth; indeed, the very fact that the Brits admitted wide-scale use of the computer signalled the end of its function as a useful military appendage and heralded its new role as a psychological deterrent. It is useful, therefore, to understand some of the very extensive limitations of the computer file-handling facilities, and how these were rendered ineffective. The common factor in all computer processes is that all the information it uses must be first collected, then painstakingly introduced to the computer word-by-word over a period of years before any significant advantage is noticed over conventional filing systems. Further, it is uneconomical and unwieldy to have such a system anyway unless the information is so bulky

that it cannot be stored otherwise.

It was for these reasons that the Brits began to enlarge their information store by an all-out campaign of mass arrests, curfews, security screening of entire neighbourhoods and illegal house-to-house censuses. All the information extracted was passed on to a program compiler for introduction into the computer. This computer, however, has no thought processes, nor can it in any way determine whether the information received is true or false. All it can do, in effect, is to retrieve information when requested to do so by a user, and ironically, only information supplied by the suspect at an earlier date. Clearly, when reliance has to be placed on information extracted illegally from a hostile population, the counter-espionage system using it is at a major disadvantage even before it begins.



SIMILAR TYPE COMPUTER



RESISTANCE IN ARGENTINA

PART II

BY JUAN SOSA



It is the workers of Argentina who are bearing the brunt of the repression we described last week, to which we must add the fact that real wages have been slashed by more than half since the coup. All normal trade union activities are prohibited and leading workers and shop stewards are rapidly arrested where there is any hint at unrest. But the response of Argentinian trade unionists has been heroic. Despite the intimidation by the army and the death squads, workers have organised strikes, go-slows and sabotage, and lightning stoppages. These have been organised to support demands for wage increases, to protest against the anti-trade union measures, and in solidarity with dismissed, imprisoned or kidnapped workers. Actions have been centred on the strategically most important industries and sectors of the economy: the car manufacturers;

the steel makers; the ports; the electricity generating industry; and the banks. This general resistance to the reign of terror is the most serious problem facing the military government today. If the workers succeed in forcing the junta to give way on the question of trade union rights, it will give hope to millions of working people all over Latin America. One "working class" organisation still support the military government—the Communist Party. In exchange for remaining one of the few legal parties in Argentina today, the CP has used its contacts abroad to improve the international "image" of the dictatorship. Less directly collaborationist but equally disastrous is the policy of the Montoneros (the populist Peronist guerillas) who have recently formed a new party with all the old Peronist bureaucrats in it, who have led the Argentine

workers into the blind alley of Peron's nationalist demagoguery for the last twenty five years. But the workers of Argentina have learned to rely only on their own strength. Where there is repression there is resistance, and the workers and popular masses of Argentina through their own determined struggles and organisation will be in the forefront of the struggle for socialism in Latin America. There is much we can learn from Argentina today from the level of brutality that imperialism and its local representatives is prepared to use against the people, to the reserves of resistance which lie beneath the surface of a people who have struggled and will continue to struggle against imperialism and for a socialist society. (concluded).

itically within the communities.

Anyway far from the Incident Centres being a trap they have become a permanent gain as Peoples Advice Centres. And the potential for such centres has been built upon in many areas.

So the balance sheet of the Incident Centres is a very positive one. They gave the Provos increased credibility and recognition as the main authority within the nationalist areas. Advice centres and activity within the communities were strengthened.

OVERALL GAINS.

Now having looked at the general gains of a

breathing space, the release of many hostages and the positive role of the Incident Centres, the overall balance sheet of the '75 Truce can be seen to be very satisfactory.

But there were many problems. Not least of which is that the Brits are still here.

Some of these problems may be avoided in any future truce. In particular problems aggravated by having a "closed" secret agreement rather than an "open" agreement. Next week an article "Open or Closed" will look at what type of agreement is dictated by British hypocrisy and the needs of the people.

Statement from the Colm Murtagh Sinn Fein Cumann, Newry.

On Sunday 12th June, an S.A.S. spy unit was discovered (dug in) in the Dromalane Park area by some children who immediately put these gangsters to flight with a few well aimed stones. Later on that night a factory in the Dromalane area was broken into and the offices wrecked. The same unit arrived at the owners door and demanded that he come to the factory and inspect the damage which he refused to do because there was no guarantee that he was ever going to be seen again if he accompanied them. This was only one of a long line of incidents directed against this man and his firm. Why? Is it because the establishment does not want locals to learn to provide for themselves, which would mean the profits staying in Ireland instead of going to English bosses when they event-

S.A.S. UNCOVERED

ually close their firms to retire in luxury with their wealth gained on the backs of Irish men. During the week previously the ordinary brit patrols were observed at a new even more sinister game. Before the patrol entered the estate they sprayed a form of lacquer over their rifles. They then went into the park and handed their rifles to the children whose average age was around six. Naturally the young ones were thrilled and they all handles the guns. The only conclusion that we can arrive at is that the Brits wanted the finger prints

of the young children for future references. So if you follow this line of reasoning the only other conclusion we can reach is that the Brits are clearing their intelligence for a long haul against the Nationalist people and these children were considered possible future Freedom Fighters. We would ask all parents to warn their children about the dangers of going near these morons; one reason is the obvious one that they could get caught up in an exchange of fire and as everyone knows the Brits use civilians for cover in such cases,



A SIMILAR TYPE S.A.S. GROUP AS WAS DISCOVERED OPERATING IN THE DROMALANE PARK AREA, NEWRY.

and secondly the Brits pick the children for information about their families and themselves, thus

enabling them to do away with house to house census as this other method gives them more results.

WHAT GOVERNOR CAREY DIDN'T TELL THE PUBLIC

by Charles Molony

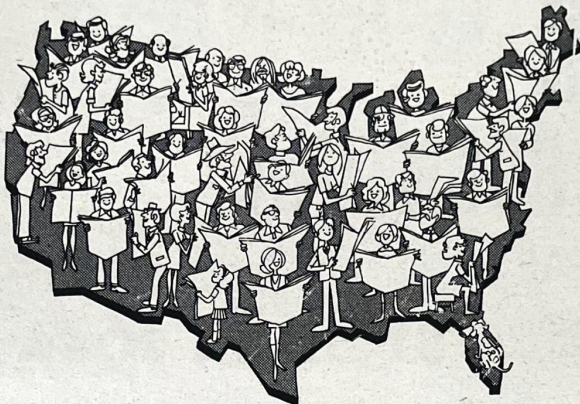
A few weeks ago, Governor Hugh Carey of New York made speeches in the United States and in Dublin condemning the Nationalist struggle for freedom in Ireland. He had previously sought Irish Republican support in the New York City area when he ran for Congress and the governor's office. Many are mystified by his sudden turn-about and his bitter attack upon the IRA and Irish Nationalists and civil rights workers. The answer is quite simple. Governor Carey has a vested interest in the Scottish oil fields. He and his family are oil millionaires. They own a piece of the action through deals with the London government. Governor Carey and his family are fearful that if the Irish Nationalist struggle for basic human rights is successful, the Scotch Nationalists will insist upon their freedom and independence and will seize the oil which rightfully belongs to the people of Scotland off the Scottish coast. Senator Kennedy also has certain vested interests in this situation but the details are not fully available at the time of this writing.

Governor Carey has been less than frank with the public in America and in Ireland about this situation. When he ran for the U.S. Congress and the governorship of New York State, he openly supported the Irish Nationalist movement and openly appeared in public posed with Irish Republican Leaders in the New York City area. Many were mystified by his sudden turn-about in recent weeks and his bitter condemnation of the IRA. He had previously praised the IRA struggle and had described members of the IRA as freedom fighters in various speeches he made in the New York City area.

It has been learned that Senator Kennedy, Senator Moynihan, Congressman O'Neill and Governor Carey were privately approached a number of times by the Irish Embassy in Washington and asked to make several speeches attacking those engaged in the Irish freedom struggle. After about 4 months, these so called Irish American political leaders agreed. It is expected that others besides Governor Carey who recently visited Dublin, will visit Ireland in an exchange programme which, to date, has seen Garrett Fitzgerald, John Hume, Liam Cosgrove and other so called Irish Leaders at home, visit New York and Washington. Their efforts met with total failure, and it was at that point that the Dublin and London governments decided to approach Governor Carey and Senator Kennedy about becoming involved in the plan described earlier in this article.

Britain has long feared that the Irish Nationalist struggle in Ireland would incite Nationalists in Wales and Scotland to break away from the United Kingdom. Those fears have grown considerably in the last 2 years. Governor Carey and his friends, who have little concern about the women and children of Ireland and their safety, apparently have agreed to become a part of the London-Dublin axis in a last desperate effort to crush the Irish thirst for liberty and justice.

AMERICA



HAS PRESIDENT CARTER FORGOTTEN IRELAND ?

by Brian Gaffney

Back in October of 1976 when Jimmy Carter was running for the presidency, he made a very strong speech in Pittsburgh calling for a united Ireland. The speech was very critical of the suppression of human rights in Ireland, something Mr. Carter said no American president could afford to ignore or remain silent about.

But this is 1977 and it's now clear that President Carter, having collected millions of Irish American votes, has completely forgotten about what he said about the British police state. He has launched a vigorous campaign for human rights throughout the world but has remained totally silent about human rights in Ireland. American observers claim that he has adopted the Nixonite policy on Ireland and in many letters to Irish American organisations, he has claimed that he must remain "neutral" concerning the north. Meanwhile, he is vociferous about human rights for Russian Jews, citizens of Chile, Portugal, South Africa, Rhodesia and Brazil. His U.N. Ambassador, Mr. Andrew Young, has condemned the suppression of human rights in South Africa and Rhodesia but, what Mr. Young and Mr. Carter condemn in those areas, they support in Ireland. At one point, Mr. Young did call the British "racists". He was roundly condemned by certain elements in the State Department and the press in the United States. His crime was that he spoke the truth.

Informed observers state that the refusal of the American government to apply pressure on Britain is only prolonging the struggle in the north and adding to the casualties. In fact, there are many who contend

that the American taxpayer is subsidizing the British Army in Belfast. In 1976, the American government loaned Britain 4 billion dollars, much of which ended up in the coffers of the British army for use in Belfast, Derry and other hot spots in the north.

Meanwhile, the U.S. military continues to train British troops on American soil. At the same time, the CIA and F.B.I., continues to carry out surveillance of Irish Americans who speak out on Ulster and the policy of the British government on the north. These American intelligence agencies report regularly to Scotland Yard and the British Military Intelligence network. The failure of Irish American politicians to apply pressure on Mr. Carter is an important factor in Mr. Carter's reversal on Ireland. Instead of following this course, Mr. Kennedy and Governor Carey of New York State recently came out in support of British policy, despite recent developments and the fact that the Strasbourg Commission has found Britain guilty of torturing political prisoners.

The State Department has long been a branch office of No. 10 Downing Street and the home office. Apparently, Jimmy Carter has decided to change nothing. He will continue to condemn the suppression of human rights in South Africa and other areas while supporting the same system in Ireland. It is little wonder that third world nations and the United Nations in recent years have refused to follow American policy. Meanwhile, Jimmy Carter claims to be a "Christian". He teaches each Sunday in Sunday School in a Baptist Church in Washington, D.C. This kind of "Christianity" is something we can all do without.

From P.R.O. Manchester and Halifax Sinn Fein cumann

A Chara,

Not content with giving lengthy prison sentences to Republicans it is now clear that the "Brits" Home Secretary Merlyn Rees has given his dirty tricks Brigade orders to carry out a form of harassment that is tantamount to psychological warfare against those who visit the P.O.W.'s in England.

The Mother of Stephen Nordone and Mary Casey his girl friend received some of their treatment when they visited Stephen who is serving three life sentences plus 129 years.

At each visit to Wakefield prison each was searched rigorously, even though the visit was

a closed visit, and at one visit a screw attempted to shorten their visit by 30 minutes by telling them their time was up. He was soon put in his place by Mrs. Nordone who reminded the screw that the visit was for 2 hours not 1 hour 30 minutes. It is interesting to note that when Mary Casey was coming through the security screen at Leeds Airport she was asked "Have you anything to identify yourself Mary Casey?" After their visit these two women were arrested at Leeds Airport as they were about to board the plane to Dublin and were held for 24 hours. Mrs Nordone was kept in a cell and was given no blankets. Mary Casey was put in a separate cell but would not use the blankets she was given as they smelled of urine etc; They were released after being ques-

tioned photographed and fingerprinted.

The case of Mr. P. J. Blake is somewhat different. He left Letter-Kenny Co. Donegal to visit his brother Stephen Blake who is serving his sentence in Wakefield and as he was coming off the boat at Stranraer he was singled out from a crowd by being pointed at and was then held for questioning. He eventually arrived in Wakefield and had a 2 hour visit with his brother but as he left the prison he was followed by the Special Branch all the way to Halifax. Next day after his 30 minute visit with his brother he was picked up and questioned by the Special Branch and on his return journey home he was stopped and searched at Stranraer, Larne, and by the Brits on the border of Donegal. It is no wonder that he remarked to the screw

who was searching him in Wakefield Prison "Be careful you might find another hand in that pocket".

The inhuman treatment that the Prisoners in Wakefield are receiving at the hands of the screws have led them to ask for a visit from Mr. Frank Maguire M.P. for Fermanagh. We have asked Mr. Leonard Sachs solicitor for Mrs. Nordone to write a letter of protest to the Home Secretary Merlyn Rees and to the Irish Embassy in London regarding the harassment that visitors are receiving here in England. As all visitors are screened for security reasons before they visit a P.O.W. in England why, we ask it is necessary to re-investigate them when they come for a visit?

Gerry Cassidy.

RELATIVES OF PRISONERS HARASSED

THE FREE STATE ELECTIONS AND THE ECONOMY

In the editorial of Tuesdays "Derry Journal" and in a few other leading papers the thesis was made that the change of government in the 26 counties was due to, 'a protest vote in reaction to the government's inability to make any impression on those twin sores: Inflation and unemployment'.

Some observers of the 26 County political scene will no doubt find that explanation less than satisfactory.

It would be naive to think that Fianna Fail achieved victory in the General Election through any great effort on their part.

The main issues of the day such as unemployment, the link with Stirling, the fishing limits and the adverse effect of E.E.C. membership were considered too hot to handle.

Jack Lynch and his Party were reinstated because nothing better was offered to the people.

We would regard the result of the election simply as a blow to Fascist rule in Ireland.

It is significant that Patrick Conney the Minister responsible for Portlaoise Jail and Cruise O'Brien the self-appointed spokesman for British affairs, received their coup de grace. These two individuals regarded themselves as agents of the colonial power (Britain) keeping the natives in order.

Another term of Office by the same regime would have been used to try and end all forms of Nationalism as well as all forms of dissent.

To understand this anti-national stance it must be realised that the foundations of the 26 County State are far from being sound in themselves.

It was established with British guns in 'Free' State hands, killing those who remained loyal to the democratic parliament of Dail Eireann. It has never been able to get away from the guilt of its bloody birth.

Cumann na nGaedhael, from which sprung Fine Gael, was set up to dis-establish the Republic and found the 'Free' State as Britain wished it to be founded.

Ministers, whether they are Coalition or Fianna Fail instinctively get to think of themselves as bosses of the people, there to suppress anything unfavourable.

The political pundits, surprised by this election result, failed to observe



October, 1974: Sipping the stirrup-cup at the South-County Dublin Hunt with daughter Mary.

the growing disillusionment with establishment politics in the 26 Counties.

While the low polls at by elections showed this, more important was the result of a special research carried out by R.T.E. and broadcasted on the 7th. of December last.

Despite the fact that the research was carried out by the establishment's own propaganda service, the results were enlightening.

Only 32% voiced support for Government 'policy' on the 6 Counties despite the continuous barrage of brainwashing during the past six years.

Only 38% voiced support for the Government's education policy, while only 27% supported the Government's handling of natural mineral resources.

67% believed that the Government was handling unemployment badly and 65% believed the same of prices.

Moreover, 50% believed that Fianna Fail could not handle anything better.

The only reasonable conclusion one can draw from all this is that confidence in the establishment parties is at an all time low.

The people who have turned towards Fianna Fail have done so not out of any conviction that they can do things better, but through brainwashing and conditioning as well as despair.

We are living at the moment in an Ireland where despair and despondency are being preached at us from all sides.

The failure of the Leinster House politicians to live up to their duties on the 6 County problem and their multiple betrayals have brought untold hardship and misery to our people.

Because they have no policy on the North except collaboration with the British forces, they have stooped to the level of condoning and using torture against their own people, of crucifying people

Ministers, whether they are Coalition or Fianna Fail instinctively get to think of themselves as bosses of the people.

with non-jury courts and of turning all Ireland into one great concentration camp.

The 26 County people are being brainwashed by the lies of these politicians.

The Sinn Fein organisation in the 'Free' State is now allowed no freedom of speech to express its views.

The Sinn Fein leadership has been denied the right to participate in radio and television interviews and current affairs programmes.

Pressure has been exerted on national and local papers to stop the printing of Sinn Fein press statements.

Property owners who lend their halls for meetings have been intimidated by the special branch and thrown into Jail.

The Cosgrave, Lynch, Cruise O'Brien clique have not allowed Sinn Fein to put forward its policies because they are afraid that the people will see through their own non-policies.

The organisation for Economic Co-operation & Development has forecasted another world trade recession in late 1977.

Where this will leave Ireland is anybody's guess.

The failure of Jack Lynch to grasp the economic nettle while in opposition is unlikely to change now when he has control of Government.

Sinn Fein has realistic

policies to offer and while we must stress that Eire Nua, our Social & Economic programme has the overall solution Derry Sinn Fein propose that the following measures be considered as a short-term solution to the recession.

1. Specific measures to favour Irish manufacturers on the growing home market including import controls.

2. The shifting of a very substantial part of P.A.Y.E onto V.A.T., i.e. to encourage earnings and discourage expenditure, especially on less necessary items.

3. The abolition of tax on profits retained on Irish companies, together with much higher tax on disbursements from Irish companies.

4. Breaking the link with Sterling not least so that foreign exchange control can be introduced and Irish investment overseas heavily taxed.

5. A new deal for Irish savers, including index-linked adjustment for capital and interest.

6. A major drive to increase agriculture production and employment in the agriculture and food processing areas.

Sinn Fein has a real solution to offer which will end the police states of North and South and bring back democracy to Ireland.

We believe that every

community in Ireland should be given true respect and that we must have institutions which will embody that democracy.

Our policies for a just and peaceful system in Ireland are in brief:-

1. A declaration of intent by the British Government that she will leave this country and allow us to govern ourselves, and that all political prisoners be released.

2. That a new constitution be drafted for the New Ireland and that a specific Code of Rights be written into the Constitution.

3. That we have a Federal decentralised system with a government for each of the four provinces and a central government with limited powers.

4. That our Banks be nationalised and used for the welfare of our people.

The self-perpetuating politicians oppose all this. They want to keep partition because they are afraid they will lose their power in a New Ireland in which every man and woman will have a direct say in the control of public affairs.

These selfish politicians have failed the country badly.

They are handing away the great wealth of our national resources, they are building two fascist states in Ireland, they are flirting with the murder gangs of the loyalists and the British army and they have mortgaged the country to money-lenders and have brought about massive unemployment and inflation.

At the Republican Commemoration in Bodenstown this year, Jimmy Drumm spoke of 'Sinn Fein's intention to 'make a stand on economic issues and on the every-day struggles of people'.

We believe that our political and economic policies are the correct ones and we intend to fill the vacuum left by the establishment parties, North and South.



February, 1975: Signing the agreed communique after the Sunningdale talks.

DIARY OF EVENTS

Tuesday 21 June

In Drumarg estate, near Armagh, the Tenants' Association protests against vandalism in the area and warns that, if necessary, it will call on the IRA to deal with the vandals.

Wednesday 22 June

A 19 year old Belfast student sees nine charges against him dropped in Court, because of torture during interrogation. The Belfast Branch of the NUPE (National Union of Public Employees) calls for demilitarisation of the Royal Victoria Hospital, especially with regard to the British Army permanent post on the roof of the Hospital, and British soldiers residing in the Hospital. Official Unionist spokesman accuses NUPE of adding "its voice to the 'Brits Outs' campaign".

In Ahoghill, Co. Antrim, IRA Volunteers launch a shooting attack against the RUC station. An RUC Sergeant is seriously injured, two RUC reservists slightly injured.

A Crumlin Road Jail principal officer is shot dead as he walks home from the Jail. Screws announce that visits and parcels will be suspended until after the funeral.

At night, in Crossmaglen (South Armagh), a car bomb explodes near a British Army barracks. The British soldiers in it are injured.

Thursday 23 June

An unofficial report for British government says that Divis Flats in Belfast are a very undesirable place to live and should be demolished.

Liam Cosgrave quits as head of Fine Gael party.

In a statement, the SDLP urges Newman to make the RUC 'acceptable'.

Belfast inquest is told that Ardoyne community worker and ex-British soldier Mick White, shot dead in March 76, was armed with a legally-held weapon when shot.

The Belfast Brigade IRA after yesterday's NUPE statement, says that operations will cease completely against the RVH in the event of a demilitarisation of the complex.

In Belfast, Clonard Martyrs Sinn Fein Cumann issues a statement about the numerous arrests of young people in the area in the last 48 hours, and denounces this 'new form of internment'.

Derry Comhairle Ceannair, Sinn Fein, says that the people in the South voted Fianna Fail in through despair, and that they are disillusioned with constitutional politics.

In the South, Garret Fitzgerald, outgoing coalition minister, is reported to have agreed to local government handing out grants amounting to £125,000, to the Peace Movement in the South.

In Lenadoon, Belfast, three British soldiers of a patrol are injured in a shooting attack by IRA Volunteers.

In Short Strand, Belfast, at a rally in support of political prisoners, the Relatives' Action Committee denounces "Westminster's campaign of sadism against the prisoners".

A 50 year old man in his car is shot at while driving in North Howard Street, Belfast, between Falls Rd and Shankill Rd.

In Alliance Avenue, North Belfast, the British Army observation post is shot at.

A fire damages a Dundonald warehouse.

At a meeting in London, Tory spokesman Airey Neave calls for a 'Starsky and Hutch' Belfast version TV programme to make RUC more acceptable to Belfast people. He also sympathises with "courageous Conor Cruise O'Brien" on his lamentable defeat!

Friday 24 June

RUC Chief Kenneth Newman in a lengthy statement, accuses those arrested of inflicting wounds on themselves while in custody, so as to accuse the RUC of torture during interrogation and cast a doubt on the charges preferred against them.

The ALJ describes this statement as "absolutely incredible", and points at the findings of the Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg, and of the local compensation courts.

Belfast Sinn Fein lashes out at alleged 'RUC successes' pointing that Strasbourg Court found that these so-called suc-

NEWMAN RUC CHIEF-OF-STAFF



esses were based on the torture of suspects.

In a Belfast court, a man charged in connection with July 1972 bombings, shows a heavily bruised stomach to the court, and claims torture during interrogation.

In the South, the Honours' List is announced: the outgoing Coalition appoints two judges, James d'Aroy, and John Grattan Esmonde, the latter a defeated Fine Gael candidate...

An event among many others: at night, in Beechmount, Belfast, a man is beaten up and dragged away by British soldiers under the eyes of his wife and neighbours.

Saturday 25 June

Armagh Unionist MP Harold McCusker, fails in his bid to have Father Faul silenced by his Bishops, McCusker accused Father Faul of doing the IRA's work for them by campaigning against brutality.

At Eastwood plant, Belfast, the strikers give the management an ultimatum: A step up of the pickets on Monday if the demands are not accepted.

Sunday 26 June

B. Corish resigns leadership of Free State Labour Party.

In New Lodge, Belfast, the Relatives' Action Committee organises a rally in support of Socialist and Republican prisoners.

In Townsend Street, Belfast, a warehouse is damaged by a bomb. Three RUC men who had

come to investigate, are treated for shock. UVF

later claims responsibility for "bombing a dangerous building, it was an accident that RUC men were hurt." In Cornmarket, Belfast, a restaurant is damaged by a fire-bomb. Belfast Brigade IRA, claims responsibility.

Monday, 27th June

Eastwood dispute: talks start between the strikers' Union and the management. More on the Coalition's Honours' List: defeated Fine Gael TD Brendan Toal is given a state job with an annual salary of £11,000!

Trial opens in Dublin of the Belfast UDA man who was caught planting firebombs at Easter in Dublin.

The Newry and South Down Anti-Internment Committee slams RUC Chief Kenneth Newman, for his allegations which are an excuse for the RUC to step up torture of detained suspects.

Another day in the 6 Cos. Courts: three Tyrone Loyalists get a total of 5 years for beating a Catholic Derryman to death outside a pub in Derry; two Derry youths get 38 years between them for their alleged part in a shooting attack of a Brit checkpoint [which had resulted in no casualties].

In Cliftonville, Belfast, the Bowling Club gets bombed. In a statement, Belfast Brigade, IRA claims responsibility, and says that the Club was used by the RUC Special Branch.

NEWS AND

BOOK REVIEW

— by MARY KELLY



Last week's TV programme (Panorama) on the Czechoslovakian people's fight for their rights, will no doubt have created a great feeling of sympathy among Republican sympathisers—Remember the funeral of Dr. Jan PATOCKA, one of the signatories of the 'Charter 77' who died after having been kept in custody by the local Special Branch? Remember the man explaining how the helicopters were circling above the mourners heads? It is a small world isn't it? Anyway, what is this 'Charter 77', which the Czech government is so eager to discredit with the usual allegations of "unternashnal conspiracy"? Well, the 'Charter 77' is a very intelligent and reasonable document listing all the constitutional rights of Czech citizens, and explaining how they

are in fact denied them. Here are a few of these rights which "exist only on paper". Free expression of opinions denied, freedom of speech denied, right to privacy denied right to a fair trial denied to political dissidents right to enter or leave the country denied. And the list goes on...

The BBC seemed to enjoy getting a dig at an Eastern country, of course. But aren't these Brits great upholders of the Rights of Man as long as it's outside their boundaries. But how come Panorama reporters have not come to Belfast? We've got a few violations of Human Rights to show them.

Did you watch the new American Ambassador in London doing his bit on T.V.? There he was in the haven of Belfast Europa

Hotel, spoofing about the attractiveness of our little corner of the island to American investors. The cons of course, were... how will I put it, hem, the 'lack of domestic tranquillity'... (Do you like that?) The big 'pro' was, of course again, the excellent 'industrial relations' Read 'here the workers work hard and shut their mouth, in spite of living standards which are among the lowest in Europe'. And why? Come on, it's elementary. Impotent trade unions, because the working class is divided. Divided, because the country is divided.

The U.S. again, they are changing the head of their local CIA branch, sorry, of their Belfast Consulate. We lose Peter Spicer, to gain Mr. Charles STOUT and guess where their new man has come from he comes from Santiago, Chile, where he was the American consul for political affairs. CIA-watchers, please forward to Republican News any piece of spicy information about this shady character!

Gerald Seymour's book "Harry's Game", (depicting a 'courageous undercover Brit agent' tracking down a 'criminal' in the 'little back streets of our Belfast'), will be made into a film by Thames Television. Most of the film, will be shot in England of course... (you

can't decently direct a film whilst preoccupied with enterlil evacuation). The Brits have to try whatever they can to make a few bob out of this war in which they are losing millions. But, as always, there is another side to the story. What is there behind all the books and films made about the Irish war, the 'troubles' if you want? Well, you read a gripping story, you enjoy it, you shed a tear for the Heroine who dies at the end, and meanwhile, a political message is whispered into your ear, like 'The Brits are here to keep the peace', or 'freedom fighters are criminals'. I'll always remem-

ber one book I saw abroad: it came from the shelf of a Primary School library. A translation of a little gem called 'Across the Barricades', by Joan Lingard, published by Hamish Hamilton, London. Very moving, a real Belfast 'West Side Story', between young Sadie, a protestant girl, and young Kevin, a catholic boy. A lot of local colour, a lot of emotion, and a helpful kind soft-hearted RUC police force, and courageous British soldiers who 'were doing their duty under difficult conditions'. Sometimes, 'Across the Barricades' sounded too much like a Lisburn H.Q.

KNOW YOUR EIRE NUA

NEW

BY CHRISTENE N. ELIAS

POLITICAL STRUCTURES

The undemocratic political structures maintained and manipulated by the colonial and neo-colonial interests in Ireland today have permitted successive free state governments to ignore the needs and rights of the sovereign Irish people and gradually lead us into the disastrous situation in which we find ourselves at present. We have humbly placed at the disposal of these pro-British elements the means to destroy us politically, economically, socially and culturally. When Irish electors are conned into voting for this or that Free State candidate by promises of reduced rates or food subsidies, they are, by endorsing his treachery, also relinquishing to him the power to conveniently turn his back on the national partition challenge to offer larger and larger chunks of Ireland's national sovereignty up to the altar of the Brussels rich man's club, to prostitute the natural resources of this country to the highest bidder, to perpetuate the suffering of the depopulated and dying West, and to trample the native cultural traditions of the

Irish people into the ground.

The Republican Movement rejects the unjust and demoralising structures of government in Ireland today. They must be dismantled and replaced with a truly democratic, decentralised, community-orientated, system of government administration that will guarantee the rights and aspirations of the Irish people as a whole as well as those of each individual citizen. We believe that our 'regionalisation' programme, designed to create a 4-tier federal system of government, provides the basis for a realistic and workable solution to this extremely vital problem.

Under regionalisation, the basic unit and focal point of statutory government will be the District Council or An Chomhairle Cheantair. This is where the devolution of power from the top will really be seen to be working. An Chomhairle Cheantair will be democratically elected (on a P.R. basis) and will represent a community of 10-40,000 people. Its purpose will be to foster the social, economic and cultural development of a

specific area. The people's involvement in the decision making process at this level is the keynote and inherent strength of our proposed governmental system. The smaller Community Council or An Chomhairle Phobail will be represented on the District Council. It will be a voluntary representative body speaking and acting on behalf of local communities of 1,500-6,000 people.

The next government level in our proposals is the Regional Council or An Chomhairle Reigiunach. We envisage that there will be 15 such councils to promote and co-ordinate the affairs of clearly defined economic regions with special separate regional administration for the Gaeltacht. The responsibilities of the Regional Administrative Councils will include the collection of taxes and rates, third and higher level education, hospitalisation, communications, development of growth centres.

The creation of four democratically-elected Provincial Parliaments (Dail Uladh, Dail Laighean, Dail Chonnacht and Dail na Mumhan) is un-

doubtedly one of the most interesting and revolutionary aspects of our regionalisation programme. Although a winner for all the provinces, this level of power is of special significance to the people of Ulster. It represents an important step towards the solution of the partition problem. We recognise that the Unionists have fears of a 'united Ireland' under Dublin's control. We also know that the reason why they opted for six counties and a long wandering border, rather than a nine-county Ulster with a simple frontier from Dundalk to Bundoran, was that they realised that only in a six-county context could they hope to retain power and local domination. Four strong provincial parliaments, including a nine-county Dail Uladh, would serve to reduce fears of domination from Dublin. It would also mean that the real national minority those who would be ex-unionists in an independent Ireland—would have access to real power within Ulster.

In our programme, the Republican Movement proposes that Dail Eireann, the federal parliament, sit in Athlone, the geographical centre of Ireland. This body would be a single chamber of approximately 150 delegates, half of which would be elected by direct univer-



sal suffrage and the other half would represent, in equal numbers, the four provincial parliaments. We advocate reducing the extent of central government and control by limiting its functions to major national matters like Defence, Foreign Affairs, and overall financing. In other words, the authority of the federal government would be maintained in matters in which the whole country must act as one unit.

In Ireland today, Republicans are working hard, despite the obstacles placed in their path, to achieve the realisation of an independent Ireland based on the above programme for new political structures. Anyone familiar with these policies cannot help but recognise the basic merit and common sense of our proposals. What many of them hate to admit is that this Irish solution to an Irish problem was first put forward by the Republican Movement a few days after the introduction of Internment in August 1971.

BRITS OPEN BAR TO SECTARIAN ATTACK



Security fence around the Blackstaff cut open by the British Army.

The Blackstaff Bar on the Springfield Road Belfast must be about the most widely raided bar to be raided by Crown Forces. In one 24 hour period last week this public house was raided a total of 4 times. Last Thursday night (23.6.77) the Brits entered the bar at 12.40 a.m. while the barmen were cleaning up for the night and they were not permitted to leave until 3.45 a.m. This same night a local man returning home from the bar was accosted by the Brits at Springfield Avenue. The Brits hammered him and beat him in the face with the butt of a rifle telling him that this was his jubilee present.

In the early hours on Monday morning (27.6.77) the Brits again entered this bar, this time they forced entry, first by cutting up the wire mesh protecting the outside of the bar from attack by loyalist forces and then smashing open the main door. Once in the premises they were at liberty to do whatever dam-

age they wished, many inner doors, especially the one into the store being smashed open. A complaint was made later that day by members of the Bar Staff to the RUC claiming an illegal forced entry, with the RUC stating that the entry into this bar was perfectly legal. This kind of statement reinforces our stand on the illegality of the RUC and the fact that criminal excesses of the British Crown Forces are accepted as legal.

PRO CLONARD MARTYRS CUMANN.

Fresh 'Hope'?

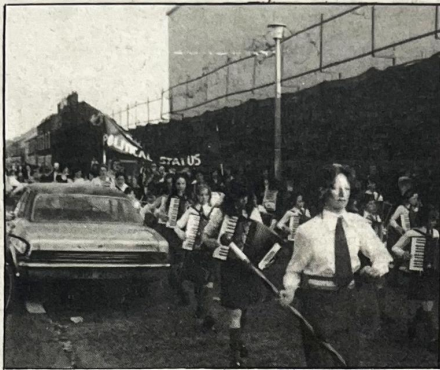
Now that we have a new Government lets hope we have a change of heart in relation to political prisoners in Irish prisons and in particular Portlaoise prison. This establishment

has for too long been a blot on the conscience of all decent men and women in our country who have so unmercifully given Mr. Cooney just his answer by crushing him into the ground and we hope obliterating him from Irish politics forever. Even the unlamented Joe Stalin at his very worst could not have equalled Cooney's vengeance on his opponents with such complacency and feigned righteousness in upholding his version of 'law and order'. How any man could have been so unmerciful on defenceless prisoners is beyond our comprehension. But then history has shown that respectable nations can on occasion vomit up the dregs of its people who by some strange quirk of chance land in positions of power and reveal to the world their total incapacity to hold such power with dignity and respect.

A Finnegan. PRO.

Worthing Watters Bros. Cumann, Dundalk.

R.A.C. RALLIES



SHORT STRAND RALLY

A march organised by the Short Strand R.A.C. took place in the area on Wednesday June 22nd. In the march a mobile cage was carried, in the cage a woman in a blanket gave a graphic indication of what it would be like in H Block.

After the march a rally took place.

DERMOTT HILL -- NEW BARNSELY RALLY

A march in the above area took place in the area on Thursday June 23rd. At a meeting afterwards speakers called for support for the struggle to defend Political Status. The prisoners were being subjected to a campaign of brutality to break their morale. The prisoners were in the vanguard of the fight, but they needed our support, we must intensify the struggle in the streets, and leave the British Government in no doubt that the struggle would not cease until they gave up their criminalisation policy and admitted defeat in Ireland.

struggle until the British Government gives up the attempt to criminalise the Political Prisoners.

As part of the on going campaign the Central Relatives Action Committee organised a march and rally in the New Lodge Road area on Sunday June 26th. We wish to thank the several hundred people who supported this march to show their solidarity with the Republican and Socialist POW's. At the rally afterwards the crowd was addressed by speakers on behalf of the Short Strand RAC, Central Relatives Action Committee, Turl Lodge, RAC, New Lodge, Sinn Fein, and Republican Ex-Prisoners Association.

The speaker on behalf of the Short Strand RAC said that the struggle to defend the special status of Political Prisoners was to establish that they were Prisoners of War, in a war of National Liberation that was being waged in Ireland. The British policy of criminalisation was an attempt to hid this fact, and was meant to fool international opinion into believing that there was no political struggle being waged in Ireland, and it was merely the action of a few criminals.

The speaker on behalf of Sinn Fein said that the success of the campaign to defend Political Status would open the way for a complete amnesty for the Political Prisoners, which would of course mean that the British Imperialists had at last admitted defeat and would disengage from Ireland. But success of the campaign would depend on the ability of the people to put up continuous resistance in the streets.

The chairperson in ending the meeting called for massive support for the march on August 7th on the Falls Road.

WAR MACHINE BACKS 'PEACE' PEOPLE

Last Tuesday 28.6.77 in the Juvenile Court John Williamson aged 16 of 4 Benraw Road was sentenced to one month in St. Patricks Boys Home, for allegedly hitting Mairead Corrigan on the face with an egg, after a so-called peace meeting outside St. Michael's Church, Finaghy Road North. He strenuously denied even being at St. Michaels as his mother has verified that John was in bed suffering from the flu. The army went to great lengths to get a conviction, by flying from Germany four soldiers and one officer plus two soldiers serving in Belfast to act as witnesses against this innocent youth. The mother stated in the court that Mairead Corrigan was not hit with an egg yet young John Williamson was convicted of an offence that did not happen, his mother now accuses Mairead Corrigan and the peace people of being instrumental in having put her son behind bars for one month for an alleged crime that never took place. Despite all their bleatings of helping people they went out of their way to get this innocent youth convicted, since they must have reported a false incident.

PRO AN CUMANN CATHAL BRUGHA, ANDERSONSTOWN ADVICE CENTRE.



IN MEMORIAM

QUINN. In proud and loving memory of Vol. Denis Quinn (killed in Action 3.7.72). Always remembered by the Officers and Members of the John Haughey Sinn Fein Cumann Coalisland.



In Proud and Loving Memory of Lieutenant John Finucane 'F' Company, First Battalion Ogligh Na h-Eireann who died 28th June 1972. Always remembered and sadly missed by his sorrowing wife Sue, Son Patrick, Father and Mother, Brothers and sister also sadly missed by his brother Seamus (Long Kesh Prison Camp).

FIFTH ANNIVERSARY.

Lt. John Finucane (F) Company 1st Battalion Belfast Brigade.

Volunteer Tony Jordon (F) Company 1st Battalion Belfast Brigade who died 28th June 1972.

Always remembered by their friends and Comrades The staff and volunteers 1st Battalion Belfast Brigade.



HIGHSTEAD.

1st Anniversary-Derek Highstead, former National Organiser in Britain, and member of the Ard Comhairle, who died tragically a year ago today. Inserted by the Home Counties Comhairle Ceanntair, Sinn Fein.

CENTRAL STATEMENT

The Central Relatives Action Committee organised a protest picket outside the courts in Chichester Street on Friday June 24th. On this day 4 people were prosecuted for attending a Relatives Action Committee march, these prosecutions can only be seen as deliberate in-

timidation of the people, who have been supporting the R.A.C. street demonstrations organised in defence of Political Status. By organising this picket we clearly state that no one is going to frighten us off the streets, and that we intend to continue the

