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GOD BLESS YOUR COURAGE AND SKILL

Inside Story of Mountjoy Escape.

By Staff Reporter Sorca Ni Mhurchu

The most audacious, cleverly-planned jail escape in Irish history was made on Wednesday week last when three Northern Republican leaders were whisked by air to freedom by a commandeered helicopter which landed in the exercise yard of "D" wing of Mountjoy Jail.

The helicopter containing five men, Seamus Twomey J. B. O'Hagan, Kevin Mallon, a very cool, brave Republican Volunteer and the pilot, were over the prison wall in exactly one minute, heading for a carefully, pre-arranged touch-down point.

The Dublin regime were reported to be shocked, angered and embarrassed by the escape. "What matter" said thousands of freedom loving Irishmen and women at home and abroad; "The main thing is that these gallant Irish patriots are free and the morale of Republicans North and South is at an all time high."

Gerry O'Hare is a Political Prisoner in the 'Joy. Let him tell what happened when the 'Copter swooped out of the sky.

Here is his own graphic description of the scenes in the prison yard: "Picture Croke Park on All Ireland Final day. Picture Wembley after a Cup Final. The victorious players and officials hugging and kissing each other. We have done it! Players rolling on the ground nearly delirious with joy — now picture Mountjoy jail exercise yard at 3.40 p.m. on Halloween eve.

Political Prisoners hugging each other. The defeated screws standing around like a defeated football team, but it was no football victory we were celebrating. ALL of us had taken a part in the GREATEST ESCAPE EVER FROM A JAIL. There in the sky buzzing away was the prize. One helicopter with three 'star' transfers abroad, Seamus Twomey, J. B. O'Hagan and Kevin Mallon. Their new manager never even got to say 'Hello' or 'Goodbye'!!!!

Suddenly the big brass arrived screaming, "Who was it, who was it," Jack Lynch would have been proud of us — we all FORGOT! One screw fainted saying "Ten went." "No," another said, "Eight went." I ventured to say "I think we should settle for nine."

(Continued on Back Page)



"CHARLIE 5 TO ALPHA — HAVE JUST SPOTTED TWOMEY."

UP in the sky

Seamus, Joe and Kevin,
Were in the yard one day,
When a helicopter landed,
And took them all away

Seamus, Joe and Kevin,
Are up, up and away,
You could hear the Provos shouting
Three cheers for the I.R.A.

Seamus, Joe and Kevin,
Are now out and about,
Cosgrave is afraid now,
And tells all to watch out!

Seamus, Joe and Kevin,
Were freed in the afternoon,
Cosgrave and his soldiers said
That they would catch them soon

But Seamus, Joe and Kevin,
He won't find any day
For they have many friends about
Who support the I.R.A.

Composed by Dara O'Hagan, Lurgan, Co. Armagh
(aged nine years) as a tribute to her Daddy.

From Michael Tobin

OUR MAN IN AMSTERDAM

The well dressed personnel manager glanced at me and shaking his head said: "We don't have any vacancies." With a nod I spun around on my heel and quickly left the factory. Deep inside I was boiling with rage. Here was I, an Irishman in Ireland, being told curtly by another Irishman in the pay of a foreign owned company geared to milking our nation for the benefit of the greedy money-bags of Western capitalism, that there was no work available.

Once outside the long low-slung building I slowly gazed around me. There were factories to the right and to the left — as far as I could see. And all of them had foreign names. Already on that cold March morning I had called at over twenty five of these workplaces in this big industrial estate on the outskirts of Dublin. But no luck! I was willing to work and work hard. But try as I might there just was no work to be had.

Suddenly feeling cold, I decided to return to my lodgings on the other side of the city. I walked quickly, and, as I passed the rows of factories where I had sought work in vain earlier in the day, my thoughts began to dwell on *Eire Nua* — The Social and Economic Programme of Sinn Fein — which had been published the year before. I had read it in full then; but I had not thought about it very deeply — not until I walked through that Dublin industrial estate with little money in my pocket and what seemed a bleak prospect ahead.

What I liked most about *Eire Nua* was that here was an eminently practicable programme of suggested action which would, if put into practice, take Ireland out of the orbit of enslaving foreign imperialism and in doing so make it possible for the Irish people as a whole to have a future in which they themselves would be the masters. No longer would they have to play the ignoble and servile role of stage Irish men and women for the titillation of foreign tourists. No longer would they have to export en masse the brains and muscle power of their nation. No longer would their beautiful land be plundered by rapacious foreign business interests. No longer would they be a bastard people, without a true sense of identity or path in life — and without a national soul.

One of the great things about *Eire Nua* is that first and foremost it is an economic and social programme aimed at benefiting, both materially and spiritually, all the people in Ireland for their own sake only and not for the direct or indirect advantage of foreign imperialism. Indeed, in this respect alone, what a contrast there is between *Eire Nua* and the programmes of the controlling political parties in the 6 County and 26 County statelets. Everything that these latter parties do is done on a basis which accepts and takes for granted the notion of a weak and abject Ireland operating as a cog in the great mangling machine of foreign imperialism. And, hence, when fundamental social, political or economic issues are at stake these same political parties invariably play the despicable role of puppets and Irish Quislings. Their existing predominant position depends on Ireland remaining prostrate under the heels of pot-bellied John Bull and his like. And so, in order to

perpetuate their power and social control they will join with their Imperialist overlords when faced with the growing Republican threat to the long established status quo in Ireland.

This is why it is just a waste of time for individuals of spirit and independence of mind to try and get the ruling parties in Ireland to modify this or that part of their policies in order to try and make a better Ireland. Only the Republican Movement with the full and direct involvement of the Irish people can do this. Because only the Republican Movement has a programme of action which can pull Ireland out of the smothering web of foreign Imperialism and satisfy the real needs and heartfelt aspirations of our people.

Eire Nua is a revolutionary document. It openly challenges the sorry phenomenon of Ireland being a milch cow to be milked at will by British and capitalism at large. And it opens a window with a view of an altogether new and different Ireland, a United Ireland, a Democratic Socialist Ireland, a New Ireland of 32 counties — ruled not by Shawnees and Quislings but by the Irish masses themselves.

When Patrick Pearse stood on the steps of the G.P.O. on that historic Easter Monday of 1916, he proclaimed a vision of a New Ireland. Now, with *Eire Nua*, we have a detailed programme of action which can and will with the backing of the Irish people gives full substance to that magnificent vision and turn it from just a dream of martyrs and fighters for Irish freedom into the tangible reality of (to use James Connolly's words) "the enthronement of the Irish nation as the supreme ruler and owner of itself, and all things necessary to its people — supreme alike against the foreigner and the native usurping ownership, and the power dangerous to freedom that goes with ownership."

"Compromises are in the air. The S.D.L.P. could be getting ready to settle for administrative reforms of the R.U.C. plus a new complaints structure, instead of demanding a new force. It may leave its anti-internment campaign 'on the table' in return for the release of detainees who have renounced their I.R.A. allegiance." (Sunday Telegraph 21/10/73).

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A Cara,

Allow me space in "Republican News," to appeal to Irish people resident in Britain, to give a few hours of their time to honour all who died in the cause of Irish freedom.

On Sunday November 25th, 1973, Manchester honours the memory of the Manchester martyrs who were hanged in that City over a century ago.

Commemoration starts with Mass at St. Dunstan's Ben Brierley at 2.15 p.m. followed by Commemoration to Moston Cemetery Manchester at 3 p.m.

Oration by a Republican speaker.

Is mise,

J. MORAN, Manchester.

LIAM MAC

IMPERIAL COMMUNISTS

An organisation that has never taken action politically (sorry two years ago it picketed Kevin Street in Dublin) but has lived on theorising about the contradictions of capitalism especially in Ireland and blaming the southern capitalists for all the trouble in the Six Counties. The organisation namely the B.I.C.O. better known as the British and Imperial Communist Organisation, has theorised itself into a real difficulty.

A few weeks ago in its Workers Weekly newspaper, printed by the Athol Street group, it was eager to tell Victor Feather and the British T.U.C. that they should take up Heath's offer of co-operation in carrying out his phase 3 wages and anti-inflation policy as the surest way of getting into positions of power, instead of the "negative policy of fighting for mere increases in wages, which wouldn't help the country."

I thought it was a mistake, and as they never repeated such ravings I thought my thoughts had been confirmed.

But their theorising has taken them still further into dreamland. In an article on the recent Tory conference, they suggest that "The Labour Party conference was a confidence trick while the Tory conference was a serious business." And the reason why was that the Tories spoke of the unpleasant face of capitalism and called for a new capitalist society in which capitalism would have a more humane face with worker participation. But says the B.I.C.O. this is Socialism. And the enemy is the British Labour Party who are trying to make the Heath plan collapse.

You see what I mean when I say that theorising without action softens the brain. This organisation which shows its hate for the struggle for an independence and free Ireland on every page of its literature since 1969 when it suddenly decided to preach the old Unionist and Orange theory that there are two nations in Ireland. Has begun to take to task the unpledged unionists and 'Loyalists' groupings for not uniting with wee man Faulkner to make the Assembly work.

But even here their fears overcome their theories and they get all twisted up.

"The Irish News suggests that integration is not on because the British Labour Party and the Southern Government would not stand for it . . . would they not indeed? Faced with the alternatives they soon would accept it." (Two Nations, October 1973).

"Taylor knows that integration will be the only course left if the Assembly breaks down but it will clearly be second best for it will not have the agreement or acquiescence of two of the parties, the N.I. Catholics and the Southern Ireland Government. Taylor's analysis must inevitably lead him to this conclusion but he balks at the logical outcome and keeps up his ranting and raving against power-sharing. Power sharing will mean a stronger administration Loyalist politicians either will not or cannot comprehend that simple fact." (Workers Weekly 27/10/73).

You see what I mean now about theory. Their brains must surely be getting soft by now.

DISCRIMINATION

A few weeks ago the Mini Mac Supermarket Rathcoole got a new manager, when the staff found out he was a Catholic, they passed on the informat-

ion to the local branch of the East Antrim Loyalist Front, who in turn gave the information to the editor of the 'Loyalist News' In their issue dated 20/10/73, and which is on sale on Thursday, the editor called for a boycott of the supermarket because of the "Romanist Manager" and the very next day — Friday — the manager was transferred to another job.

That is just an example of how the U.D.A. and the Loyalist Front has the Rathcoole area under control. They are, by the way, helped by the co-operation of the R.U.C. "community policeman" Herdman.

It is interesting to note that the Mini Mac and Super Mac Supermarkets are owned by the Bank Buildings which in turn is owned by the Hugh Frazer Group of companies in England.

"uncle Ted Heath, with Geoffrey Johnston-Smith acting as a feed man, indulged in a new kind of phone-in Party Political Broadcast. It was like a poor impersonation of Morecambe and Wise, or a Goodies edition that had gone wrong.

There were tame questions from polite viewers and Mr. Heath flannelled his way through smilingly. No one asked him rude questions about the even more rude Irish or the blacks. (AIF McCready, Belfast Telegraph 27/10/73).

"Frankly I'm fed up to the back teeth with the public attitude to Paisley. This posturing clown is thought to be great gas, always good for shafts of wit and quotable quotes. The man in fact is a bloody hypocrite and you have only to read his Protestant Telegraph to be assured of that." (Wigmore Sunday Independent. 28/10/73).

You read in the press that Paisley took over control of the Assembly last week and spoke for three and a half hours, just merely filibustering in a debate which lasted six days on one resolution proposed by the unpledged Unionists. In their review of the debate the Protestant Telegraph (27/10/73) had this to say.

"The tone of the debate was set by Dr. Paisley, who introduced an element of humour into the proceedings and was, indeed, thanked for doing so by an S.D.L.P. member. At times the entertainment value of the debate was so high it would be well worth while Willie Whitelaw to charge admission to the public gallery.

It was amusing to see Mr. Paddy O'Hanlon, elected Temporary Presiding Officer, sitting in the former Speaker's chair which was complete with Royal emblem."

A deputation to Davy Howell Minister of State wanted to know what plans he had for the further development of the Larne area. He was able to tell the deputation that work on the new trunk road to Larne Harbour and additions to the work force at the G.E.C. would help the unemployed in Larne area.

Very nice for the good 'loyalists' of Larne. You should also understand that the number of unemployed in the area is a mere 2.3 per cent, away below the average of the six counties which this month is 5.6 per cent.

THE CRUEL CURRAGH

For seven months now since the 5th of March political prisoners in the Curragh Camp have been refusing visits in an effort to gain political status.

News of this campaign, when it began, appeared in the columns of the press and then, suddenly this news stopped. The blockage of this news is a clear enough indication of the power exerted over the press of the 26 Counties by the government in that section of our country.

We are all only too well aware of the treatment accorded to the men, women and children in the Concentration Camps here in the 6 Occupied Counties. So aghast and horrified have we been by the reports of brutality and the ill treatment of the political hostages in the 6 County prisons, that we have turned out in droves to demand their release. We will continue to do so until such times as the very last person is released unconditionally and therein lies the crux of the matter.

Looking across the border, John Bull's lackeys in Leinster House fearing similar reaction from the people they have been hoodwinking, conning and exploiting, under the guise of governing have decided to ban all news of the men held hostage in the Curragh. So that the matter has been swept under the carpet by them.

Physical abuse of the hostages in the Curragh does not as a rule take place — mental distress does. The Curragh Camp prison is a military prison, designed to deal with military personnel sentenced to a maximum term of three months detention, consequently it is designed to handle only very short term prisoners. Many of the political prisoners held there at present are serving sentences of up to 7 years. There recreational and educational facilities are practically nil.

In keeping with their hypocritical, holier than thou attitude, the Free State government are pressing charges of torture and ill treatment of the political internees in Long Kesh against the British government. This, while the ghosts of the Republican dead, murdered by the Free State government, haunt our betrayed and prostituted country. Who will grant political status to our men in Free State prisons? The Free State government? We all know the answer to that.

"you traitors, you quizlings, you cowards!
It's to England you still bend a knee"



Thomas Harte Sinn Fein Cumann, Lurgan.

Dear Sir,

We consider the escape from Mountjoy of our three leading revolutionaries is a historic event. We consider it would be a good idea if we could run a selection of songs to commemorate this event. This song was written in the space of one hour after the event and sung that evening.

A tribute to J. B. one of the Three.

1-2-3 LIFT-OFF

Air: Kevin Barry.



*In Mountjoy jail one Wednesday morning,
As the Provos they did play,
A helicopter landed
and took J. B. away.*

*Then J. B. and his companions,
Did boldly speed away,
You could hear the Provos singing,
Up! Up! the I.R.A.*

*Then Cosgrave and his quislings,
Cried my God this cannot be,
We have them in our prison,
Mallon, Twomey and J. B.*

*Now the birds they have flown,
And the British are dismayed,
For it's certain in the future,
We will see more British dead.*

From Eileen, Joe and Liam (Lurgan).

LETTERS

A Chara,

On behalf of the Martin Forsythe Cumann, Dublin, we would like to thank all the people of Turf Lodge Estate for their very kind hospitality during our stay for the Second Anniversary of the death of Martin Forsythe.

We would also like to congratulate the people for their tremendous turn out in Milltown Cemetery for the commemoration ceremony. In particular we would also like to congratulate to Martin Forsythe Cumann, Turf Lodge, for their splendid organising of na Fianna, na gCaillini and the whole ceremony.

It was a pleasure and an honour for us to attend this ceremony and also address the people. The fight for Ireland's freedom has been a long and bitter one, but we must always bear in mind the saying "Repression breeds resistance and while the people of Ireland are a repressed nation, we shall continue to fight until we have established a Democratic Socialist Republic, with Justice for ALL.

Is sinne,
Mary Costelloe,
Bill Kane.

(Martin Forsythe Cumann
Rathfarnham, Dublin.)

8 Lakelands Park,
Bally Athu Cleath 6.



by SEAMUS READER

AFTER a most exciting 12 days in Scotland my problem on the evening of Saturday the 15th of January 1916 was to get out of the City of Glasgow immediately and on my way to Ireland with one and a half hundredweight of high explosives, some small arms and ammunition, six Irish Volunteers under my command to act as transport escort and three sets of instructions concerning the I.R.B., I.C.A. and I.V.

We assembled in the Glasgow Irish Volunteers Headquarters, Ann Street, which was not far from the Railway Station and, when our packing was completed, and assurance given to the enquiries as to the weather forecast—would there be fog?—would the sea be rough?—the floating mines and German submarines, we proceeded to the Central Station, Glasgow to get the train for the Belfast Steamer at Ardrossan. Some of our baggage was put in the Guards van and members of the Glasgow Cumann na mBan and Volunteers gave us a send off, throwing confetti on us, which withdrew the suspicion of the Irish detectives at the Station. During this period ships could not leave "British Ports" without consent of the "British Admiralty" who were responsible for the ships' movements against German submarines. On the all clear we sailed for Belfast.

JANUARY 16TH 1916—SUNDAY :

On the morning of Sunday, 16th January, 1916, prior to the ship berthing at Belfast, I instructed the Volunteers aboard ship with me as to our behaviour and procedure while ashore in Belfast. I explained to them that, officially, I was expected to arrive at the North Wall, Dublin, that morning, and not in Belfast, that owing to the new set of circumstances and on the instructions of Joe Robinson, we were now to land at Belfast and there was a possibility that our friends might not be on the look-out for us at the Belfast docks, that, in event of there being a delay in our getting ashore in Belfast, Sean and Seamus Rice would go to their pre-arranged lodgings in the city, that the remaining five of us would proceed to the Great Northern Railway Station, to try and get the 9 a.m. train to Dublin, thus leaving no material in Belfast, but that, if we were ashore at Belfast too early, F. Scullion, C. Turner and myself would take a jaunting car, with all the munitions, to McGlade's house, Falls Road, and that Sean and Seamus Rice, Sean Hegarty and Seamus McGollaghy would follow, with the personal luggage, in another car, or, if possible, a cab.

As we were allowed ashore early, we carried out the latter course. When we arrived at McGlade's house, we could not get admittance and we were told by neighbours that the sisters McGlade had gone out to early Mass. As any delay in this quiet district might cause suspicion, I decided to proceed

to the Belfast home of James Connolly and get in touch with the Belfast Volunteer Officers. On arriving at the house, we were received by Mrs. Connolly, her two daughters and son, Roddy. I apologised for our sudden arrival, and said we would leave as soon as possible.

We had been observed by Volunteer scouts as we went on our way through the city to McGlade's. One of the Dempsey's I am not sure whether it was Paddy or Seamus, called on us at Connolly's and told me that Denis McCullagh was out of town, and that it would be dangerous to go to the Fianna huts at Willowbank. He then went to Donnelly's for instructions and information Sean Hegarty and Seamus McGollaghy went to the railway station, for information concerning trains to Dublin, Sean and Seamus Rice were told to fix themselves up in Belfast until they got instructions from Dublin. Later, the Rice's came back to the house, and told me that the next train for Dublin was in the afternoon, and that, when Sean Hegarty and Seamus McGollaghy arrived at the station, they learnt that a train was about to leave for Dublin and they boarded it.

From the information I got in Connolly's, I gathered that there was about to be some commotion. Some of them thought that the house was under observation by the R.I.C., and might be raided, so I was anxious to get clear of the city. I requested Ina Connolly and someone else to go out and get a car. Before leaving Belfast,

we had to leave some of the material behind, a quarter of a stone of explosives, one exploder and a hundred detonators. The Rices were instructed to leave their small arms and ammunition in Belfast before going to Dublin.

Later, F. Scullion, C. Turner, and myself left for Dublin on the 2.30 p.m. train. I tipped the porters well. They were under the impression that the luggage contained books and tools. It was put into the guard's van.

At about 5.15 p.m. that evening, F. Scullion, C. Turner, and myself arrived at Amiens Street railway station, Dublin. After waiting some time for some contact to get in touch with us, I hired a jaunting car to take us as far as North-Frederick Street. On the way, we dropped F. Scullion, who was going to his home on the north side of the city. I told the jarvey that I was not sure of my destination as my friend, with whom I was going to stay, had failed to turn up at the station.

We drove around the vicinity three times, but failed to locate Wellington Lane, of which I had only a hazy mental picture. After so much excitement, since I had got my instructions on the 2nd January, 1916, from Sean McDermott, I felt at a loss, for the moment. The jarvey must have sensed something, for on the third trip along North Frederick Street, he suggested getting the assistance of two policemen, who were standing at the corner of Abbey Presbyterian Church, North Frederick Street. Pressing the muzzle of my revolver against his hip, I told him to keep driving. He told me to keep calm, and that he would help me.

When he got to Dorset Street, the jarvey said that the Volunteers and the Countess had addressed meetings from his car. I believed him, and ordered him to take us to Leinster Road, Rathmines, telling him that he would be well compensated. We halted at a corner near Surrey House, and I proceeded alone to the house. I found that the lower window was wide open, and, when I got no reply to my knocking the door, I shouted through this window. I knew that there was someone in the house, by the licker shadow on the hall-wall and the candle light in the kitchen. On entering the kitchen I found Theo. Fitzgerald there, helping himself to jam sandwiches. He

was surprised to see me. I put him on his honour, as a member of the Fianna, and told him I wanted to know John Tobin's address at once, with as much secrecy as possible. As he knew the address, he returned with me to the car, and we all drove to Wellington Lane.

I halted the car at the entrance to the lane, and we unloaded our material. I paid the jarvey well. We got plenty of assistance from Tobin's house, from where most of the stuff was sent to St. Enda's college, the following morning, and later to Kimmage.

I told J. Tobin that I would have to explain to James Connolly what had happened in Belfast, that I would stay that night in Surrey House, and that I would report to McDermott at 12 D'Olier Street on the following morning.

On arriving at Surrey House, which seemed to be crowded, the Countess realised that I was very tired, and ordered me to rest, stating that I could report to Connolly before going to McDermott in the morning.

Brits rob Lurgan children of both parents

Five young Lurgan children are to remain orphans — by order of the British "High Court" in Belfast.

Mrs. Eileen Lennon, the children's 26 year old mother, has been refused bail to care for her young family. Her husband is a political prisoner in Crumlin Road jail. The R.U.C. allege she had handled a .22 pistol.

At the same court a leading loyalist in the Highfield area, Sammy Hinton of Highpark Crescent was released on a surety of £700. Hinton, a 30 year old employee of Mackies Foundry, was alleged to have had two pistols and 54 rounds of ammunition at his home.

Meanwhile, in Magherafelt, a Castledawson man who was charged with attempted murder was also released on bail.

Derby Alexander Rankin, 33, from Chichester Avenue, Castledawson was represented by a Magherafelt solicitor who expressed thanks for "an operation from the police authorities."

LONDON TIMES
SAYS "B.A.
REFUSED TO CONFIRM
NUMBER OF DEAD"

The B.A. has been involved in a massive cover up operation to hide its casualty figures in Ireland.

This has been confirmed by a report in THE TIMES of London which says that "a spokesman formally declined to give any background information ... and even refused to confirm the number of dead."

The story, from Times staffman Robert Fisk in Belfast, dealt with the high rate of fatal accidents among British troops fighting here but mentioned, also, one case of murder and four suicides.

The printed version of the report was heavily censored and the original draft - which dealt with the number of deaths caused among British troops by Republican forces in the last six months - is believed to have been the subject of a 'D' notice issued by the Ministry of Defence in London.

A 'D' notice is issued to prevent newspapers giving information which the British government does not wish made public "for security reasons."

Fisk attempted to get around this by dealing only with fatal accidents which had been covered up.

And he quoted a B.A. official source as refusing to give the number of troops actually killed, saying: "This is because of possible anguish to relatives."

British newsmen have been aware for some time that the full facts on British losses in Ireland are being concealed.

One of them said recently "Either the I.R.A. are using blank ammunition now or deaths and injuries among the troops are no longer being reported."

Another said "I believe in miracles, but it seems to me that with troops having so many miraculous escapes from rockets, regnades and hails of bullets that this place should be advertised as a rival to Lourdes."

Last year, after probing by THE GUARDIAN newspaper, a British minister admitted in London that Special Air Service men and other troops fighting a secret war in Dhofar on the Persian Gulf had been buried secretly there while others had been flown home for burial after their relatives had been informed that they had been killed accidentally in Germany.

In answer to questions from Labour M.P.s, the Minister of Defence said that this had been done "For security reasons," and the matter was then allowed to drop.

RENT STRIKE NOW COSTING BRITS TEN TIMES MORE

A staggering £2,500,000 will be added to the cost of Britain's war in Ireland before the end of this year as a result of the continued solidarity of the rent and rates strike.

All told, £5,886,092 has been withheld in the most spectacular protest by a civilian population against the Brits since the heyday of Mahatma Ghandi's anti British campaign in India.

In a comment on the figures released by British administration officials at Stormont Castle the Unionist evening newspaper, the Belfast Telegraph, said: "they show that this form of protest is gaining support." The strike is 10 times more effective now than it was when it started.

"Why pay for the boots that kick you,"

British politicians are known to be seriously worried by the continuing success of the rent and rates strike.

There are several reasons for this. The huge number of people involved gives lie to their propaganda statements that only a small group is fighting British repression.

Despite threats, court action, harassment, the seizure of goods and the cutting off of welfare benefits to widows and old age pensioners, the mass of the people have remained firm in their protest.

And this is a sure sign that Britain's policy of buying off a handful of crooked Stormont and Democratic Labour Party politicians, while thumping the man in the street with naked force, has failed hopelessly.

Some commentators are speculating that it is only a matter of weeks before the S.D.L.P. make another and more vigorous attempt to break the strike than the last one made by Gerry Fitt.

The widespread nature of the strike is causing the Brits considerable concern. In Derry City nearly £500,000 has not been paid this year alone. In Newry £224,000 is due for the same period and the total figure for the town, when outstanding rates are added, is expected to climb nearer the half million mark. Belfast accounts for a big part of the total of £1,605,223 which has been withheld already this year.

And local resistance leaders dispute the figures, astronomical though they are, which have been issued by the Brits.

They point out that the enormous administrative costs involved in recovering some of the money from rent strikers by deducting it from their wages or family allowances have not been included in the totals. An army of temporary civil servants is employed at Dundonald House attempting to sort out the hopeless tangles in the Brits financial machinery caused by the strike.

And the withholding of other payments, such as TV licence fees and income tax paid by self employed people, has not been included in the totals. Thousands of farmers, shopkeepers and publicans have refused to pay any more money to Britain's occupation administration since August 9th 1971.

A well known businessman in Co. Tyrone said: "My widowed sister has her only two sons locked up in cages in that hell hole at Long Kesh. A hy should I help to pay the wages of the men who keep them there."

A director in one of his companies put it another way: "We are not going to put up the money for the boots that kick us and our customers."

In Andersonstown a leading Civil Resistance official said he had been amazed at the degree of solidarity which the ordinary people had maintained.

For the record, the figures admitted by the Brits - and it should be remembered that these are considerably less than the true figures are: in 1971 - £150,000; in 1972 - £1,030,769; and in the period between January and August 1973 - £1,605,223.

On top of this they are in the process of trying to recover £3,250,000 from people who receive welfare payments such as family allowances.

Prisoners Welfare

The following resolution was passed at a special delegate meeting held in St. Laurence's Hall, Andersonstown, on Sunday October 28th.

"That from today, all gifts, whether in goods, money, clothing or handicrafts, intended for the Republican prisoners, will be donated through the Irish Republican Welfare Committee. The Committee will be responsible to various Camp Councils and their committees for the distribution of all funds and goods."

The meeting was attended by representatives of all Belfast areas, a large number of social clubs, and other committees who have been contributing generously since 1969 towards the welfare of Republican prisoners.

After a lengthy debate, the delegates decided, almost unanimously, back the IRPW. It was also decided that a special committee of women be elected, representative of all areas, to look after the girls in Armagh, in English and Scottish prisons, and one little girl in Middleton.

The Irish Republican Prisoners Welfare Committee, who have a clear mandate from the delegates and the various prison camp councils, hope that any club or small committee not represented at the meeting, who have been donating money to individual prisoners in the past, will now channel such gifts through the IRPW. Their address is 25 Divis Street, Belfast.

It is the intention of IRPW that the honour and dignity of Republican prisoners be upheld.

A delegate meeting has been arranged for November 19. Any clubs or committees not represented at the last meeting are invited to send representatives. The Committee promised to notify such bodies brought to their attention as soon as possible.

The story of Kevin Kavanagh, a licensed gun dealer and a British secret agent, sheds new light on Foreign Office complicity in the attempts by Northern Irish Protestants to form a "loyalist army".

In 1961 Kavanagh (a wartime British army agent) invented a new type of "over and under" shot gun. He was approached by the Central Office of Information who offered a "package deal" of export assistance at British Trade Fairs in return for information about student political opinions and industrial information in Germany, Belgium, Italy and Rumania. Kavanagh's cover as an Irish arms dealer was considered to be especially valuable.

In 1967 Kavanagh had moved his authorised gun business from Cheltenham to Birr, Eire with the financial assistance of the Irish Development Authority. With the exception of one small business in Belfast this was the only gun factory in the whole of Ireland. It employed 87 people and enjoyed various excise concessions. In the same year Kavanagh was instructed by his contact in the Foreign Office to place an ad in the *Shooting Times* for additional skilled labour. As a result he recruited three more men who were all intended by DI6 to use the Birr factory as a base for infiltrating the illicit Irish gun trade on behalf of the British Government. A number of arms dealers from the North, including George Strong (a director of Gun & Tackle Ltd, a small gun dealers in Belfast) were given the freedom of the premises in Kavanagh's absence by these three men. Whatever happened next, and Mr. Kavanagh says that he has always refused to act as a British agent in the Irish Republic - even when London threatened to denounce him to the Irish Special Branch - the upshot was that in 1969 the three British agents were fired by the Fenian Gun Co. after being prosecuted for theft. Mr. Kavanagh's grant from the Irish Development Authority ended unexpectedly, later in the year, and he was forced to close his factory.

Within a month of returning to Cheltenham in April 1970 Mr. Kavanagh had been invited to move to Cornwall, a special development area with high unemployment.

Kevin Kavanagh's problems in setting up a licensed arms business in Cornwall were first disclosed in the *Eve* last year (265, 276). He was greeted on his arrival by Det. Supt. William Willmott who claimed to be acting on a tip off, and who charged him with technical offences under the Firearms Act (Det. Supt. Willmott is currently the subject of a complaint that he planted an unlicensed gun barrel among Kavanagh's legitimate equipment). On this charge Kavanagh was eventually given an absolute discharge in the Court of Appeal, when Lord Justice Edmund Davies said: "It is clear that the whole of Mr. Kavanagh's long trial of trouble was initiated by lying information maliciously laid against him by some person or persons unknown..."

We entertain the hope that the proper authorities will have second thoughts about Mr. Kavanagh... We hope this man is going to be received with sympathy and assistance..." Mr. Kavanagh promptly wrote to the Chief Constable of Cornwall, Lt Col R.B. Greenwood CBE, informing him of the court's decision and reapplying for his gun dealer's licence. Col Greenwood equally promptly refused the application again. Kavanagh's appeal against this decision is due to be heard shortly in the Court of Appeal.

Since his arrival in Cornwall, Kavanagh has been unable to carry on his trade, he has incurred considerable debts and on each occasion that he has tried to get a job with another gun manufacturers (such as Wbley & Scott) he has been told that the police have objected to his employment. He and his wife and their invalid daughter are now living on Social Security payments, pending the result of his appeal.

Because of the behaviour of his former em-

Kavanagh's Troubles

ployers, DI6, in the course of this legal battle Kavanagh has now decided to reveal something of the British Government's part in cooperating with the Northern Irish Protestants' "secret army" over the last 5 years.

In 1970 Kavanagh received a visit from the Rev. Ian Paisley and his body guard David Lerner. Paisley spoke of the prosecution pending against Kavanagh and offered the services of "a top lawyer", Desmond Boal QC, then Stormont MP for the (Protestant) Shankhill. He also mentioned that George Strong and John Campbell (the directors of Gun & Tackle Ltd) were "very good friends" of his. Kavanagh had first reported Strong and Campbell to London as suspicious looking arms dealers in 1965 when he was still in Cheltenham. He had been reassured by the security authorities that both were beyond reproach. He had met Strong several times after that in England and in Belfast (and once when Strong was being shown round the Birr factory by the British agents on Kavanagh's payroll). Since Paisley's conversation with Kavanagh, Strong's fellow director John Campbell and three others, Charles Harding-Smith, the chairman of the UDA, Robert Dalzell and Mr. Johnston, have been arrested and tried at the Old Bailey on charges of attempting to import £100,000 worth of guns and ammunition into N. Ireland. The police case against Campbell and Harding-Smith seemed strong. The "arms dealer" they had contacted had been a British undercover agent. They were arrested in a room in the Hilton Hotel, London by detectives hiding in a cupboard who had overheard the details of their attempts to fix the deal. They were arrested in April 1972 and held on remand for 8 months. While in Brixton they were visited by Desmond Boal QC, who supplied them with copies of an "assassination list" which had been compiled by Protestant loyalists, the RUC Special Branch and British Military Intelligence. One man who was shown this list by Harding-Smith (Michael O'Kane, a Strabane Republican) remembers seeing among several hundred Republican names those of Maire and Jimmy Drumm, Tom and Joe Cahill and Joe Bryson (recently shot dead). Desmond Boal told his clients to produce this list in court and to subpoena various army and police officers if the prosecution really pressed their case. At the trial last December Campbell's defence to the accusation that he was dealing in £100,000 worth of illegal arms was to say: "I was acting as an agent of the authorities." The Asst-Chief Constable of the RUC sent an affidavit testifying to Harding-Smith's good character. All four men were acquitted.

Since arriving in Cornwall Mr. Kavanagh has also informed his security contacts about a sub-machine gun he found in a local shop and about contracts placed in Brescia, Italy, and other continental arms centres, by Protestant loyalists for Snail magazines to be fitted to Czechoslovakian 0.32 machine pistols. All this information has been accepted in the normal way. But once, in Sept. 1971, Kavanagh, hearing of an imminent landing of arms and unable to make his usual contact in London, made a statement instead to Sgt Pollard of the Cornwall Special Branch. This report was handed on to London in Pollard's name.

To his astonishment Kavanagh learned that Sgt Pollard would be giving evidence against his application for a gun dealer's licence. And, to substantiate police suspicions that he was an IRA gun runner, Pollard would reveal that he claimed to be a British agent. To counter this Kavanagh went to London where he was told by his contacts in DIS that Sgt Pollard's

statement would be stopped and that he himself could produce evidence from one of his regular security contacts to establish his status as a British agent. This statement under the name of "John Smith" has been in the possession of Kavanagh's lawyers for some months, but Sgt Pollard's evidence was only withdrawn from the case on the morning of the trial - by which time it was quite clear that Kavanagh was determined to resume his trade, even in the face of a threat to expose his role as a British secret agent. In December 1972 Kavanagh's application was adjourned from Bodmin Crown Court pending a decision by the Court of Appeal on a legal point.

As far as Mr. Kavanagh knows guns are still reaching Northern Irish loyalists through Cornwall, a situation which he has consistently warned British security about since the mid-60's. The fact that British agents have been blamed for the recent death of Tommy Herron, the "loyalist secret army's" leader, in UDA press statements, may be a sign that British intelligence has now decided to bring this alliance to an end.

Like the Littlejohns Mr. Kavanagh, in the finest traditions of the Foreign Office, has been left to his fate once he has served his purpose. Unlike them, and despite the best efforts of the Devon & Cornwall Constabulary, Mr. Kavanagh has no criminal convictions, and is still struggling to practice his trade as a licensed gunsmith.



*Silence or cells
Divided nations conquer well
For imitation love of peace
Give all up to the oppressor
Loose all, forget those who have given all,
So you can live in your imitation home,
Made of imitation security.*

*Silence or cells?
I choose cell!
My words were quiet
But I was not silent
I did not want the cell,
It came.
I could not bear the silence,
The silence was imitation,
Not truth uncomprehendable.*

*Christ died, because He
Could not stand the silence
Because of your silence,
I am condemned
To be without freedom,
I am therefore dead.*

SPEAK! PLAY NOW!
Silent ones.

By Roseleen Watson,
Political Hostage, Armagh Jail.

BLOCK FOREIGN LAND GRABBERS

The Free State Minister for Lands, Tom Fitzpatrick, has admitted that nearly a quarter of the farms in the 26 Counties, 50,000 of them - are without successors.

He was commenting on a report on 'Farm Inheritance and Succession' compiled by Macra na Feirme and the Agricultural Institute. The study was sponsored by Allied Irish Banks.

Perhaps he should have said Irish successors. Free State membership of the EEC makes it easier for foreigners to grab these farms with the greedy co-operation of gombeen estate agents and auctioneers.

What is the small Irish farmer going to do about this? What is the Republican Movement going to do? What do our readers think should be done? WRITE TO US NOW.

Irishman sacked by B.R. because of his political views

An Irishman living in London, sacked by British Rail recently because he admitted supporting the objectives of Oglaiha na hEireann, has been reinstated pending an inquiry.

Patrick Joseph Landy (41), who hails from Co. Meath, was employed in the track maintenance department of British Rail at Victoria Station, London.

He was given 30 minutes to get off British Rail property after being quizzed by management regarding his attitude to the I.R.A.

"I told them that I was not a member of the I.R.A. but like many people - both Irish and British - I supported some of their objectives and particularly the withdrawal of British troops from the Six Counties," Mr. Landy said.

Following his dismissal he reported the matter to his union, the National Union of Railwaymen, but they did not want to know.

Mr. Landy said that the local District Council of the NUR insisted that it was a political matter and that they did not want to get involved.

He was later asked to go to the head office of British Rail at Croydon, where executives took a statement from him. He has been assured that an impartial inquiry would take place without delay.

Mr. Landy is a regular "Republican News" seller in the London area, well respected among Irish Republicans in the English capital.

HALLO SOUTHERN TAXPAYER! YOU PAY FOR THIS

THERE WAS CLOSE COLLABORATION BETWEEN Free State police, troops and the British Army during a recent search operation in the complex Drummully district, four miles from Clones, Co. Monaghan. About 80 members of the FS forces took part. All they found was a few old pikes in a disused building, relics of our turbulent past. The FS police travelled in private cars through Co. Fermanagh after donning civilian overcoats over their uniforms. A number of FS special branch men travelled with them, all under the command of Collaborator JOHN P. McMAHON, who gave an opinion which led to the committal to Mountjoy Jail of Seamus Twomey, the well-known Northern Republican, who recently made a daring successful escape from that hell-hole. After the operation was over, a copious supply of tea and sandwiches was flown in by helicopter for the FS troops. No such service was provided for the police who complained bitterly about their treatment.

The operation, of course, like many others of its type, will be paid for by the taxpayers in the South. We can be certain that the Southern police did not travel through Co. Fermanagh without permission from the British. Is this a feeler before British troops and RUC men are sent into Southern border areas to patrol and search?

A QUESTION ABOUT A HELICOPTER

I was relaxing the other day reading the Irish Press. I turned a page and was puzzled by the headlines splashed across four columns: "Fianna Fail attack on Three Fronts." Ah, I wondered, has Moshe Lynch put on his eye patch at last and decided to honour his "I won't stand idly by" pledge?

I might have known better! The F... F... three prong attack occurred in Leinster House. It concerned the use of a helicopter, not the one used in the Mountjoy airlift, but one used by Collaborator P. Donegan.

A gentleman called Tom Meaney asked Donegan if he considered the use of an army helicopter necessary for going on pilgrimages.

The collaborator replied that he had to attend the pilgrimage to Knock because of the fact that "the army" was dedicated to the Blessed Virgin and army participation was requested. He also had to attend an official dinner in Dublin and he used the helicopter to get home on time.

I notice now that the Dublin regime is going to spend £90,000 on publicity in an effort to get 3,500 recruits for their army. Wait till I get pen and paper... I make that about £260 per recruit... assuming they get 3,500. You can bet your shirt the new recruits will not be used to secure an evacuation of the English garrison from the North!

BRITISH EVACUATING BORDER POSTS

IN SPITE OF THE CLAIMS by British propaganda that the British garrison in the Six Counties have "reduced violence to an acceptable level," Oglaiha na h-Eireann Active Service Units, particularly in the rural areas, are carrying out widespread operations of a skillful, daring nature. Reports reaching us in recent weeks indicate that RUC/BA posts along the Border are being quietly evacuated.

Bombs and booby traps are being left for long periods by nervous, panic-stricken British soldiers who are refusing orders from their officers to inspect them. It was made clear even on British TV reports that British soldiers are keeping out of sight in Border areas allowing news reporters to do inspections hoping that they will let them know what is happening. Many British garrisons are pinned down in their heavily-fortified posts and are refusing to come out even for food and water which have to be ferried to them by helicopters. IRA Units are moving freely, by day and night in South Down, South Armagh and in parts of Tyrone and Fermanagh. Local residents are convinced that many British Army personnel have been killed in Border operations and that this is being kept secret by BA top-brass.

We have just heard that drivers of mail trains are refusing to go beyond Drogheda, because Republican Volunteers can hit the main Dublin/Belfast railway line almost at will. The British can reform the Stormont Assembly and the RUC until they are blue in the face. There is only one solution... THE BRITISH GARRISON MUST PACK UP AND GET OUT!

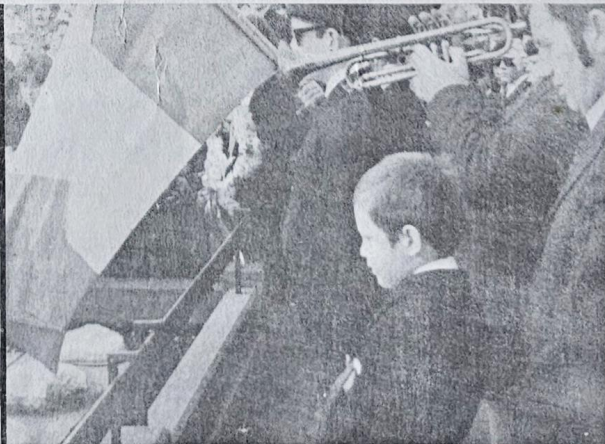
BRITISH-FREE STATE COLLABORATION

THERE IS SOME CONCERN in the South as a result of the recent disclosure that special 30-day pack rations were supplied by British Army H.Q. in the Six Counties to be used by Free State troops in the Middle East. A F.S. army spokesman said last Sunday that this was the only source that could supply the packs at short notice. Last Saturday, a container truck arrived from Belfast at the F.S. Army Catering School, McKee Barracks, Dublin, with 10,000 rations for the 133 F.S. army personnel who flew out last Sunday night to the Middle East. Shades of the big guns supplied by the British to the Free States over 50 years ago to batter the Four Courts! As a matter of fact, Free State troops stationed in Cyprus, have been using British rations for the past ten years!!!!

A CONFERENCE organised by the Political Hostages Release Committee, will be held on Sunday, 18th November. All anti-internment groups are invited to send representatives. Time and place of venue will be announced later.

LATEST NEWS FROM FAR AND NEAR LATEST NEWS FROM FAR AND NEAR LATEST NEWS FROM FAR AND NEAR LATEST NEWS FROM FAR AND NEAR

Wrath-bearers at the commemoration for Vol. Martin Forysthe. Mrs. Shannon can be seen in the foreground, her husband, a daughter and two sons are held by the British as political hostages. The Last Post being sounded at the commemoration in Milltown Cemetery.



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Letters

Should be addressed to the Editor, 192 Brompton Park, Belfast.

HOLYWOOD INTERROGATOR SHOT DEAD

A former member of the R.U.C. Special Branch interrogation team at the Torture Centre in Hollywood was shot dead near Lifford, Co. Donegal on Sunday last.

Detective Constable John Doherty (S1) a former member of the London Metropolitan Police, was attached to the Special Branch in Omagh at the time of his death.

Descriptions of him appear in statements recorded by torture victims where he was frequently referred to as "the Branch man from Donegal who spoke Irish."

Doherty became known in the Springfield Road and Ballymurphy areas of Belfast when he was attached to the "community relations" branch as a uniformed constable in Springfield Road barracks.

His special interest at that time was younger members of the Republican Movement.

Shortly after internment he was identified as one of the Special Branch men engaged in the torture process.

He remained at Palace Barracks until shortly before it was closed following pressure from world opinion.

"Sir, screamed a screw, "I have it on the best authority that nine went." "Oh, Mother of God," sighed the Governor, "And me only here."

One shamefaced screw apologised to the Governor, and said he thought it was the Minister of Defence arriving. I told him it was OUR Minister of Defence LEAVING.

So the confusion went on. It was beautiful to watch. That night we had a concert, and more than orange juice and apple tarts went down the stomachs. Sean McGinley had composed a song to the air of "The Belfast Brigade" and when he came to the part "Three cheers for the Provos" I thought the roof would lift off." We congratulate the boys in the 'joy' on a magnificent victory. When the news reached Belfast, there was a moment of disbelief — the people could hardly dare to believe it! Soon however the grapevine confirmed the news which spread from Andytown to the Markets, from there to the Falls, from the Falls to Ardoyne, and up and down the New Lodge. People hastened to their next door neighbours to pass on the good news, lest anyone should be left out of the general feeling of elation which rolled over the streets like the incoming tide... Children hastened to build bonfires, five blazed in Ardoyne alone.

Over 300 detectives drawn from all Dublin city units, carried out searches of hundreds of homes in the greater Dublin area from 6 a.m. on the following day, but they found nothing.

The home of Ruairi O'Bradaigh, President of Sinn Fein, was one of several homes raided throughout the 26 Counties. Police arrived at his house about 7.20 a.m. after surrounding it. Again, they found nothing.

As we go to press, the three gallant Irishmen are still free. What more can be said except: "Oh God bless your courage, three merry gentlemen."

(We print below copy of a letter sent to Collaborator Liam Cosgrave by Mr. James C. Heaney, an American attorney at law. No reply has been received).

Prime Minister Liam Cosgrave, Dublin, Ireland.

Dear Sir,

Last spring, I filed a petition with the United Nations pursuant to the provisions of United Nations Resolutions 1514 and 1541. The petition was signed by approximately one thousand Irish citizens residing in the Belfast area. I enclose a copy of the resolution.

In view of the continuing violence and the failure of the British government to enact reform measures, I feel certain that your administration will welcome United Nations intervention. The United Nations has clear jurisdiction under the aforementioned resolutions enacted in 1960.

On October 10th last, I was advised by the United Nations that it would proceed in this matter provided your government requested that this matter be placed on the U.N.'s agenda. For that reason, I am writing you and trust that you will notify the United Nations that you wish this matter to proceed forthwith.

You will note that under Resolution 1514, the United Nations has authority to direct the British government to leave Northern Ireland and transfer to the people of Northern Ireland "without conditions or reservations in accordance with their freely expressed will and desire — in order to enable them to enjoy complete independence and freedom." Such action would ensure an end to the violence, a restoration of civil rights and a free and independent Ireland.

Please advise me what action you will take in the matter. In view of the deteriorating situation in Northern Ireland, time is of the essence, and I would therefore, appreciate a prompt reply.

Respectfully yours,

JAMES C. HEANEY.

REPLY TO STATEMENT BY MINISTRY OFFICIAL IN IRISH NEWS

A chara,

We would like, through your column, to reply to the grossly distorted statement by the Ministry of Home Affairs official, regarding medical and laundry facilities here in Long Kesh.

We can categorically state, and substantiate our claim that the medical arrangements here, are not only inadequate, but practically non-existent. The position in the camp is such that the doctors available, could, by no stretch of the imagination, even with the most commendable of intentions, hope to diagnose and treat efficiently, the number of patients that report sick, daily. There are two doctors, available on a rota system, required to administer to approximately 700 prisoners. If 5 per cent of these prisoners required attention on the same morning, and the overall conditions in the camp ensure that there are more, the task becomes impossible, because of the time allotted. The result is that sufferers are fobbed off with a few tablets, or coloured medicine, the same for all ailments, similar to the practice of the quacks of old and their famous elixir of life.

There are in fact, several prisoners with fairly serious ailments, requiring hospital treatment, who, even the prison doctors state should be accommodated in hospital as quickly as possible. The prison management refuses to accept the doctor's diagnosis, and the men are languishing within the confines of their cages, robbed of their right, as human beings, to be relieved of unnecessary physical pain and discomfort.

On the question of clean bed linen, the Ministry statement can only be described as pure fantasy. I doubt if the official who documented the statement has been any closer to the camp than the nearest telephone. We have not been satisfactorily issued with clean sheets, pillow cases or towels, for a period approaching eight weeks, and, therefore, must sleep without linen of any sort. We have, on the few occasions that it was offered during this period, refused to accept sheets because of their unclean state, and, because, even had they been clean, the quantity was such, that it was insufficient for the needs of all the prisoners.

The position at present, is, that

last week we were issued with one new sheet per man, the full complement, two sheets, one pillow case and one towel, to follow the next day. We accepted this sheet, and foolishly believed that the prison management intended to permit us the rare privilege of getting our rightful due. Needless to say, the issue failed to arrive. We still have the one sheet, which, I must state emphatically, we refrained from using, and, will continue to do so until the linen requirements are fulfilled.

Previously, in an effort to solve this laundry problem, we state, that if given a reasonable issue of bed linen, and a washing machine, we would carry out the task of laundering the bed linen, ourselves. This appears to have been unsuitable to the camp management, as they have refused out of hand, and, the dilemma continues with no immediate solution in sight. The situation is now far removed from the stipulated weekly laundry change afforded to any prisoners in any prison, and, is regarded by the inmates here, as yet another aspect of the routine harassment.

Regarding the rantings of this

ministry official, a representative of the camp staff, at a meeting with an assistant governor, demanded an explanation, as to where this mythical bed linen could be found, and, if he could identify an instance where personal hygiene was not of a high standard amongst Republican Prisoners. The governor gave a negative reply to both these questions, and, expressed surprise that such untrue statements were made by a Ministry official.

The truth is, that Republicans in Long Kesh, maintain a high standard of personal cleanliness, despite the primitive conditions in which they are forced to live, and, manage to keep their accommodation as clean as it is possible, considering they receive little or no co operation from the camp management in obtaining cleansing materials.

We therefore, challenge this official, to either substantiate his claims, or, to make a public apology for his gross distortion of facts, and, his scurrilous lies.

le meas,
P.R.O. Sentenced Republican Prisoners, Long Kesh.