

REPUBLICAN NEWS



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THE VOICE OF
REPUBLICAN ULSTER

In a special court last Friday, 18th November, a 23-year-old Ballymurphy man was sentenced to four terms of three years in jail (the sentences to run concurrently) as the RUC ushered in new methods of conviction.

The story behind Mr. Matthew Bradley's conviction while frightening should only encourage us to greater resistance and determination.

BAREFOOT.

On the 2nd June last year Mr. Bradley was arrested at his home in Ballymurphy around tea-time by British soldiers who took him to a local Army post. At around eight o'clock he was taken to Springfield Road barracks for interrogation.

His shoes were taken from him and he remained barefoot for the next three days. He was brought into an upstairs room. There were no questions asked, no interrogation. RUC Detectives began beating him with batons, slapped and punched him.

He was stripped, hooded and handcuffed and Branchmen played Russian roulette with a gun held to his head. At one stage the gun was pointed at his leg and a shot was fired. At the same time he was struck with a baton on the back of the leg to simulate a wounding.

Matthew was then given a pair of Army overalls to wear. The beating continued.

50 BRUISES.

In fact, his beating was so bad that at 9.40 p.m., only one hour and forty minutes after arriving in the barracks, a doctor had to be called to examine him, and on his own admission, stated that Mr. Bradley bore between 50 and 52 bruises

RUC USE NEW METHOD FOR CONVICTION

and abrasions all over his body, which, he concluded, were caused by a blunt instrument.

However, despite this incontestable evidence of torturing, the RUC - who had absolutely no charge against him - then charged Mr. Bradley with causing "grievous bodily harm to Detective Constable Patterson and others".

The malicious court prosecution of Mr. Bradley shows up the bankruptcy of the RUC. This man was arrested under Emergency Powers: He was barefoot and handcuffed and stripped: A shot was fired at him, and he offers no aggression but defends himself when attacked by four Branchmen.

The hated RUC could prefer no political charge against him and so one was concocted inside the precincts of the barracks itself. Eighteen months later Mr. Bradley, an ex-internee, finds himself before a non-jury special court and is sentenced to three years in jail on a conviction of "grievous bodily harm".

CONVICTIONS ON STATEMENTS ONLY.

British Rule in the Six-County Police State has been depending heavily on its policy of torture. Tortured prisoners have signed wild statements admitting to political activities. A clear majority of these people are innocent, and in the other cases the Brit War Machine is simply disposing of popular

activists, matching them against any offences with which they have had little or no connection.

Eighty per cent of the people processed through the non-jury courts are convicted on extracted statements only.

Now it seems this isn't enough. They must have a 100% conviction rate of interrogated victims in the torture centres! To counter physical evidence of RUC torture Newman has said that prisoners have tortured themselves, inflicted wounds, or received bruises when they attacked their interrogators during sessions.

This last part of his statement now takes on

full significance. There are presently cases pending in the Courts in which victims of RUC interrogation who refused to sign statements were subsequently charged with assaulting interrogators.

We can now expect to see this new method of conviction come into full play in an attempt to defeat the revolutionary people.

The Brits have expressed joy about the pending defeat of the Republican Movement because they are amazed at how they can continue to pour many young people into their Prison Camps and cells.

The fools take away sons and daughters,

and next year they come and take away their brothers and sisters without learning any lesson of our concept of the long war.

But while the prison camps get bigger, and greater torture has to be inflicted to keep the machinery of convictions going, and more "highly successful" repressive laws are introduced, the "impending defeat of the IRA" now sounds really hollow. Soldiers continue to die, second generation active-service-units continue to bomb, and the cost of the war is staggering.

We are a tortured, imprisoned and murdered People...but happy are we in the conviction that we cannot be beaten!





THE SAS

THIS WEEK WE CONTINUE WITH OUR SERIES OF ARTICLES OUTLINING THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE BRITISH ARMY SPECIAL AIR SERVICES, AND SOME OF THE KEY FIGURES INVOLVED IN ORGANISATION



The SAS today consists of an 'SAS Group' commanded by a Director, that very little alone distinguishes the SAS from the rest of the Infantry. The Director is Brigadier John Peter Barry CONDLIFFE WATTS, OBE, MCC. (Royal Irish Rangers). The Group Headquarters/Regimental Headquarters is located in the Centre Block of the Duke of York Barracks, a rambling expanse of buildings of varied architectural style, situated at the top of one of the best known roads in London—Kings Road—world famous for its boutiques. From the outside there is no visible indication that this is the H.Q. of the Army's most sinister unit. The wire mesh barriers and close circuit television camera surveillance seem to most passer-bys to be just another sign of the now familiar 'anti-terrorist' precautions adopted by most public buildings in London.

Officially the Duke of York Barracks is listed as the Regimental Headquarters of the Royal Signals Corps, a unit which has very close connections with the SAS, the 44th Para. Brigade (TAVR) H.Q. (whose section of the Barracks were bombed in September 1973) and interestingly the 'London Irish', a TAVR component of the Royal Irish Rangers.

The SAS Regimental Museum, presumably affording an interesting tour to those privileged to enter, is situated down the corridor from the RHQ offices. Personnel from the RAF 'Special Forces Air Crew' and 'Special Forces Parachute Detachment', who are attached to the SAS Group, are also accommodated at the Centre Block.

The most stringent security precautions within a very high security area, surround the offices of the 'SAS Group Intelligence' unit whose function will be examined in a subsequent article.

The regular element of the SAS—22 SAS, CC—Lt. Col. Anthony Showan JEAPES MC, (Devonshire and Dorset), who was awarded the OBE in the recent Queen's Birthday Honours, consists of four 'Sabre Squadrons'—A, B, D, and G, (though a fifth squadron may be in the course of formation to meet additional demands), a training wing and an Operational Research Section. SAS Regiment Capt. is T. M. Oliver.

22nd SAS Hq. is located at Bradbury Lines Barracks, Hereford where 'R Sqn. (TAVR 'I') are also located. It's communications are provided by 322 Royal Signal Sqn. and 264 (V) A Signal Squadron.

Hereford, a small market town is very much an SAS town, some of its streets are named after SAS personnel; off duty SAS members can often be seen drinking in the David Garrick Hotel, St. Peter's Square, whose landlord is ex-SAS Sgt. M. J. Frank Williams. One of its bars—the 'ulu' is nostalgically decorated as a 'Malayan long house', Irish tourists choosing to observe the 'SAS at home' should be extremely careful, security is tight if unorthodox. Recently, the caravan of an 'Irish travelling family' was perforated by 25 sub-machinegun bullets. Local police are reluctant to give details of their investigations.

The SAS TAVR units are far removed from the 'Dad's Army image' that the word 'territorial' conjures. Commanded by regular officers, second in commands, adjutants and training instructors they are much more closely integrated with the regulars than are most other TAVR units.

The average TAVR unit considers itself fortunate if it trains overseas once in every three years; the SAS 'volunteers' often train overseas much more frequently than most regular soldiers.

Selection for the SAS TAVR regiments is almost as strict as for the 22 SAS; less than 23% of applicants are accepted, virtually the only difference between the Regular and the TAVR selection procedures is that the latter is spread over a much longer period. The wouldbe TAVR SAS recruit has either volunteered for transfer from a TAVR unit or else if not already in the TAVR has been personally recommended by a serving member of the SAS.

After being thoroughly cleared by SAS Group Intelligence, a four month 'selection period' commences. There is a minimal training requirement of one night a week and a fortnightly weekend camp, though most trainees do much more. The final two week long selection course traditionally took place in the Brecon Mountains at Sennybridge. But since Ireland showed just how unfit the British soldier was for anything other than mechanized combat, the establishment of the Para and Infantry 'Combat Schools' has resulted in such overcrowding of the Brecons that the SAS often venture elsewhere: Torridon, Kirkmichael, Blair Atholl in Scotland have all recently been used.

Even when the recruit has completed the final 35 mile route across mountainous terrain in 24 hours weighed down with life, ammunition the distinctive SAS rucksack known as a 'Bergen', and is accepted as an SAS TAVR trooper, his SAS training is not finished but just beginning.

In the following three months, the recruits' 'continuation of training' comprising of patrol tactics, including the many ways to kill without weapons, nuclear/bio/chemical warfare, codes and ciphers, intelligence collection and interrogation procedures show just how different the SAS is even in its TAVR guise from the rest of the Army.

There are two SAS TAVR Regiments, the 21st (Artist) SAS (V) and the 23rd SAS (V). The 21st are regarded as the elite of the SAS (though 'G' [Guards] squadron personnel would dispute that), as well as being the senior regiment of the Group. The Artist Rifles, originally known as the 38th Middlesex (Artist) Rifle Volunteers, were typical of that Victorian Middle Class phenomena, the privately raised 'gentlemen volunteer army', in the '38th' case primarily from those connected with Arts. The talents of the 'Artists' were frittered away in the trenches of the first world war, but in WW2 they were employed solely to produce officers taking the title of 163rd OCTV.

21 SAS, who on their formation in 1947, incorporated the 'Artist' Rifles into their regimental title, containing many of the later traditions. They thus provided the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition Guard of Honour (the RA was originally the Artists H.Q.), and a guard for the Lord Mayor of London's Manor House Banquet. The 21st personnel subtly express their difference from the rest of the SAS by wearing their rank badges on a black background instead of silver and white, and by their pomadour blue uniform trimmings. The light/dark blue dress uniforms of the 22nd and 23rd SAS (V) signify the original participation of the Oxford/Cambridge Blues in the 1st SAS in 1941. As well as their uniform differences the regimental toast of the 21st SAS (Artists V)—'Gentlemen of the Artists and men of the other Corps'—illustrates their superior attitude.

21st SAS (Artists V) commanded by Lt.Col. Terry Hady and Capt. Robin Cameron-Cooper (K.O.S.B.) as adjutant, has its HQ 'A' and 'B' Sqs. at the Duke of York Barracks, London. 'C' Sqn. is located at Bedford Road, Hiltchins; 'D' Sqn.—Tudor Crescent, Cosham, near Portsmouth, where the 53rd Signal Sqn. [SAS V], OC. Major A. Watson, is located at Perrone Road.

Thomore 'proletarian' 23rd SAS (V), but probably more valuable, covers the territory north of the Midlands with squadrons located in all the important and industrial areas.

23rd SAS (V) commanded by Lt.Col. Roderick Muir Bamford Walker (Intelligence Corps) has its HQ and 'A' Sqn. at Kingstanding, Birmingham. 'B' Sqn. at Old Carlton Barracks, Leeds. 'C' Sqn. with its HQ at Sandford Road Barracks, Doncaster, covers the Tyndeside area, and 'D' Sqn., is spread across the industrial belt of Scotland.

Technically the SAS regiments are under the command of the Headquarters United Kingdom Land Forces (Wiltshire), in practice, like the Intelligence Corps, they work more directly with the Ministry of Defence. Unlike the latter however, the SAS Director has a direct line of access to the Prime Minister, which has undoubtedly proved to be extremely useful when erroneous crossings of the Border have occurred.

This special position of the SAS was formally recognised in a rather surprising publication—'The London Gazette'. Its issues of the 24.5.66 carried the citation awarding the MC/Bar to the then Major de la Cour de la Billiere, and stated that 'A Squadron Commander in the SAS, unlike in other armies, has to deal with a wide spectrum of affairs, both matters political and military and to negotiate with senior officers far superior to him.'

The Director of the SAS, for inter-army political reasons, is not necessarily recruited from within the SAS but the SAS exert a great deal of influence in his selection.

The post of Director was created in 1970. Prior to that there was a 'Commander SAS Brigade', its first occupant, Brig. Wingate Grey was an SAS man, his successor Brig. Fergie Semple (R. Engineers) was not, nor was his replacement Brig. James John Hope Simpson (Gordon Highlanders). The present Director Brig. Watts (Royal Irish Rangers) is a long serving member of the SAS.

A speech by Brig. Simpson on his retirement as SAS Director in 1975, when he was awarded the CBE, and prior to going to the Indian Defence College during the 'Ghandi State of Emergency', illustrates the rather informal process of selecting the SAS Director.

'One evening, at a large house in Hereford, I was introduced to a large number of very pretty girls usually with the grim admonition "her husbands away" until somewhat confused by it all, at an hour sometime after midnight, I was asked whether I would like to command the SAS Group—what a bloody silly question.'

The SAS having operated alongside the Gordon Highlanders had decided that Brig. Simpson should be asked to be their next Director.

The SAS since its formation has always tended to operate outside normal Army channels and to be the most 'political unit' of the British Army. One of the units whose members subsequently played a role in the formation of the SAS was a 'secret volunteer army'—the fifth Battalion, Scots Guards, who during the 1940 Winter War in Finland, fought on British Government orders with the allies of Nazi Germany

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INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL ON BRITAIN'S CRIMES AGAINST THE IRISH PEOPLE AIMS FOR BIG NEW YEAR PUSH



Seventy people, the majority delegates from trade unions and other supporting groups, crowded into a lecture theatre at the London School of Economics for the November meeting of the Committee for the international Tribunal on Britain's Crimes Against the Irish People. The Committee's previous meeting place at a pub in the Kings Cross area of London was gutted by fire following a petrol bomb attack two days after the October meeting.

As reported in an earlier edition of RN, the Tribunal aims to draw world attention to the suffering of Irish men and women due to Britain's war in Ireland, and offers victims and expert witnesses a platform before a mass British and international audience.

Sponsors already include legal, literary, journalistic, political and labour movement figures from Ireland, the USA, the Basque country, France, Norway, Australia, Holland and Britain. (see list.)

After a tour of Ireland last month by three officers of the Committee—the Organiser, Gary Kinsella; press officer, Jerry Fitzpatrick; treasurer Bob Churchill—great strides have been made in gathering together a really damning dossier of evidence.

IN DUBLIN

In Dublin they held discussions with leading republicans and labour movement representatives, who expressed great enthusiasm for the Tribunal, and decided to initiate a support committee in Ireland, and to formulate an Appeal—for international use—with the most prominent possible backing. Delegates to the London meeting welcomed this news and urged that work should proceed as swiftly as possible.

In Belfast, the officers met with Relatives Action Committee leaders, ALI representatives and others, and took back to London the message that the Tribunal should put special emphasis on tortures in Castle-reagh and conditions in Crumlin Road and H-Block Long Kesh.

They also visited Derry, where they found an overwhelming feeling that organised opposition from the British people to what is being done in Ireland in their name was long overdue. They spoke with members of the Political Prisoners' Committee, the Irish Front, and others whose assistance in gathering evidence will be invaluable.

IN BRITAIN

In Britain, very much aware of the need for the campaign to make its impact among the people in whose name the British forces act, the Committee has put a lot of work into building support in trade union and other labour movement organisations. It is so that this impact will be as great as possible that the major portion of the mass audience at the Tribunal are to be genuine representatives of labour movement organisations. The question of the Tribunal was to be high on the agenda at the conference of the Labour Movement Delegation to Ireland, on Saturday November 19th, and there is to be a speaker on the Tribunal at the 'Rank and File' Conference later in the month, at which 1000 trade union delegates are expected. The Secretary, Jane Crawford, had a highly successful meeting with sympathetic MPs at the House of Commons, covering ways of increasing the involvement of MPs in exposing Britain's role in Ireland, and plans for a major press conference before the new year. A fund raising committee under the treasurer Bob Churchill has been established, discussions are proceed-

ing with the Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation, resolutions are being presented to the conference of the National Union of Students urging support for the Tribunal, and contacts in all parts of the world are being urged to build for this potentially major event. Following the establishment of committees in Britain and Ireland, it is suggested that where possible, Tribunal supporters should set up national committees to co-ordinate the work in other countries.

These activities are all going ahead in order to gather the most comprehensive and authoritative possible dossiers of evidence; to win world wide sponsorship and to link the activities of all those throughout the world campaigning for justice and human rights for the Irish; and to pose the greatest possible challenge to the authorities in Britain over their role in Ireland.

At the London meeting, the comparison was made between this Tribunal and the Bertrand Russell Tribunal on US Crimes Against Vietnam, held in 1966. There certainly are great similarities, for example in that both events attempt to utilise the prestige of prominent personalities to focus attention on a situation of oppression and denial of rights. But, as was pointed out at the meeting, there are considerable differences too. The Russell Tribunal was initiated by a tremendously eminent European to be held in Europe, concerning a war fought by the United States against a remote, Oriental adversary. The Tribunal being planned in Britain now is to be held in the country whose government is accused, a mere 40 minutes flight from the location of most of the alleged crimes. The Irish people whose plight the Tribunal aims to pinpoint are represented by communities in many countries of the world, including the nation accused of crimes against them, where they are also persecuted.

DOSSIERS OF FACTS

Competent authorities have already built up dossiers of facts about torture, discrimination and intimidation. Representatives of the victims have already toured Europe and America, explaining their case. In Britain, many campaigns have been waged, for troop withdrawal, against brutality, against the Prevention of Terrorism Act, but still the suffering of the Irish people remains the most neglected of that of any other people. Vietnam was a far more fashionable cause. The groundwork for this Tribunal has already been done. What remains is to centralise it all before the most significant possible audience, and to build that audience. The Committee meeting recognised that because of the tremendous international potential which was being revealed, and also because the Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation have announced a Tribunal on repression in West Germany to be held in Spring, the time the event on Ireland was originally planned for; there had to be a high degree of flexibility in the timetable of work. Allowance will have to be made for seizing all possible initiatives and opportunities, for example, organising trips abroad for some of the witnesses and visits by prominent people on fact-finding missions to Ireland.

The work of the Committee is going ahead with enthusiasm and urgency. All requests for information and offers of help should be addressed to the Committee for the International Tribunal, 182 Upper Street, London N1, England.

THE CASE OF PADDY GALLAGHER

In the Curragh Military Hospital Patrick Gallagher has been on thirteenth strike since his extradition to Dublin two weeks ago. Prior to that he had been refusing food for 35 days. Little publicity has been given to his case, and his condition continues to deteriorate. Below we print the events leading up to his arrest, the court hearing and the illegal extraditions procedure as compiled by his wife and friends.

On the 4th of February 1975 Paddy Gallagher was arrested by members of the Irish Special Branch and charged with armed robbery. He was released on bail and shortly afterwards he left the country to take up employment in Amsterdam. At the time of his arrest he was a member of the I.R.S.P., and there is overwhelming and conclusive evidence that Paddy Gallagher was heavily involved in Republican activities before he left this country.

However, when Paddy Gallagher left this country and went to Holland he settled into a regular job and he was not engaged in any illegal activities against the Dutch. He was working steadily away when he was arrested on the 4th June this year after a tip off to the Amsterdam Police Force. The Free State Government applied for his extradition on the grounds that the armed robbery he was wanted for in Ireland was a purely criminal matter and that Paddy was eligible for extradition under the Extradition Treaty which Ireland and Holland have signed. This treaty is the same as exists between the Free State and England where a person can be extradited only in purely criminal cases. This of course does not apply to the English who regard everyone as criminal. Paddy's case therefore was the equivalent of the English applying for his extradition from the Free State.

As soon as Paddy was arrested he demanded to see a lawyer and he claimed from the moment of his arrest that he was a political prisoner. Contrary to the sensational reports in the gutter press relating to bank accounts with £50,000 etc., Paddy had only his wages on him when he was arrested and he was therefore forced to rely on the Dutch Government to provide him with legal representation. The Dutch Government appointed a lawyer named Strater to defend Paddy. This man subsequently turned out to be a Government agent who misrepresented him all the way along the line. All the initial Court appearances where conducted in the Dutch language with no interpreter present and when Paddy asked what was going on he was told that his solicitor knew what was happening. Strater of course was constantly re-assuring Paddy that the case was going fine and that he would not be extradited. When the Dutch Court gave the decision to extradite Paddy, Strater told him that he should accept the decision and go back to Ireland as there was no right of appeal.

Paddy found out from sympathetic sources that he was to be extradited because the Dutch Court had found that there was no political motivation to the case and that his lawyer (Strater) had not fought the case on that basis and had not produced any evidence of political motivation. This of course was a blatant set up as Paddy had given Strater detailed and specific instructions to fight his case on a political level and furthermore provided Strater with ample evidence to produce in his defence. Parallel with this rail-roading Paddy was being held in complete isolation, no letters, newspapers, radio etc, so he was unable to protest about the despicable treatment that was being meted out to him.

As an Irishman he took the hard and painful road of the ultimate protest he went on hunger and thirst strike.

During this period the Dutch Government did not have the common decency to inform Paddy's next of kin so the first his friends knew of this business was when a letter was smuggled out of prison and forwarded to Dublin. Theresa, his wife immediately raised the air fare and went to Holland where Paddy had been on hunger and thirst strike for the past 14 days. Strater had refused to send any messages to Dublin on his behalf. When Theresa arrived in Amsterdam the first thing she done was sack Strater and she was fortunate to get a brilliant Dutch barrister Mr. Van Bennicom to take the case. Bennicom arranged for Theresa to visit Paddy in the Prison and he gave her the following reasons why he had undertaken the hunger and thirst strike.

"I am on hunger and thirst strike because I have been completely denied my rights as a citizen in this country. From the outset of this case I have been manipulated by the Dutch authorities who have taken a deliberate and ruthless advantage of my defenceless position as an immigrant worker who does not know the Dutch language never mind Dutch law. All the

proceedings which have taken place to date are as far as I am concerned a mockery of the principle of law and most certainly a miscarriage of Justice. Mr. Strater did not present my case in the way in which I instructed him and in fact he actively worked against me and obstructed my defence. No doubt the Dutch authorities picked him for these reasons because since the decision of the lower Court to extradite me he had given me further misleading information and has refused to forward a message home for me. I know it is the intention of the Dutch to extradite me no matter what defence or appeal I put forward because the treatment I have received is completely unwarranted and in some part downright unlawful. I am not prepared to sit nice and quiet and let the Dutch quietly extradite me to the degradation of Portlaoise Prison. I am a Political Prisoner and I will not be used by the Dutch and Irish Governments so that they can circumvent their Extradition Laws. If I am classified as a criminal and extradited the forces of repression will have scored a victory not just over me but a victory over the principles of refuge and political asylum. I must make a stand in defence of those principles and the only way in which I can do this is by going on Hunger and thirst strike. I will not be intimidated or degraded by the Dutch and I want to make it clear that when I am extradited as I have no doubt I will be I intend to continue my protest. I call on all progressive and humanitarian people to support the principles I am fighting for."

HIGH COURT APPLICATION.

Van Bennicom after a thorough consideration of all the facts decided that as Paddy's "trial" was rigged he would apply to the Dutch High Court asking that a new hearing be held and that he would lodge an immediate appeal to the Dutch Supreme Court against the decision of the lower Court. He also made an application to the Dutch Minister for Justice to grant Paddy political asylum as there was evidence that Paddy would be sent before a Special Court. In addition Bennicom claimed asylum because Republicans were politically persecuted in the Free State.

The political asylum proceedings where completely separate from the extradition proceedings and under Dutch law the plea for political asylum could take anything up to four years as the applicant has right of appeal to several courts and ultimately to the Dutch Crown. What was more important as far as Bennicom was concerned was the provision under which a person could be held pending the outcome of the political asylum plea. This provision clearly stated that a person who claims political asylum cannot be remanded in custody and that he must be set free pending the outcome of the case.

In addition to these events taking place an appeal was formulated here by an eminent senior counsel and sent across to Amsterdam as a matter of urgency. When the friend arrived in Amsterdam with the appeal he went to a sitting of the highest Court in Holland where a legal argument was raging whether or not Paddy should be released. The State denied that people claiming political asylum where entitled to release even though they had been released in every previous case and they where arguing in addition that this was a purely criminal matter and therefore the President was not entitled to consider the application.

When the appeal from Dublin was presented before the Court (the appeal contained detailed and specific evidence of Paddy's political history) the President of the Court berated the prosecution for stating that the case was a criminal one. The President of the Court stated that the case was a Political case and that it was evident that Paddy was heavily involved in Political activities. He adjourned the case for five days at the end of which he would give his decision. The prosecution stood up and said that this was impossible as they had a plane ready to take this man away on Monday. (This hearing was on the Friday before Paddy was brought back). The President asked how this was possible as the proceedings were not finished in another court where the extradition proceedings where being appealed. Did the prosecution know the results of the appeals in advance? Whatever arrangements the State had made for the transportation of this man he was now issuing a directive that they be cancelled until he gave his decision on Thursday.

This development was a major blow against the State because Van Bennicom believed that if the President of the Court gave a favourable decision not only would the extradition be stopped but that Paddy would have to be released and given temporary papers to stay in the country. In all previous cases the person was released. Van Bennicom considering the irregularities and string pulling that went on decided to take matters further by sending an appeal to the President of the European Commission for Human Rights. On the Sunday after Friday's Court hearing a political scientist went to Strasbourg with an urgent appeal to the Court of Human Rights as everyone feared that the Dutch would just put him on the plane and send him back to Ireland. On Monday the President of the European Court for Human Rights issued a directive to the Dutch that (a) This man must not be moved because of his medical condition.

(b) This man must not be extradited until his claim of political motivation can be investigated.

FORCED ON PLANE.

On the 14th November (Monday) the day the Human Rights Court gave their directives to the Dutch, the Dutch authorities made Paddy Gallagher walk up the steps of an Aer Lingus plane clad in a dirty grey prison blanket. In addition to perverting their own Extradition Laws the Dutch were also going to the unprecedented extreme of defying the European Court. During the flight Paddy was made to sit upright between the two Irish Army officers who accompanied him even though he was in a very, very bad way. The Aer Lingus hostesses brought around supper and offered it to Paddy and his Army escort (two army doctors). Paddy of course refused but the Gardaí and the Irish Army men ate theirs in front of him.

When the plane arrived in Dublin Paddy was put on an ambulance and brought to the Bridewell where after a wait of 45 minutes in the freezing cold a District Judge arrived and remanded Paddy to the Curragh Military Hospital. Paddy is still there and is still determined to continue his strike for three reasons.

- To draw worldwide publicity to the way in which the Dutch authorities treated him and to ensure that it cannot be allowed to happen to anyone else.
- To protest against the intolerable and inhuman conditions which exist in the jails in this country.
- To protest against the harassment of Republicans and in protest against the use of emergency and Special powers which are used by the Free-state in their policy of collaboration, co-operation and repression.

So the situation now is that a man is making a determined and very painful protest against the might of two Governments who in their eagerness to put down political activists have torn their own corrupt laws into pieces and thrown them into the back of the rich man's fire with their principles.

Without recriminating or pointing fingers it is a disgrace that Paddy Gallagher was left to fight this major battle with the help of only his friends and family. It is a terrible indictment of Irish socialist politics that no-one had the political acumen to support a cause which affects all working-class people.

The way is now open for the Dutch to extradite any political activist to the Free state. If the Dutch can circumvent their Extradition Laws which are even more rigorous and specific than the Irish Extradition Laws perhaps we may see in the future Republicans handed over to the Brits because their offence is "criminal" and not political. If anyone thinks that this is not a possibility then they should listen carefully to the orchestrated campaign against Paddy in the Free State. In the immediate future the Government may give to the Courts the right to decide what offence is political and which is criminal. This issue affects every Protestant, Catholic and Dissenter in this country.

ISSUED BY THE GALLAGHER FAMILY AND FRIENDS.

The Central Action Committee organised a march and rally in the Lenadoon area on Sunday November 20th. This rally completes the present plan of activity in the Belfast area. The Relatives Action Committee will be initiating a new level of street activity in the near future.

The chairperson in opening the rally said that by protesting in the streets we were showing our solidarity with the Political prisoners fighting for Political Status held in 'H' Block Long Kesh, 'B' Wing Crumlin Road Jail, and 'A' Wing Armagh Jail.

The speaker on behalf of the Central Committee Relatives Action committee said that the

RALLY IN LENADOON

British Policy of Criminalisation did not just begin when the political prisoners are sentenced. Criminalisation starts with the brutal interrogation at Castle-reagh and the other torture centres. The false confessions extracted at Castle-reagh were the basis for the diplock Courts to convict on trumped up charges. The speaker then read out two letters from women prisoners in Armagh Jail presently protesting in defence of Political Status. In the first letter the POW pointed out that the British Government bluntly refused to recognise them as a army

fighting for their beliefs, the freedom of our country, and therefore expected us to lie back and accept the label of "Criminal". The majority of our people realise the facts as regards the protest being carried out for Political Status, but there are still a great number completely unaware of the suffering being meted out to the Irish POW's here in Armagh Jail, 'H' Block, 'B' Wing Crumlin Road Jail, and numerous jails in England. It is to these people that we especially appeal. The inhuman treatment will never deter us in our struggle, we will strengthen our resolve,

our unity as a army. Show your solidarity with us and other prisoners, who are being subjected to treatment not fit for animals.

In the second letter, the controversial question was posed, why are we denied our Political Status? The British war machine, as we are all aware has a very competent propaganda section. When the British Government directed that anyone lifted after 1st March 1978 and subsequently convicted would be treated as a common "criminal", they showed a total lack of understanding of the Irish Peoples spirit. It is completely illogical that anyone

who took up arms in the name of freedom before March 1st 1976 is in any way different from others who took up arms for the identical reasons after March 1st. We are not criminals, we are political prisoners, we have given up our liberty for our Political concepts, but we will continue to suffer the indignities of punishment, as we continue our struggle. No matter how detrimental it may be to us, physically or mentally, we will not surrender until we are given what is rightfully ours. The speaker said anyone who had read these letters must be more determined to continue the struggle to defend the special status for our POW's.

CENTRAL RELATIVES ACTION COMMITTEE.

NEW PARTY MAKES OLD MISTAKE

A new 26-county party, the Socialist Labour Party, was formed last week-end in Dublin, following a split within the Labour Party. A dozen officers and members from the Labour Party in Clontarf, Dublin, Leinster House politician Dr. Noel Browne, and Mick Merrigan, General Secretary of the Amalgamated Transport and General Workers Union, make up the nucleus of the leadership.

Despite their reasons for splitting from the pro-Brit Labour Party—organisational and ideological and their supposedly new radicalism ("the overthrow of all imperialist, capitalist and neo-colonialist interests in Ireland") they showed themselves barren and timid, and not surprisingly committed the partitionist fatal flaw at their first annual conference.

The draft constitution had declared that the party "recognises that the people of Ireland, though of diverse religious, cultural and ethnic origins, constitutes a nation, and



MR DESMOND BONASS(RIGHT) AND DR NOEL BROWN, TD, AT THE SOCIALIST LABOUR PARTY CONFERENCE IN LIBERTY HALL, DUBLIN.

affirms that the national territory consists of the whole island of Ireland, its islands and territories."

Merrigan, far from the war and daily imperialist aggression, attacked this as "the arid raising of the

nationalist flag", and paid the traditional sop to Loyalism. His theme was that when they radicalise the 26-counties, they would then reach an accommodation with "the northern majority" upon British withdrawal.

Merrigan won, and the section was deleted, and instead they voted to "seek to achieve the unification of the working-class throughout the whole island as an essential part of the struggle for a united Ireland."

This ridiculous notion ignores or fails to comprehend the emasculation of the whole country by the Brits through partition and sectarianism. There has been no dynamism within the history of the Free State. In the occupied Six-counties, the nationalist population have been expected to be an object of history, with no right to expression of dissent, and have been ruthlessly repressed up until the commencement of the armed struggle. Loyalists have been, and always will be, part of the colonial system, enjoying their limited interests and marginal privileges. Inbuilt in their security is a raw conservatism.

Only the sobering prospect of a British with-

drawal based on the strength of the armed struggle, not on the option of the counter-insurgency "Independent North", can create the confidence the liberating conditions and atmosphere essential for the socialist struggle.

This is where the Socialist Labour Party is at fault, typified most by the nonsense of Alan Mathews whose partitionist philosophy prevailed; to accept "any struggle for socialism by the northern people, even within the boundaries of the United Kingdom. The first aim should be the building of socialism", he said, "and the territorial claim was without any socialist content."

The dissemination of such ignorance by personalities, whom the media grabs as "radical", can only delay the growth of a proper political awareness and support for the revolutionary people in the north from sympathetic people within the 26-counties. At all opportunities the nonsense of the SLP should be countered.

FREE DERRY NEWS



MEDICAL EMERGENCIES FOLLOW BRIT RAID

A Rosemount family is suffering severe medical problems as a result of persistent harassment by British troops, according to the Kevin Barry/Joe Walker Sinn Fein Cumann.

Brian Johnston and his family of Academy Road has been the victim of a calculated policy of harassment by all regiments of the British troops in Derry, but recently this harassment was taken beyond the limits of endurance.

On Wednesday, 26th October 1977, Mrs. Johnston was awakened from sleep at 6.45 a.m. by Crown Forces thumping loudly on the door. They spoke a single word—the name of a young girl living with the family, and shoved their way inside. As Mrs. Johnston let them in she experienced a severe pain, as if she'd been stabbed in the back. Because of this sudden extreme pain, one soldier suggested to the officer in charge that the raid be postponed on humane grounds. But the

officer in charge refused. Mrs. Johnston informed the officer of her history of heart trouble and expressed concern, but the officer actually laughed in her face.

This mockery went on for a full half hour. When Mrs. Johnston's pain persisted, her husband finally got the Brit in charge to allow them to go for the doctor. One of the squaddies suggested that the doctor be got more quickly by sending for him via their radio, but the officer refused to allow this. Finally, well over an hour after the raid began, the doctor arrived. The British officer prevented him from examining Mrs. Johnston thoroughly, as he refused permission for her to be seen in a private room by the doctor, but made both of them remain in presence of the Brits in the sitting room. Examining her as best he could under such conditions, the doctor left after giving her a tablet and leaving her another to take if the pain

persisted, saying the pain was probably caused by stress and anxiety.

The next day, however, the pain remained and Mrs. Johnston was taken to Altnagelvin Hospital where the specialist diagnosed her having a slight heart attack the day before. The following day, Friday, Mrs. Johnston's lung collapsed and she was admitted to St. Columb's Hospital and remained there two weeks before recovering.

This week, Mrs. Johnston returned to St. Columb's Hospital for a check-up and the doctors there warned her that as no underlying medical cause could be found for her collapsed lung, she must guard against stress and anxiety, as this seemed to be the cause. If her lung collapsed again, she was told it would be necessary to go into hospital in Belfast for treatment.

At the moment, Mrs. Johnston, the mother of a young family of four, is virtually a prisoner in

her home. Her husband must stay in at all times in case further problems develop, and is also left with all the housework and minding the children, as she is too weak even to lift her youngest baby.

What Mr. Johnston is most concerned for is the frequent late-night or early morning raids of the Brits which the family is subjected to. Mrs. Johnston is made so nervous at the thought of further of these raids that even a neighbour ringing the doorbell after midnight will cause her to become terrified.

Says Mr. Johnston, "Although we have been raided literally dozens of times in the past few years, nothing has ever been found, nor will it be, for we have nothing to hide. If the Brits intend to persist in their policy of fruitless raids, would they please, for humanitarian reasons, carry them out in the daylight hours?"

P.R.O. Kevin Barry-Joe Walker Sinn Fein Cumann.

THE INVADERS.

Assassins when you choose to rage
Against the civilized of another race
You defeat the decadence of your bygone age
With squalid murder, now so common place
You mark the summer evening drinking crowd
Down to the sightless youth in coffins
Down to the deaf mutes earthed in shrouds
Down to the schoolgirls' death cry warnings.

Shielded as you are with medals,
Leased out at legal palace orgies,
Your breast displays for the matrons' generals
With sordid feasts to stone age corporals,
Unleashed to slay the limbless marchers,
Down to schoolboys' lives as animals;
Down to fathers as blighted vegetables,
Down to peaceful death as sentinels.

Brother! Possessed of false forged orders
So aimed to inhabit our homelands' universe
Man alive shames your war lords' sorcery
With freedom to harvest all you trespass
Over the graves of all you would own
Over the greed of all you have sown
Over the limitless joy of our song
Over the borderless world of our born.

MADRA RUA. A. O. Caitain

Peter Dowling pulls back the cover of religious to take a look at the "real" meaning of moves towards an independent "Ulster"

In any "debate" on future political "solutions" the presence of one million Loyalists looms large. For these people form the Orange card which the Brits have historically played whenever their interests have been threatened by nationalist uprisings.

From the times of the plantations this significant section of the people have been on the side of the foreign rulers.

Today when the Loyalists say, "This we will maintain" we have to see what is the real content of their "This".

To understand the Loyalists it's vital to grasp the relationship between Protestantism, Unionism, Partition, and the Ascendancy. This means seeing what is the relative importance to the Loyalists of their Protestant religion and culture; of the Union with Britain; of the six-county statelet and partition; and finally of the marginal privileges of the Protestant Ascendancy.

A good starting point is to recall why the Loyalists are distinguished by their Protestant religion. The historical reasons are well explained as follows.

RELIGIOUS SIGNIFICANCE.

"Basically, religious affiliation was-and is-socially, economically, and politically significant, for it distinguishes, with very few exceptions, the natives and their children from the seventeenth-century settlers and their children.

The British Crown, in the post-Reformation period, naturally favoured the settlement of loyal Protestants, and dispossession of natives, whose support of the Counter-Reformation was necessarily a form of rebellion; politics and religion were inseparable from the start.

The Protestant settlers-Scottish and English-were the gainers, the Catholic natives the losers: antagonistic collective interests and loyalties were established immediately. The natives were dispossessed, but not exterminated nor assimilated nor converted to Protestantism. Their Catholicism became the badge of their identity and their defiance."

(This useful quote is actually from Cruiser Brit O'Brien before he prostituted his brain in the service of the war-lords of Westminster.)

RELATIVE PRIVILEGES
Since its creation the structure of the "North-

ern Ireland" state has reinforced this position of Protestant Ascendancy. The pattern of life throughout the six counties is such that the "Protestant people" receive relative privileges compared to the "Catholic people".

That is they get more in quality and better in quality of the basic essentials of every-day life. They form a "labour aristocracy" which gets favoured provision of jobs and houses. This is the central practical meaning of the Protestant Ascendancy as it affects most people.

It flows naturally from this that the locally recruited "security forces" of the UDR and RUC are mostly Protestant as they see themselves having a vital stake in the security of their state: "A Protestant state for a Protestant people".

So the Protestants are

"loyal" whereas the Catholics are "disloyal"; a natural result of institutionalised discrimination along "religious" lines.

But loyalty to "Ulster", for the marginal privileges that it provides, is not the same thing as loyalty to the Union with Britain.

When it comes to the crunch the only "crown" that the loyalists are really loyal to, is the gold crown in their pockets, not to the English monarch in London.

They are loyal to Britain as a guardian of their privileges.

A loyalty which stretches only as far as the Brits are prepared to guarantee their privileges through force of arms. And in as far as the Loyalists see Britain attempting to dismantle their Ascendancy through equal civil rights for Catholics, the "power-sharing" Assembly and the Sunningdale Council of Ireland, then their "loyalty" to the Brits vanishes rapidly.

LOYALIST NEWS

Five years ago John McKeague's bigoted paper "Loyalist News" was complaining bitterly about their master's lack of gratitude for their loyalty.

THIS WE WILL THIS WE WILL THIS WE WILL



For being British we have had the privilege to lose our democratically elected local government, thus putting us in a state of limbo which Westminster cannot cope with, never mind understand... we are enforced to sit and watch every Tom, Dick and Harry of English politicians taking notes and talking a lot of rubbish about our troubles.

The loyalist people have certainly paid a heavy price for the privilege of being British...our sacrifices in two world wars and our service to Britain count for nothing when the chips are down.

We are being used in a dirty political game by those whom we depend on. Yes the privilege of being British falls heavily on Ulstermen's shoulders and only time will tell how long we can carry the burden."

INDEPENDENT "ULSTER"

Now John McKeague wants an independent "Ulster" as his colonial masters appear to have gone soft in the head. For the true Orangeman

the "mainland" has been subverted by "communism" and the "reds" at Westminster do not understand the "native" problem.

In just the same way the Rhodesian Loyalists have "suffered" from Britain pursuing Black and White "Power-sharing" and even Black African rule. Colonial policies designed to secure the Brits long-term interests even at the expense of the white Loyalists.

So these Loyalists saw no further use for the Brits as guardians of White privilege and declared UDI.

Their "independence" move was a naked attempt to maintain the White Ascendancy against the rising tide of Black nationalism.

Now in the six counties we have similar "independence" moves in order to maintain the Orange Ascendancy against the rising tide of Irish nationalism.

While the parallel with Zimbabwe (Rhodesia) is not precise, it is

illuminating. For who would suggest black nationalists should support Ian Smith as a stepping stone to freedom?

CONCLUSION

We can conclude that the underlying importance of the Union for the bulk of the Loyalists has always been what it protected. This now means the maintenance of their privileged position as a "labour aristocracy". And these Loyalist people are defined by religion for historical reasons; their Protestantism acting as a badge to distinguish those entitled to the relative privileges of the Ascendancy. An Ascendancy guaranteed through Partition which in turn is guaranteed by force through the Union with Britain.

For such as McKeague an independent "Ulster" means the Ascendancy without the Union. A "negotiated independence" to protect marginal privileges.

and cultural "explanations" Loyalism and of Orange

Dreams of democratising the Orange Statelet have been drowned in eight years of blood under the onslaught of Orange and Brit batons, bullets and bombs.

**MAINTAIN
MAINTAIN
MAINTAIN**



WELCOME SPLITS

But while welcoming such splits in the Orange camp this does not dictate a change in Republican policy.

For it is the grimly determined struggle for "Brits out" and a united Ireland that has helped split the Orange block into its many segments.

To weaken from such determination would be disastrous. Far from encouraging further splits and fostering increasing "anti-Brit" sentiment amongst the Loyalists' the opposite would be the case.

It would help re-unify the enemy camp as they saw possible victory looming on the horizon through Republican capitulation.

Republican and Loyalist unity to the mutual benefit of both, can only come by travelling a very different path to that of an independent Orange statelet.

A path which necessarily involves increasing "Catholic" and "Protestant" disunity before the freedom struggle can be successful. For it is true that in carrying forward the national struggle for "Brits out" and a united Ireland, the Loyalists will be increasingly enraged.

There can be no ducking this unfortunate fact of life. For the struggle to smash partition is the struggle to smash "their" state.

Future "debate" on a realistic path to popular unity is obviously called for. Otherwise false "solutions", like the death-trap of an independent "Ulster", will continue to gain dangerous credibility.

NEWS FROM ENGLAND



Phil Sheridan and Brian McLoughlin are being held in solitary confinement here as a result of being involved in a solidarity protest. The protest was in support of an English prisoner who asked for a special diet, necessary for his condition, and was bluntly refused by the authorities. Phil and Brian still have two weeks solitary to do. Two other POW's Peter Shortt (Belfast) and Martin Coughlan (Dublin) were moved out of here following the protest; Martin is now in Lincoln jail. This practise of holding single republican POW's for months in isolation in non-maximum security prisons seems to be on the increase. A republican prisoner was informed by Leeds prison warders that they could continue indefinitely giving him 14 days in solitary confinement. Are the authorities doing this in order to familiarise the warders in ordinary jails with the treatment of political prisoners? No doubt in the next ten years there will be a large increase in the number of English political prisoners (trade unionists etc). Remember 1984.....

In an unprecedented event on November 8th, Patrick Guilfoyle was taken from Gortree prison to Widdington Hospital Manchester to visit his mother who was dying following a fire accident. However, the paranoia of the authorities about security prevented Patrick from

even speaking to his father who was also waiting in the corridor, adding unnecessary distress to a man already in grief. Mrs Guilfoyle died yesterday, 17.11.77, R.I.P.

BRISTOL

Joe Duffy (Dublin) having completed over 13 months here in solitary confinement for his part in the disturbance in HULL last year, has been moved to Wormwood Scrubs, London. This has been one of the longest terms yet spent in solitary by a prisoner and is contrary to the 90 day recommended limit.

Incidentally all the POW's in Wormwood Scrubs are at present doing 28 days in the punishment-block with additional loss of 'privileges', in a tightening-up following the recent escape attempt by 4 of their comrades. Gaelic lessons are progressing well here.

On 9th of November as a girl visitor for Ronnie Mc Cartney was leaving the prison following the visit; she was accosted by a warder who was unknown to her. He asked if she had any bombs in her bag. Because the remark was uncalled for she replied that she would be reporting him to the governor. The warder then said "that the governor and all the warders feel the same way about you bastards."

The matter has been taken up with the governor, who says he is making a full

enquiry into the matter. A solicitor is also dealing with it and seeking to confirm if this particular warder is echoing the sentiments of all the prison-staff.

STRIP-SEARCHING... AN EXERCISE IN DEGRADATION.

The practice of strip-searching Irish political prisoners before AND after visits, even on some CLOSED VISITS, is still being carried out in some jails here, Albany and Wormwood Scrubs to name but 2. In the words of a POW "They search your mouth and they search your cheeks with their fingers. The palms of your hands, the soles of your feet and beneath your arms are searched. Your clothes etc. are carefully checked and put aside. Then they spread you over the greasy table and while some warders hold your arms and others your ankles, your buttocks are pulled apart and one wearing a rubber glove forces his hand up your rectum. You are then allowed to get dressed and meet your visitors." If the POW objects to this 'treatment' he is told his visit is cancelled and he is sent to the punishment-block.

It is obvious that the above activity by the authorities is not justifiable on the grounds of 'security', since visitors bags etc. are checked by warders and then locked-away until after the visit, also at

least 4 warders sit beside one on each visit. In fact such a tactic is illegal and constitutes an actual physical assault. It appears to be done in an attempt to degrade and humiliate the POW (contrary to Article 3 of the Convention of Human Rights) and to drive a wedge between the POW and his family, who usually have to travel long distances to see him. It also contravenes the United Nations Standard Minimum Rule for the Treatment of Prisoners. Although the court of Human Rights at Strasbourg has ruled that a prisoner should have access to all due processes of the law, the Irish political prisoners are hindered at every turn by the British prison authorities, in their efforts to get simple human justice as laid down in international conventions.

Prisoners should be allowed to make complaints to suitable individuals (e.g. M.P.'s) and associations outside the prisons WITHOUT interference or censorship from the authorities AND there should be independent channels for the investigation of the complaints. As things stand, however, with an ever-increasing institutionalization of the ill-treatment of the Irish political prisoners, Britain 'the mother of democracy and fair-play', cannot afford to allow such a system to come into effect for fear of being exposed, yet again, as a liar and a hypocrite.

BRITISH ARMY LECTURES CANADIANS ON IRELAND

In November, 1976, the people of the present province of Quebec expressed their desire to govern their own affairs by electing the Parti Quebecois to power. The PQ is pledged to separate Quebec from Canada and form an independent country. This marks a tremendous rebirth of the nationalist movement among the French speaking people of Quebec. This movement was almost crushed in 1970 during the 'October Crisis'. The true story of this 'crisis' is now beginning to come out, especially in a recent book by Quebecois radical, Pierre Vallières, *The Assassination of Pierre La Porte*.

During the 1960's a number of different nationalist groups were active in Quebec. One of these, the Quebec Liberation Front (FLQ) launched a bombing campaign. This group, while having some passive support from the French community, was fairly amateurish and never won wide public support. However, the growing forces of Quebec independence were seen as a threat to democracy (meaning the control and exploitation of Quebec) by the Federal government under Pierre Trudeau.

So the Canadian government, with the aid of the military and police decided to create a crisis situation in which they would have an excuse to 'crush the nationalist movement'. The FLQ which was being closely watched was to be used to set off the crisis. In October 1970, James Cross, a Brit minister who had been trained by M15 was kidnapped by the FLQ. The Police had known the kidnapping was coming. Shortly after this, a corrupt Quebec politician, Pierre La Porte was also kidnapped and later killed in mysterious circumstances. The only ones to profit by his death were the high officials in the Canadian Government, who used it to pass the War Measures Act, a law like the Special Powers Act, which grants the Canadian government all the powers of a military junta. Once the government decides that a state of 'insurrection' exists, the Act empowers it to suspend the Canadian Bill of Rights and to enact any regulations it deems fit to preserve 'public order'.

The Act was used to intern 497 people, of whom 437 were later released without charges, and eventually only 16 people were sentenced. All this is a fraudulent crisis.

Despite this Quebec separatism has grown stronger as is seen by the Parti Quebecois victory. While the PQ is basically a middle-class party, it has the support of many socialists and the radical Quebec trade unions.

The Federal Canadian government, still under Trudeau, will do anything to stop Quebec from separating. The Brit queen was just in Canada to urge that Quebecois should stay in Canada where they are second class citizens, rather than forming their own French-speaking country. (Her speech might sound familiar to Irish Nationalists).

Especially important for Irish Republican attention is the close cooperation between the Canadian government and the Brits. In 1972, Canadian officers met in a conference in Montreal to draft scenarios for military interventions such as the 'October Crisis' where thousands of troops were used. Speakers included two British Army Officers who gave lectures on military operations in occupied Ireland. More recently, rubber bullets have been used to crush a prison riot in Canada, and a special forces unit similar to the Brit SAS has been formed. While official sources deny that the unit is for use in Quebec, it said it could go anywhere in Canada in case of 'civil disturbances'.

At the present time, the French-speaking majority in Quebec is working through parliamentary methods to gain independence. However, the hostility of the Federal government and its alliance with the British and American governments make it possible that the Quebecois will not be allowed to leave Canada, despite the will of the people. If Trudeau continues to look to the actions of the Brits for example the Quebecois may soon have to follow the example of the Irish Republican struggle.

CUBA

THE LAST IN OUR SERIES BY JUAN SOSA

A socialist republic is possible in a small island like Cuba (or Ireland!) and without any doubt the vast majority of the people would benefit as society stops being regulated by profit and is instead geared to people's needs. But, the Cuban socialist republic faces many problems which it would be dishonest to ignore. After all many people (in Ireland too) say: "We want our independence, but not Communism". By 'communism' they mean Sticky-type bureaucratic socialism not the democratic socialism the Cubans advocate, but the problems are still there.

In the first place, the international isolation of the Cuban Revolution has created grave dangers as it has been forced to rely on the Soviet Union and its allies for trade and technical aid. This has inevitably led to pressures on the Cubans to adopt the type of social and economic policies which destroyed the vigorous Russian Revolution of 1917. The Cuban Communist Party had, by the way, played a despicable part in the Cuban Revolution, opposing Fidel Castro and his Rebel Army down to the last minute. They referred to the rebels attack on Moncada barracks in 1953 as "a putschist attempt, a desperate form of adventurism, typical of petty-bourgeois circles lacking in principle and implicated in gangsterism". Sounds like Sticky demagoguery alright!

A big problem, made worse by the growing influence of the Soviets, has been the increasing degree of bureaucracy, which to a certain extent is inevitable in a poor, underdeveloped country. Fidel himself said that "some of the organisations we created were even more bureaucratic than the old capitalist state!" There has

always been a fightback against bureaucratic methods where administration takes place by orders from above, without any come-back for the ordinary person. So, when the aim of a 10 million ton sugar harvest in 1970 was not achieved in spite of an immense effort, Castro criticized his own government quite severely. He spoke of "replacing the administrative work habits of the first years of the Revolution" and of substituting "democratic methods for the administrative methods that run the risk of becoming bureaucratic methods".

Another area where dangerous tendencies are

at work is in relation to the domination of the Communist Party (again aided and abetted by the Soviets) over all aspects of political life. Thus the trade unions accept "the political guidance" of the Communist Party and they have become like transmission belts for the party, transmitting party policies down to the working people, and only seldom taking worker's views and criticism upwards. Here again, since 1975, new bodies, the Organs of Popular Power, are helping to counteract this tendency towards bureaucracy. The Organs of Popular Power (demo-

cratic people's assemblies) have helped direct people's energies towards the solution of their own problems, and may well help to increase mass participation in the process of running the new society.

So, we can conclude that in spite of its problems the Cuban socialist republic has achieved much for the Cuban people. But, if we want to avoid the bureaucratic process which passes as socialism in the Soviet Union, we must consciously fight for the involvement of as many people as possible in the organs of popular power, or people's assemblies as they are becoming known over here.

**CENTRAL RELATIVES
ACTION COMMITTEE
REMEMBER THE
BOYS AND GIRLS
FIGHTING FOR
POLITICAL STATUS
MARCH AND RALLY
CHRISTMAS DAY
MARCH TO CITY
CENTRE
SUPPORT THE POW'S
IN THEIR HOUR OF
NEED.**

INVITE TO OPEN CONFERENCE

Campaign against British
Brutality in Ireland.
OPEN CONFERENCE

The C.A.B.B.I. has been in existence since mid-July of this year. I has attracted a wide measure of support and made a valuable contribution to exposing the brutality associated with the British Army and RUC in Northern Ireland. We have decided that the time is right to hold a small conference (really an open discussion) to assess the achievements of C.A.B.B.I. and to discuss a future programme.

You are invited to attend this conference which will be on December 3rd from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m., at Conway Hall.

AGENDA

- Reports
- Assessment of work so far
- Future work

Pat Arrowsmith.

C.A.B.B.I.,
37 Middle Lane,
London N.8.

There will also be a fund-raising social the same evening at the White Horse, Church Road, N.W.10, admission 65p.

MEN IN H-BLOCK

The Belfast Republican Press Centre is compiling a list of ALL Republican Prisoners in the H-Blocks of Long Kesh.

Would all relatives of these prisoners please contact us or call with Press Centre at 170a Falls Road, Belfast [Tel. 46841].

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Mailbag

Letter to the Editor
should be addressed to
170a Falls Road, Belfast

CLONARD SINN FEIN RAISE ISSUE OF POVERTY AMONG WORKING CLASS

A bleak winter lies ahead for tens of thousands of people here. Whilst it is currently fashionable to say that 'poverty' no longer exists, nothing could be further from the truth. It has been our observation in the course of our work in the above advice centre that many, many families live below what is colloquially called "the bread-line".

High cost fuel and food bills, coupled with other day to day essentials are imposing great hardships on our people. One of the great swan songs of the Unionist was the British standard of living, affirming that this was the main reason for their wishing to remain British. How do they see this now, with ever-increasing fuel queues, ever-rising food and food bills, and now not just affecting the Nationalist community but the Loyalist one as well. In the past the main difference between the 2 communities at a social level was a job, but now lack of job opportunities affects all of us irrespective of religion and those jobs that do exist are very shabby indeed. Strikes, a common occurrence in England are frowned upon when called by workers in the North of Ireland. Just in the last month the British owners of Goodyear threatened to pull the firm out of the 6 counties

and back to England if the workers did not return to work, and against Mackies the British Government placed sanctions because the firm offered its work force a more realistic increase in wages, and not the paltry sum legislated by the British Government pay guidelines. It is interesting to note that strikes in the North of Ireland are treated with the threat of sanctions and withdrawal of firms and factories.

It has long been recognised by our Movement that this sectarian state was used as a slave labour camp and the working class loyalist the slave. Wages here have always been far below those in England, and it now appears that the Loyalist worker is just as likely to be jobless in the face of Britain's present economic straight-jacket as his Nationalist counterpart.

CHRISTMAS IS COMING AND THE BRITISH GOOSE IS GETTING FAT

Christmas is coming and the British goose is getting fat, but almost 60,000 people in the 6 counties are unemployed and receiving some form of state benefit. This is poverty, the money being just enough to

keep people alive. An equivalent number of people employed are receiving sub-standard wages and therefore are not much better off than the unemployed, in some instances maybe worse off.

The Housing Executive and Child Poverty Action Group today (15.11.77) stated that millions of pounds of money are unclaimed by poor people. They also point out the 'means test'. Poor people regard this as humiliation, preferring to remain poor but retaining personal dignity. In a brief survey we have concluded that the average income through state benefit for a family of 5 is in the region of £36 per week. When one takes into consideration the cost of rent, heating, lighting and food, a family is left with approximately £5 per week from which to find clothing, and provide some form of relaxation in the form of television etc.

This is an appalling indictment of the so-called British standard of living. Far better that the Irish nation be united and in control of its own wealth and affairs, providing its own jobs and providing for the welfare of all Irish citizens without interference from foreigners.

PRO
CLONARD COLIN
SINN FEIN ADVICE CENTRE.

BALLYBONE RAC APPEAL FOR INFORMATION ON YOUNG PRISONERS

Would you please print the following in your letters page. We are looking for information on the Plight of Young Borstal Boys and Girls. "The Forgotten Protesters". Perhaps some youngsters mother would get in touch with you to let us know how their son or daughter is faring in these places. We need the details on these Political Hostages who are entitled to Political Status and any other considerations they are at the moment being deprived of. They are not the common Ordinary Prisoner that Mr. Mason

and his crew would like to have us all believe. If this Political Struggle was not today taking place, they would be at home with their loved ones and families.

If anyone who can give us the kind of information we are looking for, please give it to the members of your local Incident centre, or even better still take it along to your local RAC yourself the night they are holding their own RAC meeting.

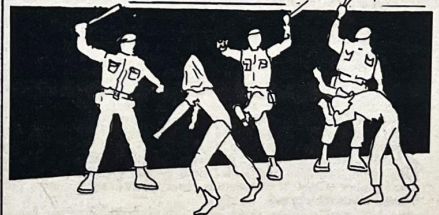
A.T. COPELAND
BALLYBONE ARDOYNE
RELATIVES ACTION
COMMITTEE.

PRISONERS DISCRIMINATED AGAINST

Eight Irish political prisoners who were assaulted by screws while on remand in Winson Green prison, Birmingham on the night of 21 November 1974 have been refused legal aid by the British Law Society. This means that it will not be possible for them to sue the screws responsible and the Home Secretary for the injuries they received. Although the legal aid board admitted that the men had a good case, they said that "Wider considerations" prevented them from grant-

ing legal aid. This can only mean that the British authorities have decided on a policy of preventing Irish prisoners from having access to the courts. Consequently, the cases of these men will be taken before the European Commission for Human Rights as a group action on the grounds that they are discriminated against because of their race and political beliefs.

JACQUELINE KAYE
(PRISONERS AID
COMMITTEE).



DERRY'S FOURTEEN

I knew them well, all fourteen
A Common Bond had we,
Reared amid the crumbling
slums,
Queued and signed so we
could eat,
Saw our mothers go to work,
Fathers watch the wanes,
They took away our dignity,
'Till the dawn of struggle came.

Standing now alone this night,
I view beneath the rain.
The sports where each young
life ebbed,

My wet face it hides the tears,
It is not mainly to cry some say,
But yet this heart feels pain,
As their smiling faces flash and
fade,
And "WHY?" tortures my
brain.

A friendly voice speaks out,
"Hello",
And joins me 'mid the dark.
As if he knew what thoughts
I had,

"Did they die in vain?" he
asks
"Oh no! Oh no! my heart
burst forth,
"Their sacrifice was Ours,
For O're their grave we'll one
day see,
Their dreams and aims come
real".

BY SCOPOLI.

CHOCs FOR TONY

Following a report on the front page of "Republican News" (29.10.77) concerning young Tony McHugh who was hit by a soldier on the head with a metal bar, his mother has received a letter from England.

The letter read:
"It is good to know that the people of West Belfast are still determined to stand up against the Brits for truth and justice. The only way to stop intimidation is by sticking together. At first it was 'Hell' here, the people too were far apart and afraid. But now through the R.A.C. here in England and people like Pat Arrowsmith, they are standing together and fighting back."

The woman that sent the letter also sent three-year-old Tony a box of chocolates! "Republican News" on behalf of Mrs. McHugh thanks the Lady concerned.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.

On a recent visit to Belfast a member of Sinn Fein Australia lead a wreath on behalf of the Republican Movement Australia at the grave side of M. Drumm.

SHE SIPS TEA — WE COUGH UP BLOOD

Malread Corrigan, who last month was "appalled and shocked" by what the Brits did to Sammy Hyland, had "a delightful visit" with the RUC and British Army in Derry City last week. Her movement, she said, had received a great deal of cooperation in "Derry-LondonDerry".

During her crawl around the city she had a cup of tea in Strand Road Barracks,

where the local population spend their time [according to the RUC] banging their heads against radiators and strangling themselves with chairs. Said one cynical observer, "she sips tea, we cough up blood".

She visited most pro-Brits, and in a report in the Derry Journal she returned to that nobel-winning and lucrative subject "Provo-bashing". "In Belfast", she said, "They hold whole areas to ransom

The crawl lasted three days, slightly longer than her "worry and concern" over Sammy Hyland, and the only incident occurred in the Loyalist waterside district.

Miss Corrigan came out of a pub to find that a window of her car had been smashed by a brick. Undoubtedly some Re-jet-pub can being interrogated in Strand Road Barracks had threw the brick to discredit the Loyalist RUC.

BRITS HARASS YOUNG GIRLS

It has been recently reported to the Shantallow Sinn Fein Centre at the shops that young girls of 14 and 15 have been followed until they were on their own and then stopped by mobile patrols of Crown Troops. Then these girls have been asked to open their coats for the Brits, without even the questionable safeguard of having either a female searcher in attendance. When the girls refuse to comply, the Brits hurl obscene insults and make filthy suggestions to the girls, and threaten to take them into their Land Rovers for a trip to Fort George.

Given the very striking incidence of British soldiers being charged with sex crimes, this type of behaviour towards young girls on their own is viewed with the gravest concern by parents and Sinn Fein. Parents are urged to contact the Sinn Fein Centre, immediately if their daughters report such conduct, and any member of the public observing such action should also report it immediately to the Centre.

KEENAN-MCGILLAN
SINN FEIN
CUMANN, BLOOMFIELD.

NOT I.R.A. HEADQUARTERS

Mr. John Taylor is reported in today's press (16.11.77) as saying that the Headquarters of the Provisional I.R.A. are operating in Kevin Street, Dublin.

These offices at 2A, Lower Kevin Street are used solely as Sinn Féin Head Offices; they are open to the public and are visited daily by journalists and others; Mr. Taylor is welcome to call on his next visit to Dublin and we

shall be happy to show him over the premises.

Mr. Taylor protests that the Dublin government does not try to close us down. Our offices here are not used as I.R.A. Headquarters, no more than the Sinn Féin offices in Belfast, Derry and several other towns in the six-counties, which function quite normally, except for the usual police surveillance, which also goes on here.

Marie Moore condemns raid

Mrs Marie Moore a leading member of Belfast Sinn Féin commenting on the British army raid at the Sinn Féin advice centre on the New Lodge Road last Tuesday stated, "The seizure of all our documentation from our centre today would indicate that the British Government are worried about the 'inroads' Sinn Féin are making into the life of the Republican areas through the work of their centres. The British Army hope that by

harassing our members and disrupting the everyday working of our organisation that we will be stopped from carrying on the vital task of building our new Ireland. I can state now that Mr. Mason and his army will fail in their bid to drive us underground for we will continue to develop our centres and we will continue to make them a focal point for our people in their political opposition to British rule in Ireland".

THE S.A.S. STORY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE TWO

against the RUSSIANS, later to become allies of the British.

The 'Army List' might tacitly exclude all mention of the SAS's affiliation with 'C' Sqn, Rhodesian SAS, who fought with 22nd SAS in Malaya, but the SAS regimental journal 'MARS & Minerva' (subsidised by the British taxpayer), carries reports of their Rhodesian and supposedly 'illegal rebel' counterparts activities which leave no doubt as to the position of the SAS on the issues of Rhodesia.

The Rhodesian Commander of the Combined Operations—Lt. General Peter Walls was with the SAS in Malaya as was Major Ron Daly, OC, Selous Scouts—the Rhodesian Terrorist unit. Articles from right wing publications, particularly South Africa, are frequently reprinted, the general political tone of 'Mars & Minerva' being of a nature that virtually all other regimental publications would fear to adopt in view of the likely political consequences.

SAS personnel not only have a knack of getting involved in political controversy but of escaping any official retributions. Recently the 'Sunday Times' has shown the involvement of serving SAS personnel in private Security Companies, nothing surprising in its self—but these companies were offering their services to governments who could hardly be described as enjoying a close relationship with the British Government.

There was of course the storm of controversy that surrounded the formation of a private army by Col. David Stirling. However, the even more sinister political activities of another founding member, Ian Souter-Clarence, were largely ignored by the media. In 1967, when a teacher in Dorset, he founded a fascist youth movement 'The Viking Cadet Force', and through his SAS contacts was able to borrow not only transport but rifles as well from a Royal Marine Depot for the purpose of holding combat exercises. Two members of the right wing 'Monday Club'—Tim Boardson and John Ormowe, later expelled following a press exposure of their Nazi activities, were involved in recruiting SAS members into the group.

The SAS motto—"Who dares wins"—is probably the best known British Regimental motto, but surely there is something obscene if not actually blasphemous in its incorporation in a 'punning' Regimental prayer, which is quoted here to illustrate the arrogance inherent in the SAS's corporate ideology.

"O Lord, who didst call on Thy disciples to venture all to win men unto thee, grant that we the chosen members of the SAS may by our work and ways dare all to win all and in so doing special service to Thee and our fellow men all the world through the same Jesus Christ Our Lord, Amen."

The current Chaplain of the 22nd SAS—Major F.J. Preston, does not seem to have incurred any divine displeasure because one of the only four MBE's in the 187 strong Chaplains Corp. of the British Army.

The SAS throughout its history has attracted a number of Irish men, the most famous being of course Paddy Mayne, the Irish Rugby international, who as one of the first SAS recruits led many of the most successful SAS world war 2 raids.

Moby McClean from Dublin rowed the Atlantic in 1969 while serving in the 22nd SAS. Another Dubliner, Sgt. Paddy Nugent, during the 1950's, played a major role in devising the now famous Brecon Selection Course, and subsequently until his death in 1968 was a permanent Staff Instructor with the 23rd SAS [V] in Birmingham. Lt. Col. P.H. Phelan, [Royal Irish Rangers] is at present the highest ranking Irish born SAS officer, and is believed to have commanded the SAS when they were sent to South Armagh in 1976. A probable future SAS regimental OC, Lt. Col. Phelan is a familiar figure in the sporting circles of the Anglo-Irish Ascendancy.

REPUBLICAN MOVEMENT PULLS OUT OF IRISH FRONT

It has been decided that the Republican movement can no longer remain within the umbrella organisation known as the Irish Front. We feel that the time has come when the Republican Movement must openly express its political aspirations and be openly identified with these politics by all the people of Derry.

We feel that the Irish Front has fulfilled its function, and to remain within its restricting structure would only cause political stagnation. It is true already that a certain confusion has been generated.

We thank all those organisations and individuals who formed the Irish Front, and though we no longer will have such an organisation, we assure all progressive group-

ings that we will be only too glad to support them on individual issues, without further needlessly running the risk of losing our own identity or being submerged within a loosely-knit conglomeration of interests.

Other organisations within the Irish Front have recently amalgamated and formed a new party, the Irish Independence Party, and while naturally these individuals have every right to freely express whatever political interests binds them together, we feel that the Republican Movement has much more to offer the Irish people.

Not only have we a clearly defined policy on the liberation issue, we also have a finely thought-out social and economic programme which we must put vividly before the

people, and to remain within the Irish Front would undoubtedly hinder us in this objective.

As revolutionaries we recognise that there must be permanent struggle to attain our aims. We no longer feel that the Irish Front, or any similar organisation, can provide the necessary impetus. The Irish Front was an excellent temporary arrangement, and we feel that all those concerned in its formation and development are worthy of nothing but praise.

It is certainly not the aim of the Republican Movement to be divisive. We repeat, our full cooperation will be extended to all radical organisations willing to protest against the inhuman regime which has denied our people freedom and social justice.

WAR NEWS

Wednesday 16th November.

Two fire bomb attacks on shops in Strand Road, Derry city.

Thursday 17th November.

Belfast builders and plumbers suppliers destroyed in double bomb attack.

Friday 18th November.

Late night bomb attack on business premises, destroys advertising offices on Antrim Road, Belfast.

Saturday 19th November.

Firebomb attack on Derry's big Everglades Hotel. Gun attack on British soldiers at Aghnacloy in Tyrone.

Monday 21st November.

Bomb attack on British Co-op Store, Springfield Road Belfast. British soldiers escape booby-trap bomb attack at the scene. Goliath robot is destroyed while tackling the device and the shop was gutted in the fire.

Derry fire bomb attacks on city centre public houses and cinema. Two pubs are badly damaged.

Tuesday 22nd November.

Bomb attacks on two Belfast business premises. On Shankill Road a furniture showroom is burnt down and on Grosvenor Road, close to city centre, big car-hire firm is destroyed.

British Army fire-fighters in their 'green-goddesses' drove past the car showroom and took two wrong turns before they discovered where they were.

Gunmen of the loyalist

UVF went to local fire-stations and ordered striking firemen to the scenes of the bombings under the pretext that civilians were in danger. However, the firemen didn't use their machines against the burning buildings but waited in vain to see if homes were endangered.

Five fire bombs planted in Elwood's shirt factory, Belfast city centre, destroys the building.

An Phoblacht
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Help build the circulation of An Phoblacht by sending copies to friends and relatives at home and abroad. Rates: (one year) Europe £8; half year, £4; 3 months £2; elsewhere (U.S. dollars or equivalent) one year, 20; half year, 10; three months, 5.

Send to: Circulation Manager, An Phoblacht, 44 Parnell Sq. Dublin.

Counter-Insurgency in the Gulf

The liberation war in Angola last year brought attention back to British mercenaries and their sordid business. But the Brits have been practising this system for some time in the Middle East and as John Banks, one of the main recruiters of mercenaries in Britain pointed out, it was inconsistent to criticize the mercenaries going to Angola, when the government was encouraging ex-servicemen to go to Oman, in the Gulf Region, as mercenaries-Quite!

Fred Halliday, author of a previous book called "Arabia without Surrender", provides us with a short but well informed booklet on how the Brits use mercenaries as part of their "counter-insurgency" tactics in the Gulf region. Britain was for a long time the dominant colonial power in the Gulf and wants to ensure that this oil-rich region remains in conservative capitalist hands. As Halliday points out "In the first place, British military personnel have been directly involved in helping the monarchs of the region to crush opposition forces that have arisen. Secondly, these rulers have become the largest purchasers of arms in the world since the rise in the price of oil in 1971-3, and the acquisition of these arms has gone together with an inflow of thousands of western military personnel into the area".

An interesting section of this book is where it deals with the use the Brits make of the experience they have gained in their war against the Irish people in the occupied Six-Counties. Foreign governments are also learning from the Brits experience here: for example, after Palestinian resistance to Israeli occupation of the West Bank last year, the Israeli government said that "the Army may adopt methods similar to those used by the British Army in Northern Ireland". And we know what that means! And in Portugal, where the people have brought

down the dictatorship of Caetano, "officers in the new riot police have received advice from two British Officers at Thiepval Barracks in Northern Ireland", as The Times newspaper reported.

Now the Brits are "experts" in advising repressive governments and providing them with arms so it is logical that they will also provide the services of its mercenaries-who of course provide military skills for payment. In Arabia mercenaries were sent in by the Brits during the North Yemen civil war in the 1960's

BOOKS

to overthrow a government of which they disapproved. The main British front man for the campaign was Colonel Stirling, founder of the "SAS" sins regiment, and in 1975 notorious as the head of the right-wing private army, GB75. The mentality of these "whores of war" comes out in an interview on ITV, when the commander of the Dhofar gendarmerie, a Major Ray Barker-Scotfield praised Dhofar as "the last place in the world where an Englishman is still called sahib". The booklet goes on to examine all the different types of mercenaries and their role in the various civil wars the Brits have been involved in.

As the author concludes-"The British Empire may be all but gone, but the role of Britain-government, services and arms companies-in counter-revolution and counter-insurgency throughout the world is still a considerable one. Indeed, the demand for assistance from Britain in these fields has probably grown. Socialists have therefore a continuing, if not increased, duty to reveal and oppose activities of this kind." We can only agree, and fight for the end of the British Empire by kicking them out of their oldest colony-Ireland.

MAIREAD CORRIGAN GOES TO SCHOOL

After Miss Mairead Corrigan's furtive and largely unannounced visits to several schools in the Derry area, the Peace People's publicity machine was soon in operation with a typically misleading and inaccurate report on Miss Corrigan's "success with fifth-formers."

At certain schools in Creggan, Miss Corrigan was not given a standard uncritical reception but was subjected to a searching and inquiring examination of the motives of her organisation, and its attitude towards the treatment of prisoners on the blankets, and the continuing RUC torture in Castlereagh and elsewhere.

Unfortunately, Miss Corrigan's inability to defend her organisation's motives is well-known, and as usual, when criticised at all, she retreated to that favourite stance of all the peace ladies when confronted by harsh reality-she burst into tears, thus ending all discussion.

Apart from anything else, it would seem that if schools' managements wish to encourage critical and creative thinking, then it would be advisable to use speakers who can defend their motives against opposing points of view. If Miss Corrigan can make

misleading and pro-establishment speeches to the young people of Derry, with the apparent approval of headmasters and management committees, isn't it time the whole purpose of education was investigated?

Despite the fact that the peace movement is to all intents and purposes a political organisation, siding with the forces of reaction, it is quite obvious that representatives of other political organisations and especially those of a radical viewpoint, will never be permitted to discuss theory and strategy with the school-children of Derry.

Fortunately the freshness and integrity of the youth of Derry was quite capable of perceiving the basic untruths underlying the peace movement, such to the dismay of Miss Corrigan and those who invited her to their schools. Isn't it a notable fact that it was the much-travelled and experienced Miss Corrigan and not the "misled" youth of Derry who was reduced to tears and incoherence by her inability to answer satisfactorily the simplest question?

P.R.O.
WOLFE TONE CUMANN,
BOGSDERRY SINN
FEIN.



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NEW LODGE RAIDED YET AGAIN . . .

On Tuesday morning, 22nd November 1977, the British Army raided the Sinn Fein Advice Centre on the New Lodge Road. The raid comes in the wake of the meeting between Mason and SDLP members at Stormont. Sinn Fein observers believe that this latest harassment of the Centre is an attempt to put Sinn Fein off the streets, intimidate its membership and drive the organisation underground. If such a thing happened the Brits believe the

shaken SDLP could work to increase its credibility in the nationalist ghetto areas, the areas which have rejected the fawning SDLP.

Sinn Fein's position is clear, a spokesman told REPUBLICAN NEWS. "Our work is based among the working-class of the ghettos. Its aim is to give our people confidence that they can control their own destiny. By its very nature it is a threat to the constitutional

party politicians who seek only a place in a Foreign Assembly, whereas we are trying to improve the lot of our people. It is for this reason that the Brits are afraid of us, and fend for their stooges in the SDLP."

In Andersonstown the Sinn Fein Advice centre is raided every day. The centres in the New Lodge, Ardoyne and Clonard are subject to Brit harassment on a regular daily basis.

ULSTER EXECUTIVE

SINN FEIN

LASHES

MALLON



MALLON CONVICTS 13 PEOPLE.

On Monday 14th November, Seamus Mallon of the SDLP, issued a statement after he had visited 13 young people in detention. They had been arrested by the Brits, taken from their homes in South Armagh to Gough Military/RUC Interrogation Barracks. Fathers Faul and Murray who had visited them, alleged that many of the young people had been tortured and consequently signed statements of membership of the IRA etc.

Mallon prejudiced the young peoples' trials by saying that they had been recruited into the IRA and would go to jail for many years because of "The IRA Godfathers". He then went on to attack the IRA and forgot about the young people. The Ulster executive of Sinn Fein made the following public reply:

"Last Monday Seamus Mallon gave his services once again in the interests of British imperialism with a familiar diatribe of Brit terminology.

"In a case which we thought by even SDLP standards would be sub judice, he convicted (by inference) 13 young people from South Armagh with IRA member-

ship and with being guilty of serious offences. He used his pretended concern for an opportunity to swipe at the Republican movement.

"Seamus Mallon is the man, who on August 14, 1976 accused the IRA of killing Majella O'Hare and of being the 'crucifiers of Ireland'. His opportunism on this occasion backfired.

"He has challenged Press statements of Fathers Faul and Murray on their allegations of RUC ill-treatment of suspects. Is he saying that they are lying? Mallon aligns himself alongside the Brits with the myth of the struggle being led by god-fathers.

The struggle which he attacks is being led in one sphere by incorruptible and indomitable youth, 232 of whom are naked in solitary confinement, bricked up in H-Block. Mallon pales into insignificance in comparison to them.

"While the membership of the SDLP continues to shrink that doomed party is faced with the undeniable fact that the war will not go away, that the people more militant than ever have swung away from them."

Emergency Fire Service now on call 24 hours per day

Two young children died in a house fire in Mc Quillan Street, in the Lower Falls area of Belfast, in the early hours of last Thursday morning.

The Peoples Emergency Fire Service which had been organised that day, and had finished a 15 hour stint on-call, had, due to man-power shortages, just closed down its offices at 85b Falls Road, an hour and a half before the outbreak. But it seems that even had fire-fighting teams, or the Firemen themselves, been immediately on the scene little

could have been done to save Robert Finnegan (2 and a half) and his baby sister Lisa (9 months old).

The PEFS is now in operation around-the-clock and has been called out to deal with several fires.

Meanwhile it is now known that a fire which killed a fifteen year old girl and destroyed her family's home, was started deliberately, probably by the UDA.

The father of the dead girl, Marcia Gregg, had

given evidence against two UDA men who were eventually convicted for the brutal murder in February 1976 of a Catholic mother and daughter, Mary and Bridget Sloan, and a Protestant woman visitor.

The incident took place only yards from the house of Mr Gregg, a Protestant, whose evidence helped convict the UDA men. His home had since been attacked twice it was petrol-bombed in the days preceding the petrol-bomb attack in the early hours of last Wednesday morning.

MORGAN FOURTH ANNIVERSARY.

In proud and loving memory of Vol. Desmond Morgan RIP, East Tyrone Brigade Oglagh Na h-Eireann, killed in action 27th November, 1973.

Always remembered by the East Tyrone POW's Magilligan Long Kesh and Portlouis.

In proud and loving memory of Vol. Desmond Morgan RIP East Tyrone Brigade Oglagh Na Eireann, killed in action 27th November 1973

"No saint or king has tomb so proud. As he whose flag becomes his shroud".

Always remembered by the John Haughey Sinn Fein Cumann Coalisland.



SYMPATHY.

Mrs. Guilfoile; officers and Members of the Pearse - Mc Daid Cumann, Sinn Fein, Birmingham, and Prisoners Welfare Group, Birmingham, tender their deepest sympathy to their friend and comrade Pat. (P.O.W. Garteer) family and friends of his late mother, who died as a result of burns, in Manchester Hospital, on November, 17th also, By his comrades in Garteer and all English "Hell Holes".

[4th ANNIVERSARY]

In proud and loving memory of Fian Michael Marley [killed by occupation forces] 24th November 1973. R.I.P. Mother of Perpetual Succour pray for him.

Always remembered by the Seamus Burns-Charlie Hughes Sinn Fein Cumann and The Committee and members of the Lower Falls Martyrs Bond.

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