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A BULLETIN OF THE  
IRISH REPUBLICAN  
MOVEMENT,  
LONG KESH

In future all inquiries regarding  
articles, poems and orders for  
An Eochair or payment for  
papers should be sent to  
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# Stop Sectarian Killings

## SAY THE MEN IN LONG KESH

The Republican prisoners in Cage 21, Long Kesh strongly condemn all those engaged in sectarian incitement in the community and appeal for united action by all groups who claim to be against sectarianism to end the vicious tit-for-tat... killings at present terrorising innocent people on both sides of the religious divide.

Here in Long Kesh where Republican and Loyalist prisoners suffer brutality of life in a steadily degenerating environment, the sectarian divisions originally created by Imperialism are re-emphasised by the wire and concrete that divide the prisoners compounds. In some ways at least, the position of the outside community is an enlargement of our own situation, for today just as British Imperialism holds us prisoner behind their cage-barriers, outside the community is held prisoner, divided by the mental barriers of sectarianism whose physical consequence is as savagely vicious as the barbed wire of Long Kesh.

For the ordinary people there can be no victory in sordid sectarian battles, bombings and killings. The real losers down the years, again and again, have been the working class, their potential unity against the boss-class splintered and broken by the bigoted demagogues who sought power, by conjuring up the empty myths of the past and inciting their misguided followers onto the most vicious attacks against their own class. Always Imperialism and its agents have benefited.

Today in Western Europe a savage economic depression is developing which will create a situation in Ireland where the security of working-class life and expectations will be undermined on a scale more devastating than any campaign of blind elitist terrorism and mad bombing. Yet as the capitalists count their profits, the working-class, instead of uniting in their own interests are being driven further apart than ever by murderous activities of sectarian groups on both sides. Every tit-for-tat killing drives a further wedge, in consolidating the oppression of the working-class. Yet the groups responsible for these heinous killings claim to be acting in the interests of the people. At this crucial time therefore the ordinary people who have the right to live without fear of being shot down or blown to bits by some of their "defenders," must let their voice be heard, in demanding an end to the present insane campaign of tit-for-tat murders.

Top picture: Murderers killed this innocent man in Belfast as he returned home from work.

Bottom picture: Two workers brutally murdered by sectarian thugs near the border



# Culture can be a weapon against British Imperialism

## MESSAGES FROM THE MEN BEHIND THE WIRE

Happy birthday MARY — from your husband Patsy (Lower Falls).  
 Happy birthday AGGIE — from Jim (Belfast).  
 Happy Birthday BRIDIE — from Peter John (Tyron).  
 Happy birthday JANET — Love Gerry (Lurgan).  
 Happy birthday DADDY & EUGENE from "Junior" (Armagh).  
 Happy birthday LEE — from Dad (Craigavon).  
 Happy birthday MUM — from Son Rab (Lower Falls).  
 Happy birthday MARION — from Danny (Lurgan).  
 Happy birthday BOBBY — from Comrade "Chips" (Twinbrook).  
 Happy birthday MOTHER, JOHN & BRIAN (Michael, Rostrevor).  
 Happy birthday DEB — from Martin and Maire (Lurgan).  
 Happy birthday KATE — from Billy, Neol, Donal, Jim, Martin, Joe (Brooke).  
 Happy birthday TERRY — from Big Dave, Micky and Tomboy (B/murphy).  
 Happy Anniversary (8th) SHEILA — from Joe (New Lodge).  
 Happy birthday EILEEN — from Brendan (Turf Lodge).  
 Wishing you all the happiness for the future, PETER (Daft Lad) and Kate from Zac; (the Worker), Darby; Colin Jakeman and Ango. (Belfast).  
 Happy Anniversary THERESA — Love from Seamus (Newry).  
 Happy 5th Anniversary JEAN — All my love, Roddy (MD)  
 Happy 5th Anniversary ANNE — All my love Liam (MD).  
 Happy birthday MARTINE — All my love Daddy (Carisle Development).  
 Happy birthday MUM — from your loving son James (Mew Lodge).  
 Happy Anniversary MUM & DAD — from your son matt, Cage 21 (New Lodge).  
 Happy birthday PATRICK — from Seamus (Lower Falls).  
 Happy birthday PAULINE — from Willie, Croggan, Derry..

## WE NEED YOUR BOOKS TO BEAT THE BRITS

The co-ordinating body of the Republican clubs in Long Kesh has reformed the library, which was destroyed in the fire.

The library is to maintain a level of books with title to educate the men. Although, held by the Imperialist lackeys of Westminster our duty is to educate ourselves. For the time when we are released we must steep ourselves into theory of Marx.

To be prepared, for the final overthrow of the capitalist

dominated society in which we live.

The range of books we have now is limited. The library as you know, is split into different categories, one range in which we are short of is political and socialist books such as Marx and Connolly, Mao-tse-tung and books in this general line.

To supplement our stocks we request the help of the public, to send in any books, which you would think would help us in our dilemma.

## MANKINDS DAY

Cold and dreary morning — its just another day,  
 A day to sit and dream of times far away.

Hate, despise, detest it, its all so much the same,  
 For a day in barbed-wire cages never is quite sane.

Its meant to warp and twist you,  
 To make your mind unclear,  
 To sit and dream and cry,  
 For ones you love so dear.

You fill your mind with thoughts,  
 Of past and future days,  
 But, through the maze of barbed wire you seem to be in a daze!

But a guiding light is struggle,  
 For justice, peace and truth,  
 For a day when man can put his mind to a far, far better use.

Where nothings strange and alien,  
 and mainkinds mind is clear,  
 not filled with foreign thoughts  
 the bourgeois hold so dear.

You start to dream of days  
 with unpolluted air,  
 when natural things can take  
 their course,  
 and man will live with day.

The mist begins to clear,  
 the wire is soon forgotten,  
 and thoughts arise to future days  
 when things will not be, — rotten,

Culture is something that many of us have heard about sometime or other, but how many of us really know what it is. Many people tend to think that culture is a thing best left to the intellectuals of our present society; others will give you wide berth at the very mention of the word.

This This atrocity toward culture is the end product of the successful indoctrination programme that the middle class "murder machine" has laid out for us. It can clearly be seen in the decline of Irish culture; the Irish language, the Irish traditional music, songs, the songs of Belfast and Dublin. The question of culture in Ireland is a very urgent one for the basis of our nationality lies in our culture. A national culture is the common response of a people to their surroundings.

The culture of our present society is one which prohibits revolution and seeks to distract us from developing our own culture. Society in Ireland today is one in which the middle classes try to project their

thoughts on the working classes through their educational system, the mass media and the promotion of mythology and superstition. It is a society which tries to make the unacceptable appear acceptable to the working classes. It aims to convince the Irish people that the present truncated half rationality of the Tacamans Ireland as being the achievement of the age old dreams and wishes of our people. A culture of mythology takes the place of a culture of reality.

The destruction of our native culture and language played an important part in the anglicising of Ireland by the British imperialists when they came here over 800 years ago. In those days education was the privilege of the rich, the common people passed on knowledge, attitudes, ideas, and values by means of songs, stories and poems, by means of a culture of the people.

This communication depended on language and by destroying the language (almost) the attitudes and values were destroyed also (almost).

It is understandable then why a national education scheme was brought into Ireland by the English

ruling classes before the same was done in England. The national consciousness of the Irish people had to be broken and they had to be taught the attitudes proper to a subjected race.

Looking at this education scheme we can see just how successful it has been; the Gaelic Language has almost disappeared. The Imperialist Education scheme has destroyed the will of the people to maintain their language, and all efforts to revive it have foundered on the twin rocks of popular indifference and official intolerance. We must realise that the Gaelic Language is the lifeblood of our national identity. To accept the British Imperialist education scheme as it is would

be killing our own national identity doomed to be the mindless slaves of our masters.

Culture is among the working people, we must allow it develop to do so will show how we can break the strangle hold that imperialism has on us. To do so will show that we are the masters of this land and all its wealth; to do so will ascertain that we are the Sovereign People.

Amid continuing speculation as to the truth or otherwise of the Rev. Arlows exposures of a British commitment to the Provisionals of a possible withdrawal from the Six Counties, two important aspects concerning the situation become increasingly clear.

One is that the British Government is in complete control of the political situation; and two, that in keeping with their "Glorious and Consistent" history throughout the Empire, there is no solution, however tragic or bloody it may prove for the population, that will not be imposed if it ensures the maintenance of their ill-gotten gains.

Any one who doubts either of these two points must be either politically naive or incapable of examining historical and present day facts. The facts are that today the anti-imperialist forces are more divided than ever before, working class unity is a term used only by an optimist, the broad front for civil rights has almost disappeared before its most important demands were met, a mindless bombing campaign has succeeded in discrediting the national struggle for years to come, the Provisionals have finally declared a Cease-Fire from a position of extreme weakness, the IRSP by a premature campaign of ultra-left violence, against not only the establishment but also the only genuine far-sighted revolutionary organisation in the country, seem intent on discrediting socialist politics in the eyes of the ordinary people. If you were in the shoes of the Imperialist, would you not be confident that you were dictating the political events in the Six Counties?

From Cyprus to Malaya, from Kenya to Aden, British Colonial history has been brutal and callous. To consider now that the mother of Imperialism has a newly acquired humanity when dealing with the Irish question is surely illogical.

It is this very point that we in the Republican Movement have stressed in the past and will be stressing over the next few months as the British Government attempts to ensure the return of a so-called stable political situation.

The President of Sinn Fein, Mr. Thomas McGiolla, has consistently warned of the possibility that Britain will consider the re-drawing of the border to make counties Tyrone and Fermanagh, and Derry and Newry Towns, part of the Free State. This opinion has been given weight by the mouthings of Unionist politicians such as John Taylor and Bill Craig, who for the last two years have been advocating this as an alternative to a UDA situation, but the recent admission of the arch Unionist himself — Brian Faulkner — to this camp has meant a new credibility to this sinister plan.

In order to enforce such a solution it would necessitate a mass movement of the Nationalist population, the like of which has not been seen in Western Europe since the Second World War.

# IS BRITAIN NOW CONSIDERING RE-PARTITION

To enable this movement the Nationalist population would necessitate a very delicate situation. Only large scale pogroms and killings would be sufficient to accrue the required result. The beginnings of this campaign could have been marked by the recent killings of Protestants in the Newry area; a similar campaign of sectarian murders on a large scale basis in Belfast would not be hard to initiate since sectarian motivations were already an almost daily occurrence.

If this solution is attempted, we in the Republican Movement, warn the ordinary people — or more important anyone who is so politically bankrupt as to believe that it would possibly work — that this new re-partition of our country. All Republicans must fight this "solution" and its advocates who could start to appear in increasing numbers in the near future. There are a number of options open to the British at present, among them are, a return to the old Stormont; a reformed Stormont, that would take account not the denial of civil-rights in the past but the denial of Catholic.

middle class participation in Government; complete withdrawal. Loyalty (UDI) or repartition which would ensure that the discontended minority in the new three or four county statelet will be so small that its voice can be ignored. When the British SMinister of Home Affairs announced in Parliament during the discussion of a six-months extension of the Emergency Provisions Act he assured all present that this was the last extension of this particular Bill. He said that he would be introducing, at the end of the six-month period, a new bill to take into account a new and different situation. The British Government seem to know what solution they are opting for, Jenkins is supremely confident that his government is dictating political events. There is one thing that the Irish people can rest assured of, that whatever the British Government attempt to implement it will be in their interest and not in the interest of the people.

As such the Republican Movement will continue its historic role in exposing these attempts to continue exploitation of our people.

## Statement from Millen Bracken Rep. Club Long Kesh

We in the Robert Millen/Pat Bracken Republican Club, Long Kesh would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the membership of the Republican Clubs throughout the Six Counties for the outstandingly active and effective campaign that they waged against the EEC in the recent referendum. There is no doubt that many of the conscious anti-EEC voters could not have failed to be impressed by the Republican Movements highly consistent opposition to this "Rich Mans Club."

During the campaign the Republican Movement took on the position and the responsibility of being the main representatives of Left Wing opposition to the sell out of our people. This was made possible by the fact that our so-called Labour representative parties such as the SDLP and NILP once again betrayed the cause of labour and advised the people to vote in favour of remaining in this multi-national capitalist community. It was left to the genuine representatives of working class interests in the Republican Movement to take on the task of opposing entry to the EEC; we did so with great success. It must be clear now to all Socialists left within the SDLP or NILP that the role of these parties is not one in which a genuine socialist can partake. Over recent years the Republican Movement has proven by its actions and not pious words that we have inherited the virtues of Connolly and Larkin, and the emerging vanguard of the working class. Our activities are an open book for all to see that we have consistently forwarded the cause of Labour no matter how costly it was to us in terms of repression or support. There is a place within the Republican Movement for all revolutionary Socialists who do not shrink the pain striking efforts that are necessary to raise the working class above those of sectarian prejudice and national chauvinism, and who fear not the wrath of the establishment. We sincerely hope that all people who describe themselves as socialists will look at the facts and judge for themselves.

# PRISON CAMP OFFICIALS HELP KEEP

# SECTARIANISM ALIVE

## INSIDE LONG KESH

Since the foundation of the present Northern Ireland, in 1921, the Unionist Government has maintained itself, and uncompromisingly held onto power by deliberately fostering un-real divisions amongst the working class.

On every occasion that their stranglehold on power seemed in the slightest danger, they consolidated their position by whipping up sectarian hatred and introducing coercive and repressive legislation; the Special Powers Act, "B" Specials, discrimination in housing and jobs, are all part of the Unionist legacy, and have all been used to keep working men and women divided on false, issues, and regularly return a Unionist Majority - based not on political realities but sectarianism.

As the civil rights movement gained momentum in the late sixties, the Unionist power bloc was shaken to its very roots. The calls for an end to gerrymandered electoral boundaries, for voting rights for all, and an end to discrimination, were all justified. The case being presented was proved and the Unionists blatant abuse of power was highlighted across the globe. Once again the Stormont power-mongers relied on their well tried methods to see them through.

They played on the fears which they had created within the Protestant Community and resurrected the myth of the IRA, claiming that it was using the CRM as a vehicle to launch an attack on the Protestant people.

The sectarian pogroms of August 1969 saw many deaths but it also saw the mass movement for basic democratic reform side tracked into a bitter and senseless inter-communal conflict - benefiting none, other than the Faulkners, Craigs and Wests. The forces of reaction blossomed in the working class areas of the North, and while the Brits pursued a "Croppys Lie Down policy," the Provisionals and the UVF/UDA syndroms issued threat and counter-threat. By mid 1972 sectarianism was rampant and as young men and women were slaughtered at their places of work, and the "passing car" became part of Belfast life - civil war loomed on the horizon.

By political manoeuvring and expediency the real enemy and the genuine problems of jobs wages and

houses had been obscured and the working people set at each others throats.

Tangible measures such as the sectarian allocation of housing and jobs have re-inforced the belief that Catholic and Protestant people have no common enemy other than each other - and just in case the propaganda of the Unionist power machine wasn't getting across, physical barriers like the Belfast "Peace Line," make up peoples minds for them.

In a closed environment like Long Kesh it should follow then that Republicans and Loyalists live in fear of their lives and constantly plot and plan how to assassinate each other; but is this the case?

For the last four or five years Loyalist and Republican prisoners have travelled to and from their respective cages to the visiting areas, from the camp to the courts in Belfast, have regularly exchanged handicrafts and books and yet not once has even a row developed, taken in the context of other parts of the North this seems almost unbelievable.

During the food protests of July, August, September and October last year every man and every organisation within the camp stood firmly behind the jointly drawn-up demands, and banners of solidarity flew over every compound. The unity which existed within the camp was translated into united action outside the wire and joint Republican/Loyalist demonstrations took place. The unity within the Camp was only possible because the

real issues were raised and the real enemy identified. The authorities had been seen to be the aggressor and were defeated on those issues by a united front of all the prisoners

The measures with which they tried to smash our unity were as predictable as they were pathetic. They unsuccessfully tried to negotiate on a sectarian basis and curiously favour one grouping to the detriment of the others.

In identifying the common enemy, a common policy was formulated and progress was made - on both sides of the wire.

Present events would suggest however that Truesdale and Company have learnt nothing and that they are planning their future policy along the same sectarian lines which they have attempted to pursue in the past. The outlook for political status looks none to healthy with the Gardiner Report.

Not only are the authorities preparing to individualise the men in the camp but plans seem afoot to segregate them as well. Then the top half of the camp - Phase 6 - was re-built after its total destruction in the fire of October 16th last year, all the Loyalist prisoners were moved into it, occupying all the cages but one. Phase 5 was filled up with Provos. There is no justification whatsoever for dividing the accommodation - along sectarian lines. The only reasoning behind the policy of a "Catholic Phase for Catholic Prisoners" is that by creating unreal divisions in the prisoners ranks the possibility of future united action is retarded. To preserve the solidarity which has emerged from our united action attempts to introduce sectarianism must be and will be resisted.

When we talk of sectarianism in Long Kesh we refer not to the attitude of the men imprisoned here, but to the deliberate policies of Gov. Truesdale and the people who have for so long ruled and benefited by a fragmented working class.

# Young prisoners have heads shaved REHABILITATION OR REPRESSION

The treatment of young prisoners here in Long Kesh certainly leaves a lot to be desired. These prisoners are in the 19 - 21 age bracket and are imprisoned for various offences ranging from petty thieves to the small time thug.

Upon being sentenced the offender goes through the barbarous process of having his head shaved, and in order that he loses his identity he is trussed into a Victorian era uniform.

This uniform, which consists only of light denim jacket and trousers is expected to keep him warm in winter and the authorities provide weather proof clothing though so ever, irrespective of the weather.

Upon entering the cage which is to be their home for the period of their imprisonment the offender is confronted by an assistant prison governor who, in no uncertain terms tells the offender that should he ever step out of line he will not only lose remission but will get a severe beating as well.

One notorious punishment inflicted upon young prisoners who have failed to honour prison rules by not addressing officers as "Sir" is to be subjected the menial task of going around the prison camp picking up every single cigarette butt and orange peel; in a place of this size, this type of punishment can run into weeks.

The young prisoner in Long Kesh is not rehabilitated for the outside world because he does menial tasks which do nothing what so ever to further his improvement.

If he is lucky he gets an indoor job peeling potatoes and other vegetables, for 1,200 men - all this with common kitchen knife; why use machines when you have free labour at your finger tips?

For the less fortunate prisoners there is a range of outdoor jobs such as collecting rubbish in an open truck, without any protection from diseases; or perhaps sweeping after the "screws" who have just finished throwing bins about for the fun of it; the "screws" after all need some form of entertainment.

The prisoners day starts at 7.00 a.m. when he is ordered to rise, and after washing, and providing he has the time, he breakfasts, the daily work routine begins at 8.30 a.m. and finishes at 5.30 p.m. During this time he only breaks for a quick ten minute lunch plus the hours compulsory P.T. drill from 2 - 3. No matter where the prisoner goes he must always behave in a military fashion with no communication whatsoever with his fellow inmates.

When he finishes work at 5.30 p.m. he has his supper and is forbidden to go into his living quarters until 7 p.m. walking around the yard after 8 p.m. is also forbidden so he is compelled from 6 to 7 to be in the canteen for compulsory recreation.

Recreation is hardly the right word to describe 100 prisoners trying to play on the solitary table tennis table. Following lock-up at 9 p.m. the prisoner has the choice of either watching T.V. or going to bed, there is nothing else to do.

Handicrafts are not permitted for young prisoners, contrary to prison rules and despite all those great prison educational facilities which have recently been mentioned in the press and radio no such facilities exist for these prisoners no library or other reading materials are permitted.

The young prisoner earns a grand total of 30p for his six day - 72 hour week and this 30 p is all that he is permitted to spend on luxuries, these luxuries include such items as fruit and cigarettes and at todays prices there is no change out of 30p after buying twenty cigarettes.

If the prisoner is serving under two years he is not permitted a food parcel, not that that makes such difference because should he be serving more than two years all that he is permitted is 4 lbs of fruit; no cigs, chocs or papers.

After enduring a term of imprisonment in these conditions, the young prisoner is released more rebellious, as can be expected, of society, than before his imprisonment. Those who inflict these conditions on young prisoners are more criminal than they.

NEVV REMEMBER LAD - ALL WORK AND NO PLAY MAKES JACK A DULL BOY - AND WE LIKE DULL-BOYS HERE



## To The Workers

Hurry you fellow workers with lunchbox under arm, Force your aching limbs through the grey mist of the morn, Repeat your daily ritual to the dust-filled factories Breathe the polluted air and the artificial breeze.

Jump you fellow workers, obey the machines dictates Cater to its every wish and its alienating traits, Slog away the dreary hours, and conceal your discontent, Your sole means of existence, compels your labour to be spent,

Fag you fellow workers, your boss you've got to please, Exhaust all your energy for his commodities, The power of your labour accumulates great wealth, Andd helps swell the bulge in the Capos money belt.

Toil you fellow workers, new markets must be made, To sate the individuals who control society's bread, To assert their common interest with the medias expertise To chain the human race to the Bourgeois theories.

But hearken fellow workers, the power is in your mass, History has foretold us, you'll smash the ruling class, By socialising production and corresponding ideas, You'll crush the selfish concept of private property, You'll crush the festering sore of widespread poverty You'll purge the shameful sin of workers exploitation And cast away the fetters to free an oppressed nation.

# CAGED MEN BUT THEIR REVOLUTIONARY

## THE STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM AND JUSTICE INSIDE LONG KESH

While in prison we, as revolutionaries have a duty as well as an opportunity to increase our political awareness. One of the means we have chosen

to do this is the Revolutionary Cultural Committee.

The committee was set up to provide an alternative culture to that provided by the bourgeois media.

We felt that our political beliefs were being subtly attacked by propaganda from the television radio and the press and that we should take steps to defend ourselves against these attacks.

In the first report the Committee emphasised that our native culture has been replaced by a dominant Imperialist culture which is in control of the media. The Committee pointed out that this culture is doubly dangerous since not only its content but also the tool of its expression — the language — are foreign importations used by the bourgeoisie to oppress and confuse the Irish workers. For this reason they suggested that we speak Irish whenever possible. Commonly used phrases were pos-

ted on the walls of the huts to foster this.

The Committee also suggested that the walls of the huts should be decorated with paintings and slogans expressing our solidarity with other revolutionary movements and policies. Everyone contributed in some way to these paintings, giving us all the satisfaction of knowing that we had all helped to improve our own environment.

Television is probably the most potent weapon of Bourgeois propaganda. It holds up for admiration, characters such as KOJAK — the tough New York Cop.

Kojak is the hero of several officers in the RUC Special Branch. Indeed it has been rumoured that several officers in the RUC have removed their Crown Toppers and have taken to sucking lollipop. Such programmes are being shown to get people used to the idea of the Tough Cop, who "bends rules to protect the public" — that is private property. The committee recommended that such programmes should be banned and the Club agreed.

It was further decided that the Television should be switched off three nights per week to give us the opportunity and encouragement to entertain and educate ourselves. Sing songs were organised and yoga and leather work classes set up and a night was set aside for discussion on various aspects of socialist philosophy.

One of the topics discussed was false news; that is needs that have been created by the media so that profit can be made from them. Cigarettes are an example of this. No one really needs cigarettes, if it weren't for the amount of propaganda advocating smoking then very few people would bother. Yet every year thousands of people die of lung cancer and millions more knowingly damage their health because their will power is not strong enough to withstand the propaganda of the cigarettes companies. The committee felt that the time was not yet right to press for a total ban on smoking but urged everyone to kick the habit and many have done just that, and many more have cut down significantly.



### The murder of Joe McCann

The moon shone down on Belfast town, the fighting then began for the people had heard the awful news of the murder of Joe McCann.

The soldier of the people, the defender of the land we never shall forget your name was Big Joe, the pastry man.

It was in Joy Street on a Saturday, where the Paras wait and lay, for they knew that Joe McCann would come passing through that way.

A voice rang out, Joe turned and ran, but the Paras gunned him down.

My God I cried Big Joe has died they have killed the pastry man.

He fought to save the workers, he took a socialist stand, to see his dreams come true, a people's Ireland.

### A SATIRICAL LOOK AT BRITISH JUSTICE

A British soldier was given a six months suspended prison sentence when he admitted discharging a firearm in a public place. Seven charges of murder were dropped by the Crown.

The court heard that on the night of June 24th last year the defendant Private Basher Thug was on patrol with his unit when they heard singing coming from the "Heap of Rubble" public house and went to investigate.

Witnesses claimed that Private Thug burst into the public bar shouting "WHAT are youse so happy about youse bastards," killing seven people and wounding four others. Private Thug told the court that he had been under considerable strain at the time and that he had misunderstood his commander who had told him "Cover the customers." Private Thug had thought he had said, "Murder the customers."

Mr. Justice Bad said that the army in Northern Ireland was doing a wonderful job in very difficult circumstances, and that he fully understood the strain the average soldier was under.

"You should not concern yourself with the dead or injured," he told the defendant. "You were merely obeying what you thought were your orders. The deceased must have known that drinking in a public bar in Belfast is a hazardous occupation and in consequence must bear some responsibility for their fate."

At the same court a 26 year old unemployed labourer was sentenced to six years in prison for assaulting a member of the security forces by throwing a steel chair at him.

The defendant claimed that he had been at a sing-song in the "Heap of Rubble public house" on the night of the 24th June last year when a soldier burst into the room shouting

"What are youse so happy about youse bastards" and sprayed the room with machine gun fire. He claimed that he had thrown the chair in an attempt to knock the weapon out of the soldiers hand.

Giving judgement Mr. Justice Bad said:

"The job of a soldier is difficult and dangerous enough without his being obstructed at every turn by members of the public. I do not accept your submission that you were merely trying to disarm the soldier. If that was your mission that you were merely trying to disarm him you should have asked him to lay down his weapon. No I am quite convinced that you intended to injure the young private. It is a disgraceful state of affairs when members of the public think they can veto action against the security forces; if we do not take immediate action to stamp this out we could well find ourselves in a state of absolute anarchy and chaos."

### THIS

Clang, a dull sound to those who have not been deprived of their freedom, to the inmates of Long Kesh Prison Camp the sound is the start of just another day in captivity.

The time is 7.30 a.m., our day starts with an account of prisoners (we're too precious to lose). If its an unlucky day we have a

### SPEAK IRISH

The British imperialists have people in every aspect of the world are promoting a foreign and

The imperialists have a weapon in their armoury which they use after they have dominated a country, this is the wrecking of the peoples culture and language.

# SPIRIT STILL LIVES

## VOICE CONTINUES

While many of us knew the principle economic theories of socialism many of us were to a great degree ignorant of the cultural differences between the socialist and the bourgeois ideologies. The bourgeois is based on the economic need to sell commodities; this leads to false needs and standardisation. The capitalist will use any profitable thing as a commodity and will use any means to sell it. To the capitalist, the most intimate human instinct, the creation of children is no more than a commodity; six is sold in glossy magazines, and standardised to suit all tastes, with the artificial flavouring of fetishes it is used to sell soap powder, cars or cigarettes. Women are seen and taught to see themselves as sex objects not people. We must be aware of these attitudes in order not to be contaminated by them — the person who holds such ideas cannot be a socialist. The task of the committee was to expose any commonly held ideas which contradicted our socialist beliefs, and by pointing out the contradictions help us rid ourselves of them.

Since the committee was first set up three months ago the increase in political awareness has been surprising. The committee has often found that the Club has taken the initiative in putting forward ideas for this small cultural revolution. Recently the committee brought up the subject of the Co-op on the discussion night to draw members attention to the financial difficulties which it was having. The outcome was a spontaneous recommendation from the Club that every week there should be a work night in aid of the Co-op; the work was to be done voluntarily. This was encouraging not only because members were giving their time free but also because the television was to be switched off for a fourth night. Before the Cultural Committee was set up a suggestion that the television be turned off would have been met with a storm of protest.

The Committee has only existed for a few months yet already progress is considerable. We have still a long way to go before our cultural revolution is complete but we are confident that now the process has begun it cannot be reversed.



## LIFE BEHIND THE WIRE

Bed clothes and our everyday clothes are lying on the floor before us, but what can we say; it is in the interests of security you see. (Wire cutters could be concealed in the flap of the jeans). If some prisoner is unfortunate enough to lose a personal item he sees the governor but the Fuhurer will have to talk of his officers being thieves, after all they do got £200 per week, would they need to steal?

After all this has been sorted out by 9 a.m. our day begins in earnest. If you are lucky you may have your visit out for that day, half hour weekly. During the visit the screw who accompanies you down stands directly behind the prisoner and the visitor making privacy impossible. The prisoner thus returns to his cage very frustrated (better without the visit).

By now its dinner time, today its typical, carrots, uncleaned half cooked peas and of course the potatoes (we live like kings). At four o'clock we have our tea, fried eggs, and shells and a piece of fried bread. At 7 p.m. those of us who received parcels during the day collect them from the gate; if you are lucky they have confiscated nothing but these cases are few and far between, there is usually something missing. After this we have an hour of T.V., then at 9 p.m. the cage again rings to the sound of keys and locks.

Another head count. We have a cup of tea and then locked up. This is just a normal day in the life of a Long Kesh prisoner, who would want to leave this luxury for very precious people.

people of the same class, division of the people is a technique commonly used by imperialists the world over. We have our own culture and language, it is up to everyone to re-awaken this awareness, to learn their native language and culture.

We will take an example of foreign domination of culture, by using this article. Why should it have been written in a foreign tongue and not in our own native language, surely it speaks for itself. Simply because 1 in every 100 are fluent Irish speakers.

James Connolly wrote: "Language is the vehicle of a peoples culture." Therefore the Irish language must be revived if we are to go forward in any way. We must learn Irish because it is a means of communication and as such all our culture is based around it. If we further our language we also further our culture and this is as good a reason as any as culture is one of our weapons to fight and defeat imperialism.

Every word spoken in Irish is a word spoken against foreign domination of our country.

### Long Kesh crossword



- DOWN:**
2. President of Yugoslavia (4).
  3. Place named after Russian leader (9).
  4. Wireless (5).
  5. Victorian Prime Minister (8).
  6. Prickly Plants (5).
  7. Minimum (5).
  9. Cultural Skills (4).
  - 12 Sean Fox was a leading one (10).
  15. Cultivated Land (4).
  16. (and 30 across) — What Thousands Marched for on Bloody Sunday (5 & 6).
  17. Make Prisoner (6).
  19. Helicopter Vane (5).
  21. One who Fires from Cover (6).
  23. Lowest Point (5).
  25. N.I. GOC (4).
  28. Extra charge on all goods (3).
- ACROSS:**
1. Russian Leader (1924-56) (6).
  2. Left Wingers (8).
  8. Flag (8).
  10. Communal (6).
  11. Former Catholic Party (12).
  13. Aristocratic (4).
  14. Affairs of State (8).
  18. Killers (9).
  20. One Without Freedom (5).
  22. Secret (4).
  24. Arab Grouping (3).
  26. Military Student (5).
  27. Suspension of Execution (8).
  29. Lawlessness (7).
  30. — See 16 Down —

## YOUR

by the screws. All personal items are put by us into a bag, to prevent missing during raids; so to avoid loss we take them with us to the search hut. To finish of search the screws give every prisoner a body search, then on into our living cells we sometimes find the place unrecognisable as the place we left an ago.

### FORIEGN

the years to subdue the Irish and by speaking English we... doing this they deprive the people of any aspirations they have. A people who have no common ground are divided and easily they cannot identify with

# In Long Kesh they try to brainwash political prisoners

It is the object of the system's prison establishment to let out the released prisoner, on finishing his sentence, imbued with enough respect of the system, and with enough fear of authority, to act as a deterrent to further law-breaking, and with his mind orientated towards dependence on the system's institutions.

I am writing of something that is largely of a sociological nature, which suffers from a psychological warfare conducted by the establishment; a conflict between it and the rebel; an invasion of the 'dissidents' mind.

In Long Kesh prison camp this contest is of special interest since the prisoners here are political rebels, many of whom were very much aware of the tactics of the system before their imprisonment, largely their reason for dissent.

Being political means the prisoners belong to some type of organised resistance with conscious political objectives. The Long Kesh prison establishment, aware of the nature of their prisoners, carry out a psychological warfare upon them more severe than that endured by ordinary prisoners in so-called normal prisons.

The objective is, of course, to recycle even the political rebel back into the system. For this purpose, knowing the prisoners' hopes fears and joys is most important to the prison staff. Recorded assessments are continually made by cage senior prison officers of each individual prisoner. Prison doctors and prison welfare officials also make their contribution to this process. Each individual assessment is used as a barometer in dealing with the prisoner; this knowledge is used as a weapon for pressurising, manipulating, and advising the prisoner according to the prisoner's weakness and strengths. Assessment is most necessary for introducing the re-cycling technique.

Having made a general introduction on the subject, we will be more explicit, giving a particular example of a prisoner's approach to the prison establishment and how they deal with it in their re-cycling method.

A prisoner is entitled to a pre-release parole according to normal prison procedure. He is told by a prison officer to fill in a parole application form provided for the purpose. On the form the prisoner is asked to state the day of his choice for going out on the parole. The form is duly completed and handed back to the senior P.O. The prisoner expectantly awaits the parole, day, not a little apprehensive of meeting the outside world again. He is marshalling his wits towards coping with his coming traumatic experience; his family are also waiting; it is an emotional time for both prisoner and his family outside.

The day arrives; the prisoner awaits the call. His wait lengthens and soon he becomes uneasy. He thinks I must be getting parole, the prison authorities have not informed me that it has been turned down. But when too much of the day passes for assurance's sake an enquiry is made to the prison staff as to what is holding up the parole. A little time later, the reply comes that there is no record of a parole form being put in by the prisoner to the prison authorities; it is impossible to make a complete check as the cage P.O. is away for a few days. This astounding news hit the prisoner a sickening blow; there is a feeling of a leaden weight in his stomach. Stunned, he quickly seeks redress.

He shortly obtains an interview with the prison welfare officer who tucks and clucks around him sympathetically than ever could the prisoner's mother. The Welfare Officer will ring up the chief welfare officer to make an enquiry into the matter.

After this interview, the cage P.O. suggests getting on to the governor about the matter; it might be possible for the prisoner to have a quick interview with him. The prisoner, back in the cage, awaits further developments while recounting his woe to his fellow prisoners. To sort out a proper perspective on the problem, the prisoner walks round and round the cage yard. Also he is well annoyed and frustrated. Watching with the corners of his eyes through the wire of the cage's fence, the P.O. looks satisfied; is it he the prisoner in the proper mood, all according to plan? He must take the courses that should educate him on the values of the institutions of society; to succeed in getting parole he will be put through the whole re-cycling programme. By the time it is finished, the prisoner will have his whole consciousness re-awake to the 'superiority' of the society he rejected.

The A.G. arrives — it is always the assistant governor that turns up when a prisoner asks for an interview with the Governor. The prisoner is called before the A.G. who expresses mystification as to why the parole form was not received in the N.I. Home Office. What about putting in another application form for parole — this would help to get things going; it would

be something the prison authority would work on — as it was they had nothing to work on, for they had no record of an application being received (the re-cycling method is now intensifying). Feeling he is in a blind alley from which there must be escape, the prisoner puts his faith in prison bureaucracy — he will fill another application form. Inwardly, he curses bitterly as he thinks of his wife and children. He feels shattered with disappointment.

He awaits with renewed hope results from his new application. On the next day, he makes enquiries for a reply; but the reply is slow in coming. Finally the A.G. appears again and the prisoner is asked to come before him. There is something wrong about your eligibility, the A.G. says, the Home Office has turned down your application on the grounds that you served a month in prison eleven years ago. The prisoner is stunned again. He feels he has been wrapped up from head to foot in bureaucratic red tape. I thought this would be of no consequence now, the prisoner says. Oh it is, the A.G. replies, however it should be of help to you know that you can apply to get re-classified as a star class prisoner; your old hard classification and special category status have not helped you. Here the prisoner thinks; might it be possible to undo all this time enduring red tape. Yes, he says painfully, I will try that.

Putting confidence in this new bearing and course of action on his parole application the prisoner awaits a further reply on it (the re-cycling is progressing from point to point). After more patience stretching time passes, the prisoner, at last, is asked to appear before the A.G. again: I'm afraid your application for re-classification has been turned down. But why asks the prisoner chokingly? Eleven years ago I did a month in prison. That, even according to the prison regulations, should not bar me. I'm sorry, says the A.G. but this is the way it is, however, I suggest you take it to the ministerial level, for that is where real power lies. Put in a board paper to the Ministry for re-classification and I will add my recommendations to it before I pass it on (big deal) If you could get somebody that could help you; a public representative such as an Assembly member, he could approach the Ministry on your behalf to help your case (the prisoner must be taught how valuable the prison system's institutions are). And so the prisoner rather desperately fills in his next board form and passes it to the prison authorities for transfer to the Ministry.

He now starts thinking on the advice of getting a public representative to approach the Ministry. Ah, the governor must have been giving a hint about your man who was actually a Minister in the Assembly; he has done some good work on similar matters for prisoners before. I will see him; it will help to beat these bastards. I am up against it with them (actually this is the success for the re-cycling method; the prisoner is forced to become dependent of the system's processes to obtain something from the system).

To contact the Assembly man, the prisoner approaches the prison Welfare Officer again who is all pleased at the prisoner's approach. He assures the prisoner of the full sympathy of everybody in the prison welfare department — weren't they just talking about the case down in the office yesterday; they think his treatment a great injustice; they will certainly do everything in their power to help. Oh yes, the Assembly man; he is the very man who will be able to do something — do you know, he made a great success of your man's case. We could get in touch with him and explain your problem to him. He can't carry on — he will know what to do. Is there anybody else who could help? Did you mention anything to the prison chaplain? Get on to him; he can always be of help, he knows a thing or two about these things, especially the right lines. If he called round to see your wife, he could help to give her some reassurance that something is being done. There you are now. Okay, I will let you know as soon as I have word from the Assembly man.

The prisoner leaves the W.O. office after being brought up to date with the use of all the well worn stock phrases that grow out of a stagnant, backward and unprogressive system that blindly flounders on trying to justify its existence; the re-cycling of the prisoner being one of its methods of slowing its dimming'ish time.

Later on the prisoner observes the prison chaplain entering his cage. Ah, he thinks, now is the opportunity to get him on to (from the establishment's point of view it is important that the prisoner become completely subject to his particular religion during re-cycling). This clergyman was able to work things out by courtesy of the politicians and by the prime Governor's consent, on past occasions. Yes, father he says, that is how it is — he has just finished telling his problem to the chaplain. Well, the chaplain says, I will do whatever I can. When I have a reply from this Assembly man that he has something done on it, I will send you word of pro-

gress. In the meantime, I will call around to see your wife to reassure that something is being done. The chaplain departs.

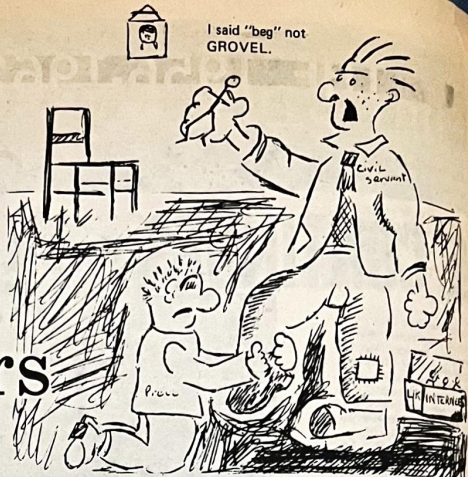
Days drag by with a sequence of negative and unproductive answers from the prison's A.G. and Welfare officers. Prison time is really oppressive with such progress; the strain scribes nerve tablets and sleeping tablets for him.

Then one day, two members of the board of visitors arrive in the cage. They are supposed to be a bonus to the prisoners. The Board of Visitors itself can represent some 18 respectable people, members of the professions and the business class, who are supposed to represent the public interest on how our prisons are run (of course the public know absolutely nothing about them; they don't know they exist and have not a clue as to their identity). Their power is nil — as the prisoners know it — but they help to whitewash the prison system.

Oh yes, the Board Lady says to the prisoner, "I have taken note of the lot and will do what I can when I see the Governor on my way out. I haven't a clue what the regulations are on the point, no, we do not know what prison regulations govern Long Kesh prison camp. Yes, its frustrating to be handled like this. And with this comment, the Board of Visitors depart, not to be seen or heard of for another month, when futile and worthless visit to the prison camp (but they have a society value, the system having mercy on its victims by sending its fur coat brigade in to sympathise with prisoners; a reassurance to them that the system means well-there, here, there is virtue in the system).

I am not going to write the conclusion of this episode on my prison life, which is based on fact, and usually has one or other of two endings; the prisoner obtaining his parole before his release date; and the prisoner getting released without any parole.

Such is the cruelty of our prison system, producing a mental torture for both the prisoner and his family. The psychological stress is great but this is induced purposely by the prison Authorities. Whether he has obtained parole or not, the prisoner, having gone through this anguish, is expected to avoid going through prison afterwards, and to respect the authority of the system over itself (how they think that possible through their aggression on the human personality is impossible to know).



## An incredulous look at the Rees murder bids

Mr. Merlyn Rees, the Ulster Supremo, revealed today that he had survived yet another assassination attempt — this time by a little known organisation of urban guerrillas.

"I had just stepped off my plane at RAF Aldergrove," said an obviously shaken Secretary of State, "and I was walking towards my armour plated Rolls when there was a tremendous explosion in

the Strand Road area of Derry. Buildings crumbled, glass shattered and debris was scattered over a wide area — luckily I escaped unhurt."

Mr. Rees admitted that at no time was he in serious personal danger, but pointed out that anyone within 20 yards of the bomb would have been killed and that he had been in Strand Road at least

that they had been released after giving an undertaking "to go straight home and never to play with bombs again."

A man rang Belfast newspapers last night and identified himself as Captain Scarlet of the Derry Brigade of the CESHW. He denied that his organisation was responsible for the Strand Road bombing but claimed that they had assassinated Mr. Rees several months ago.

twice when he took over the Ulster hot-seat, some 16 months ago.

"It was clearly an attempt to kill me," he said, "but it was foiled by the swift and resolute action of the security forces."

The supreme went on to say that the perpetrators of "this vile act" had been apprehended and during interrogation they admitted being members of the little known "Committee for the Eradication of Senile Half Wits," he added

"Rees was eradicated and replaced by a battery operated cardboard replica. If you open the top of the head you will find a tape-recorder which plays back various phrases at random. He was removed because he was the leader of a band of the most senile half wits in Ireland." "I was told," the spokesman said: "I must be satisfied that there has been a genuine and sustained cessation of violence."

# THE 1956-1962 CAMPAIGN

The Republican Movement, as it reached the initial stages of the present troubles had in a decade of political development removed itself light years from half a century of stagnation which cost so much but achieved so little.

Only those who can identify revolutionary struggle understand the great progress made inside our Movement; of course, there have been those who do not understand and have consequently fallen by the wayside. One may ask what prompted this new development inside our Movement. To help answer this question, the period prior to it must be examined; this period is popularly known as the '56 IRA Campaign, which ended discouragingly in 1961.

When the IRA struck at targets in the Six Counties on the night of 12th December 1956, the attack caught the security forces by surprise. At that time, these forces comprised the British Army, RUC, B. Specials; later a terror type force known as the Police Commandos were organised for special anti-guerrilla duties. But at the beginning of the campaign, the IRA was so underground and secretive that little of its plans were known to its enemies.

However the stance of the IRA in relation of the people left it in a great disadvantage, even though it had the advantage initially of being strong security wise. While some of the population knew that the IRA men existed among them, and some of them gave sympathy, nobody knew anything else of the IRA except that it proposed to unite Ireland by force. It was in isolation from the masses, its role causing to appear as a sinister, dark and secretive force that made people shy away from it because it did not seem part of the people and its objectives did not relate to their every day life; freeing Ireland was seen just as a dream, a sort of fantasy, pursued by a lunatic fringe.

The famous quotation that a guerrilla should move among the people like a fish in water was a revolutionary sense of the freedom fighter's role; but unfortunately the IRA of the '56 was not a real revolutionary movement for it had no real base among the people outside of fringe emotional support. The IRA guerrilla was often there more skin to a fish in a desert. Generally strategy was hopeless ad political policy almost none. It was not a people's struggle.

The campaign was more a premature adventure than anything else, discounting the idealism involved... Premature because of a competitive republican organisation named Saor Uladh which had a political wing, Fianna Uladh. Organised in the early Fifties and with strongholds established in Mid-Tyrone and in a few other areas, Fianna Uladh won 2 seats in a Stormont parliamentary election. Sinn Fein would not contest such elections because candidates were requested to sign an undertaking that, if elected, they would take their seats. Since it was not the question of seats, the candidates of the slightly more radical Fianna Uladh signed the undertaking to enable them to contest the elections but still did not take their seats in Stormont because of the oath to the Queen. Fianna Uladh was pushing a more progressive political policy establishing co-ops and advocating their self help projects such as Credit Unions. A bitter argument developed between the 2 republican organisations. The more politically sterile Sinn Fein/IRA movement resorted to militant adventure to prove its superiority.

Encouraged by its support from among the people, Saor Uladh began armed action, burning and blowing up border Customs huts, futilely when they lost a volunteer, and made other last attempts for arms. Its supply of arms and funds came from the Irish exiles in the USA.

But in this period, the early fifties, the IRA did prove they were militarily superior; their daring raids on Armagh, Omagh, Arbourfield and other military establishments hit the headlines of the world news media. It takes success, even if it is based on a false premise, to bring support. As the Sinn Fein/IRA star was in the ascendant, the Fianna Uladh/Saor Uladh star was on the wane. In the middle fifties, this situation intensified the competition between the two groups.

To sustain and improve its support, Saor Uladh began escalating its military activity hoping this would, with increasing support, become a full blown resistance campaign that would end the British military presence in Ireland and unite it. The IRA, riding high on the crest of the wave, and enjoying an influx of young volunteers; increasing its support and funds and with a considerable quantity of arms at its disposal, though pathetically short of ammunition, brought forward the date of its intended armed campaign largely because of the increased Saor Uladh activity.

Prior to the '56 campaign, Sinn Fein had two imprisoned IRA men elected as M.P.s in the Westminster elections, being returned in the constituencies of Mid-Ulster and Fermanagh and Tyrone. Strong supporting votes were cast in other constituencies. After the start of the IRA campaign, Fianna Uladh/Saor Uladh faded away.

The type of IRA guerrilla campaign conducted in the '56 campaign was far from romantic, idealistic, but mistaken concepts. 12-15 and 20 man flying columns were supposedly, to find bases not mistaken

ably, to find bases and increase support for their struggle. The flying column idea was a nostalgia for the successful Tom Barry Flying Column days in West Cork. In the later fifties these numbers of men, often marching across country, armed with light infantry weapons, moving mainly through darkness and storm and ill fed and sometimes ill clothed found their task discouragingly, especially when the greater part of the population Unionist supporting, was hostile and the Nationalist population largely indifferent and unresponsive. Police informers found it easy to carry out their dirty work without repercussions.

The flying columns operating deep inside the Six Counties were to a large degree neutralised in the early stages of the campaign. Enemy pressure, restricting the columns's intended role, and the capture of men and arms belonging to these columns were debilitating. There were no proper bases established, first because they were not pre-planned and, secondly, because the people did not relate the fight to their interests. A little local sympathy here and there gave some lease of life to the IRA activity.

The campaign fared better in the border areas. Flying columns based in Southern Ireland received to a certain extent from the authorities there a blind eye, at the early stages of the campaign. A weak coalition government ruled then. In 1958 elections in the South caused a change of government, the anti-republican Fianna Fail party achieving power. Sinn Fein had four Deputies elected. But the new government severely cracked down on the IRA based along the border, reducing the border attacks on British installations and ambushes. Several hundred internees were now incarcerated in the Curragh Camp and there were many sentenced Republican activists in Southern jails.

In the North, internment was introduced by the Stormont regime after the IRA campaign began. Many Republicans came before the courts and received lengthy sentences. These political prisoners, and internees also, included a few Fianna Uladh members, whose organisation was now in demise but (which) still had a more progressive political outlook. Also their members could recognise courts and sign a docu-

ment to obtain their release from internment. These freedoms meant the enemy was not able to use mere technicalities to keep people imprisoned for years. Sinn Fein/IRA was still bogged down by what they called republican principles. Such things as abstentionist policies non-recognition of courts; no signing out of prisoners merely tactics devised at certain stages of our historical freedom struggle and had nothing to do with our principles.

Political activity by Republican membership had been mostly confined to selling the Movement's paper, The United Irishman and some election work. The Movement sterile of progressive and radical policies, was doomed to another failure; its policy then derived from little more than extreme nationalist reaction. No analysis of the Irish problem was made; indeed the Movement had not the qualifications to make it to make such an analysis. It was straitjacketed in tradition and without vision. The dying martyr or the folk hero gunman ideas had not relation to the realities of our age; yet the realities existed without being recognised for there was no concept of our people's historical role; the social inequalities; the true nature of oppression and freedom, these the lessons of history could only point the way forward.

The '56 IRA campaign frittered out and died a natural death. All over

the North, as soon as a few local activists or leaders were arrested, military style action died out. Activity lingered a little longer in the border areas, while this was sporadic and futile, and of such small value, it did serve to prolong internment and the incarceration of prisoners. Eventually the IRA leadership issued an order suspending hostilities. The release of internees began; they were all released by the end of 1969. In 1964 the last of the sentenced men were all released. Many of these sentenced men were not compelled to end their sentences.

As the men released from prison drifted disconsolately back into a society, little changed since they left it, certain home truths struck them; local organisation had collapsed; the sympathetic fringe in the people were demoralised and frustrated, although no more so than the returning prisoners. Unionism and its institutions were never stronger, especially its armed wings the B Specials and the RUC, and so in turn British imperialism was never better consolidated; sectarianism was always its main prop. The bleakness of the '56 campaign helped this consolidation. Never again will such an episode occur determined the faithful few

who assessed what had taken place; they turned their minds toward the future. Most certainly new thinking was needed.

And so the true terms of revolution were examined and consequently political education was established. Reorganised cadre had difficulty grasping the correct revolutionary line; they still thought in traditional terms and did not realise there was an alternative to them. However, there were those who did understand and through their work a new awareness developed.

As political education increased the new awareness among the Movement members, in turn, created new directions of activity; the role of the gun was seen in a different context, it was no longer the tool of nationalist reaction but seen as the means of protecting the working class and what belonged to them. At least it was seen that the economic factor determined all politics and the people's very existence. Political organisations like the Republican Clubs and social justice rights organisations like the Civil Rights Movement sprang up. The struggle for democracy, which embraces true freedom was on and our Movement today forges ahead on the correct path.

But the important thing to remember is that this progress was determined by the lessons of history among which the '56 IRA campaign has a worthwhile place.

## CAN WE LEARN A LESSON FROM WHAT WENT WRONG?

## ABORTION—Right or Wrong?

All too often our attitudes on the subject of abortion tend to be formulated on a very narrow basis. Until recent years discussion on this controversial issue usually centred around opposition on one hand and humane concern for the plight of the mother and the unwanted child, and the social hardship involved on the other.

The physical danger to the life of the child and the mother during the pregnancy was also taken into consideration. While it is undoubtedly true that the government of the day should be pressed by all progressives to look at requests for

abortions in a sympathetic manner and that discussion on all the burning issues is essential, it is not the subject of this article to attempt to explain Republican Movement Policy on this matter, but to inform the reader that whatever attitudes you may have on this matter it is important that knowledge of recent developments in this field which is advancing into what would have been termed two or three years ago to be unthinkable; should be concerned.

At this moment British and American scientists are attempting by a method which is anyone's language is un-natural, to develop a super race. This is being done not in the way in which Hitler is commonly thought to have done it, but by the now notorious test-tube method; a method which if approached in the wrong way could prove more dangerous than anything which has preceded it. By interference in the natural genetic process of birth it is quite possible that the super child will soon be developed (born would not be the correct term to use). James Bonner, a leading genetic scientist predicts that this type of conception could be used to weed out flaws in the human race. It is interesting to note that already in the USA hundreds of men and women have been created by means of Artificial Insemination and who is to say that what British scientists have initiated in their laboratories have not now matured into adulthood. The use of sperm banks makes it possible for a future scientist to create the child of a woman long after the donor has died. The possibilities are endless.

Again it is necessary to stress that the point of this article is not to prove a case for or against abortion or the test-tube baby nor that matter, but a possible consequence of this being a relaxation of our guard

against nuclear war must be viewed with dismay. There are certain men within the USA who have without any doubt have been driven totally insane by their lust for profit. Up until now it has been not concern for human suffering that has stopped them from promoting nuclear war but simply that life as they know it, exploiter and the exploited, would disappear. Machine made human beings should not be allowed to give us a false sense of security, or lead us to underestimate the value of life.

## IRISH BOOKS APPEAL



De Dhíth go gasta  
Leobhair Gaileige do  
Príosaigh na hÉireann  
Cias Fichte a hion Ceire Fada.

WANTED VERY URGENTLY  
IRISH LANGUAGE BOOKS  
FOR REPUBLICAN PRISONERS  
CAGE 21 LONG KESH  
TIR GAN ANAM :  
TIR GAN TEANGA:

## Long Kesh Hell Camp

You may talk about the Curragh  
And your cruel RIC  
You may talk about Kilmineim  
And bygone history.

But I'll tell you of a place  
The Devil seems to own  
It's known as Long Kesh  
And is governed by the throne.

Soldiers around our cages  
With batons, guns and gas  
To keep the men in Long Kesh  
Within their evil grasp.

We are locked up in their cages,  
No people do we see,  
Never seeing our children,  
Our home or family.

But our fight shall continue,  
No let up in the struggle,  
Until the Irish people  
From Capos are set free.

I was arrested last May — after spending a few days in a police station I was charged, appeared in court, then remained to Crumlin Road Jail. From Townhall St. Courts I was transferred to jail in a closed van.

For my 20 or 25 minutes I spent in the van I was wondering where were really taking me as I could not see out, there was no ventilation or light in the van. Eventually we arrived at what I took to be jail as I heard what sounded like gates being shut behind me. When the van doors were opened I could not see anything. For when the sunlight hit my eyes I was blinded. Then I was taken to the reception area of the jail where they took of the tight handcuffs, that was one bit of relief anyway. I was then told to fill in several forms relating to where I lived, were I worked, occupation, married or single? etc. My personal belongings were taken from me. Then I was photographed several times and my fingerprints taken 3 times.

I was then taken back to the reception area where the screws took a note of the clothes I was wearing (colour, type etc.) I, to my amazement, was ordered to strip, what for I don't know. When I asked why, I was told "f..... up" and do what your told. When I started to strip the screws kept saying "hurry up, hurry up." A few minutes later I was standing naked in the presence of 3 or 4 persons. I was brought to a side room and weighed. On returning to get dressed again I saw 6 or 7 screws looking through my clothes. Then I was told to stand at attention with

my hands at my side. Then one at a time the screws came over to inspect my body, prodding my private parts with a stick. I replied After 20 minutes or so of this treatment I was asked if I would like a bath. I replied yes as I hadn't had a wash for 3 days, but before I could get to the bath I was asked if I was going to claim

## They beat me to make me call the prison officer "Sir"

political status. I replied yes, thinking this was normal procedure. The screw said "then you can f.....ing well wait until Saturday afternoon for the bath," this was Wednesday.

I then was allowed to get dressed and was led through a series of corridors which left a lasting impression of steel gates and concrete walls on my much confused mind. I finally ended up in a small cell in B wing. The cell itself was an absolute disgrace, it wasn't fit for pigs to live in. There was two beds, each "aræred" with blankets and sheets that, from their appearance hadn't been changed for months. Then I noticed there was a strong smell of urine in the cell. I looked into the corner and saw two chamber pots. The wall behind the chamber pots was badly stained. The closer I went to the corner the stronger the smellgot. I looked up to the window meaning to open it, but the window frame was closed but that was o.k. as there was no

glass in the frame, just iron bars.

Fifteen minutes later I received my first meal — this was served on a plastic plate. The menu was, 2 cold potatoes, a spoonful of dried pea soup, and this brown material I suppose was meat. I don't think that I have to say that not much was eaten. The next

day after seeing the governor I was moved to a wing called the Annex. On entering the "Annex" I was ushered into the P.O.'s office (in military fashion). I was told to address the P.O. as sir. When I failed to call the screws sir I was urged on by a sharp blow to the side of the head by a (as I learned later) Mr. Morrison, who I might hasten to add is a very poor excuse for a man. This man, or animal, Morrison always seemed to be under the influence of drink, even in the presence of his superiors. I was then led up to a cell which was already occupied by two other prisoners. The cell was very cramped with 3 people in it. After a few minutes I was taken out of the cell by Morrison and a few of his mates and taken to the T.V. room. There I was told to strip again. Morrison then gave me a lecture on prison discipline and what he would do if I stepped out of line. Meantime two other screws, Wright and Hare, carelessly searched my clothes. After listening to Morrisons

barrage of threats and verbal abuse for about 20 minutes I was allowed to dress and was put back into the cell again. There I learned that Morrison had a reputation for this sort of behaviour — abusing and ill treating the prisoners in the Annex. Some time later the door was opened by the cry of

"slop out and get your tea." The other two prisoners went to empty the chamber pots. When they returned we got our tea and a hard bun. Then I heard the screw cry out "lock them up." The door was slammed shut, it didn't open again until next morning.

Next morning I was awakened by the shouts of "get out of your pits, its 7.30, come on now yous shower of bastards get out of your pits!!" I got up and got dressed. The cell door was not opened for an hour and a half, which meant we were up at around 6 a.m. I went and got my breakfast and was then locked in my cell again until 8.30 when we went out for our daily 45 minute exercise. Once out in the yard I decided to go to the toilet. They were an even bigger disgrace than the cells in B wing. I thought to myself, "cove must exercise here some part of the day as only cows could have left the mess around the toilets."

They were not fit for human beings to use — apart from the

mess, the pots were cracked, some you could put your arm through plus the fact there were no doors on the outside. Soon we were brought back in from exercise and again locked in our cells.

Dinner time saw the door opened again for a few minutes while we were very warm. I complained to Morrison bluntly to "f..... up you sticky bastard or I'll show it down your throat." Anywey I refused to eat it. A short time later I heard cries coming from another cell — some other prisoner was getting beaten. The door opened again, I said to myself "this must be my turn to get beat about" to my surprise screw Morrison was holding a parcel. After telling him my reasons the governor sent for screw Morrison. Morrison had a disgusting look on his face and answered the governor very impolitely. I think the governor believed me because he told me if I had any more trouble to send for him. Alot that I might be getting moved to the Maze. (Long Kesh) the next day.

This kind of thing happens every day in the Annex. Nothing ever changes. I was there 4 more days before I was moved to the Keat.

# THEY'RE NOT INTERESTED IN EDUCATION AT LONG KESH

Education, or the lack of it has for some time now been a contentious issue in Long Kesh. On the one hand we have the N.I. Home Office promulgating how comprehensive and impeccable their prison education is.

And on the other we have the prisoners multitude of grievances ranging from inadequate facilities to unconcern and incompetence on behalf of the ascribed education officers.

These two opposing outlooks: the former supported by an ill informed media, and the latter which can be endorsed by impartial investigation have periodically sparked off controversy within the confines of the Kesh.

On October 15th when the camp authorities refused to compromise on the thirty point plan forwarded by prisoners of both denominations, and which of course included the thorny problem of education, this incessant spark developed into a raging flame, an illustration of the deeply felt furor surrounding the area of education.

Just recently, through press and T.V. broadcasts, the public have been subjected to a plethora of statements emanating from the N.I.O. These referred to how grand and lavish is the scale of education that is provided and enjoyed in

N. Ireland's prisons.

We have statements about full time teachers being employed increased studying accommodation — A and O levels examinations, etc., and just to inject some variety into these tired platitudes, we, unknown to us I might add, are taking courses in joinery, motor mechanics and plumbing.

Theoretically and on paper its an efficient and well balanced programme; practically, and among the prisoners where it counts, it's strictly limited, and in some cases non-existent.

We will now expose the facts. The authorities, harmonising with the camps propaganda department continually proclaim the merits of the open university and are forever reminding the public of the number of prisoners engaged in this experiment.

This is a fabrication, the truth is that a mere 35 prisoners out of the total populace of N.I. prisons are presently participating.

They also strive to give the impression that it is a revolutionary innovation derived from years of prison research, a God to every prisoner who is trying to improve his mind an integral part of their "rehabilitation scheme" and so on.

The truth is that anybody who has the money and time to spare can take the course, wheth-

er inside or outside the prison.

The "improve your mind" assertion can be interpreted for brainwashing. The text books supplied with this course are primarily American orientated accompanied by their own particular brand of conservation and idealism; a prisoner rehabilitated to this type of ideology would, on release, no doubt be given a warm welcome by present day society.

However, text books for all courses are as a rule, not in abundant supply and the prisoners are obliged to purchase their own material. This, in a sense, expurgates some of the right wing influence that imbues the prison supplied literature.

Another revelation on the confines of educational programme is the correspondence courses, where a student completes his allotted work and posts it to some faceless teacher to mark his progress, usually in the briefest terms possible.

The absence of personal tuition, i.e. the necessary teacher student contact and the long delays in waiting for returned work, effects an "alienated" atmosphere which severely hinders any worthwhile effort on the part of the student.

This coupled with the absurd and distracting conditions, the student has to work in can only result in his work suffering. Accepting that the correspondence courses even allowing for its impersonal attributes, command a little credence the farcical aspect of prison education is the role of the part time teachers. This is misrepresentation displaying its worst face.

The part time teachers are employed to take an hour and half weekly class on specific subjects, usually Maths, Irish and technical drawing. Fiath enough; when they do come in, and that only occurs on rare occasions, they arrive in the compounds around 6 p.m., the class is assembled for 6.10 p.m., and the teachers are obliged to leave at 6.55

The actual tutoring session having lasted for a mere 45 minutes. In some cases weeks and months may have elapsed before a class is again on the same subject. This discrepancy may not be the fault of the teachers but due mainly to the petty bureaucracy or maladministration of the prison service as a whole.

Whoever shoulders the blame, its the prisoners loss; the teachers get paid, and the screws still rewarded their bounty.

After suffering all these drawbacks, the prisoner can consider it an achievement getting to the examination room itself. I will relate an incident which happened in January this year.

Three prisoners were due to sit a two paper examination starting at 9.30 a.m. They were ready at 9.15 a.m. but nobody arrived to take them to the examination room.

An hour later they contacted the prison education office, who incidentally admitted the error, and both parties agreed to completing both papers that afternoon.

Accompanied by 3 prison officers at 2.30 p.m. that afternoon they finally arrived at the examination room, a heatless, lightless caravan type hut with boarded up windows.

### NOT MOST SUITABLE ATMOSPHERE

Not the most suitable atmosphere to attempt an examination. During the course of their exercise the day light began to fade. By this time the invigilator had already left and only the prisoners and the three prison officers remained.

to their consternation the prisoners were told, that because of the poor light they would have to finish up. There was still 50 minutes left of their 3 hour exam. Not wanting their ling hours of wotting to be a complete waste they reconstituted with the prison officers to be allowed to continue under candle light.


This was refused and they were ushered back to their compounds. This repression of the prisoners rights highlights the total lack of concern shown by the prison educational staff and makes a complete mockery of the N.I.O. expoundings to the news media.

Arguments will continue for and against the education curriculum in Long Kesh, but until prison bureaucracy is alleviated and the educational staff is seen to show a genuine and sincere interest in the prisoners problems, only then can a common denominator be found. Only then can credence be lent to the boasts of the N.I.O.

ACROSS	
1.	Stalin.
4.	Radicals.
8.	Standard.
10.	Social.
11.	Nationalists.
13.	Peer.
14.	Politics.
18.	Murderers.
20.	Slave.
22.	Clandestine.
24.	P.L.O.
26.	Cadet.
27.	Repriva.
29.	Anarchy.
30.	See 16 down.

DOWN.	
2.	Tito.
3.	Radio.
4.	Disraeli.
5.	Cacti.
6.	Least.
7.	Arts.
9.	Republican.
12.	Civil Rights.
15.	Arrest.
16.	Rotar.
17.	Sniper.
21.	Nadir.
23.	King.
25.	VAT.
28.	

# The Answers



## SPORTS

### EQUIPMENT NEEDED

SPORTS EQUIPMENT, FOOTBALLS, FOOTBALL JERSEYS; PANTS AND SOCKS; SKIPPING ROPES; MEDICINE BALLS; ETC. ETC.

Anything donated will be greatly appreciated by:  
The Republican Prisoners, Cage 21;  
Donations should be sent to: D. Russell, Cage 21, Long Kesh.