

IRELAND

INTERNATIONAL NEWS BRIEFING

Published by Sinn Féin Foreign Affairs Bureau,
51/55 Falls Road, Belfast BT12

Issue No. 14

April 1990

EDITORIAL

Major implications in extradition ruling

● The ruling by the Dublin Supreme Court not to extradite James Clarke and Dermot Finucane back to the North of Ireland has major legal and political implications.

There is now a public recognition by an important section of the Southern establishment that Irish people are not safe when in the hands of the British authorities, be they courts, prisons, police or armed forces. The release of the Guildford Four, the developments in the Birmingham Six case, and the ongoing controversy about the collusion between Loyalist murder gangs and the British forces have affected public opinion to such an extent that it is now difficult for any Dublin government to hand Republicans over to the RUC and British courts without losing political credibility.

The ruling also means that most Dublin Supreme Court judges think that the current extradition arrangements between Dublin and London, under the European Convention for the Suppression of

Terrorism, are flawed. The definition of 'terrorism' as 'use of violence for political ends' had "no legal basis in international law", one of the Supreme Court judges said. The Clarke-Finucane ruling states that Finucane's IRA membership was not sufficient reason to warrant his extradition. The IRA's aim, the judges said, was not to overthrow the institutions of the Southern state but to secure Irish unity, albeit by means which the Dublin government and state were opposed to.

The ruling made it clear that the IRA's aims were not in conflict with the constitution of the Southern state, a constitution whose Article 2 states that the national territory comprises the whole island of Ireland.

Irish unity and independence are supported by the majority of the Irish people. No Southern political party has ever dared to confront that support while in power, no matter what they may say while in opposition.

commemorations were taking place, when he was shot at close range by a passing RUC patrol. At the time, there was widespread condemnation of the killing and calls were made for plastic bullets to be banned.

An inquiry, which had no credibility from the beginning because it was carried out by the very force which killed the youth, was welcomed by the SDLP. However, the vast majority of Nationalists already knew what the final results would be. In the months following Seamus Duffy's death, the British government added insult to injury by announcing plans to equip the 6,500 members of the UDR with the weapon. The decision was strongly criticised by the Dublin government but the British government's position remains unchanged.

The killing of Seamus Duffy, the 17th person to be killed by both rubber and plastic bullets in the North, follows a pattern of non-prosecutions by the DPP against members of the British forces.

Plastic bullet death — No prosecution

● The United Campaign Against Plastic Bullets has slammed a decision by the North's Director of Public Prosecutions not to prosecute the RUC member who killed a 15-year-old schoolboy last August. In Belfast, the UCAPB said that once again the British judicial authorities were "giving official approval to the continued killing of unarmed people by plastic bullets".

Seamus Duffy, a Nationalist youth from North Belfast, was killed after being struck on the head by a plastic bullet on August 9th 1989. He had been out walking with a friend in the street, close to where traditional anti-internment bonfire



Sinn Féin

CONTENTS

JUSTICE

Plastic bullet death — no prosecution	1
British Lords' ruling on inquests	2
Dublin Supreme court rules against extradition	2
French court recommends extradition to West Germany	2
British parliament renews emergency powers	2
New developments in Birmingham Six case	2

POLITICAL NEWS

New inter-parliamentary group — expensive showpiece	3
British to reinforce partition	3
Stevens Inquiry ends	3
Gibraltar petition presented to Dublin government	4
Supreme Court reinforces territorial claim to Six Counties	4

REPRESSION

The UDR — 20th anniversary of sectarian regiment	4
---	---

SOCIAL/ECONOMIC

Inadequate EC aid-package for North's unemployed	4
Sinn Féin calls for rural development plan	4
The Single European Market	5

THE ENVIRONMENT

Major environment initiative urged for Irish Sea	5
---	---

WOMEN

International Women's Week	5
----------------------------------	---

CULTURE

Irish-language TV demand at Westminster	5
Cultural discrimination appeal highlighted	6
London councils take steps against anti-Irish racism	6
New video on banned TV programmes	6

LOYALISTS

Collusion in Lurgan killing	6
Surveillance device found	6
'Bail system must be changed'	6
Loyalists assassinate Catholic	7
Loyalists syphon-off £1/2-million from British army	7

PRISONS

Transfer Irish prisoners — Cardinal O'Faich	7
Lives at risk in Belfast prison	7

IRA Military Operations

7

British Lords' ruling on inquests

● A ruling by the British Law Lords in London on procedures at Coroners' inquest hearings in the Six Counties has given unqualified legal approval to the protection of members of the British military forces involved in carrying out killings.

On March 8th, the four Law Lords reversed a Belfast High Court victory in December 1988, which ruled that Coroner James Elliott's decision not to call RUC witnesses at the inquest into the killing in 1982 of Gervase McKerr was unlawful in that it "purported to affect substantive law". The challenge to restrictive procedures in Coroners' inquest hearings in the North, which are in effect the only real avenue that victims' families have for establishing the facts surrounding the deaths of their loved ones, was initiated by Eleanor McKerr and her legal representative, Pat Finucane, who was subsequently murdered by Loyalist death squads.

She objected to the fact that those members of the RUC who killed her unarmed husband Gervase and two others, Eugene Toman and Sean Burns, were not called to give evidence in person at the inquest hearing in 1988.

There have been 250 killings by the British military forces in the North since 1969, and in almost every single case disputes about the circumstances have remained unresolved. One of the main reasons for this is the political interference with the governing Coroners' rules which significantly differ from those in England.

In the North, inquests are governed by the 1959 Coroners' Act. This has been amended on a number of occasions, most recently in 1980 when juries at inquests were restricted to returning a verdict which listed only the who, when, where and how of a killing and were prevented from apportioning blame to any person or agency for having caused the death.

More contentious, however, is the practice of the Northern Ireland Office in issuing Public Interest Immunity Certificates and the use of Rule 9 (2) of the Coroners' Rules and Procedures, through which coroners, and Elliott in particular, have held that members of the British military forces should not be compelled to attend court and give evidence. The rule provides:

"Where a person is suspected of causing the death, or has been charged with or is likely to be charged with an offence relating to the death, he shall not be compelled to give evidence at the inquest."

It is this rule, behind which coroners have allowed members of the British forces to hide, that Mrs McKerr successfully challenged in the High Court in Belfast. The re-instatement of that rule by the British Law Lords is now expected to become the subject of a challenge in the European Court of Human Rights.

Dublin Supreme Court rules against extradition

● The Dublin Supreme Court ruled on March 13th that two Republicans who had escaped from Long Kesh in 1983 should not be extradited back to the North of Ireland and to British jurisdiction. The ruling overturned an earlier decision by the High Court that

the two men, James Pius Clarke and Dermot Finucane, should be handed over. Clarke and Finucane were freed after the hearing.

Dermot Finucane is the brother of Belfast human rights lawyer Patrick Finucane, who was shot dead by Loyalists one year ago. Dermot had served two years of an 18-year sentence, and James Clarke five years of an 18-year sentence, when they took part in the mass break-out of September 1983.

In court, Clarke's lawyer produced a medical report showing that he had been "physically and psychologically ill-treated" while under interrogation. The lawyers for both men also put forward evidence of widespread ill-treatment of those Republican escapees who had been recaptured shortly after the escape in the vicinity of the prison camp.

The Supreme Court ruling is in two parts: the first states that Clarke and Finucane should not be extradited to the North because they could become targets for ill-treatment by prison staff if returned to Long Kesh; the second part rejects the earlier High Court decision that Finucane could not qualify for the exemption clause for political offences under the 1965 Extradition Act. Supreme Court judge Walsh said that Finucane's IRA membership did not disqualify him: in other words that people whose actions were aimed at achieving Irish unity were not necessarily to be considered as aiming to overthrow the institutions of the Southern state — an aim which disqualifies from the political exemption to extradition.

The British prime minister, Margaret Thatcher, was reported as being "hopping mad" at the Clarke-Finucane ruling and as having said that it was "grossly offensive and an encouragement to terrorists".

The Dublin authorities have extradited three Republicans since their signing of the European Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism in 1987. The only political extradition they have refused is that of Father Patrick Ryan. Six men are currently awaiting extradition in the South, including Owen Carron, the former MP for Fermanagh and South Tyrone.

The day after the Supreme Court ruling, 46 Long Kesh prisoners, including those who had taken part in the 1983 escape and been rearrested shortly afterwards, were awarded £75,000 compensation for injuries sustained at the hands of prison warders.

French court recommends extradition to West Germany

● A French court has recommended that three Irish people should be extradited to West Germany. The court's recommendation, made on March 7th, and which still has to be considered by the French government, is being appealed.

The three Irish people, Patrick Murray, Pauline Drumm and Donagh O'Kane, were arrested in the East of France in July 1989 and charged by the French with possession of weapons and false documents as well as 'association of criminals' (a charge akin to conspiracy). The case is still at the investigation stage.

Shortly after their arrest, their extradition was requested by the West German authorities, who said they could link them with various IRA operations against British military personnel and installations which had taken place on West German soil in 1989.

At their first court appearance, the three

described themselves as Irish patriots and went on to say that any action attributed to them would have been "purely in connection with the struggle against British rule in Ireland and nothing to do with the German people".

The French court's recommendation was made under the European Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism, a convention which, although signed in 1977, was only ratified by France in 1987, because of hostility to it in French political circles. If the French government upholds the court decision, it would be the first time that France will have extradited Irish Republicans.

In their decision, the French judges said that they accepted that there could be a state of insurrection or uprising in the North of Ireland, or even that Irish Nationalists could be discriminated against in British courts, but that neither of these two sets of circumstances applied to West Germany. They further said that the French government should make it a condition of extradition of the three that any re-extradition by the Germans should not be made without the consent of the French government. This suggests that requests for the extradition of Irish Republicans from France by Britain can be ruled out for the foreseeable future.

British parliament renews emergency powers

● In early March, the British parliament voted to renew the Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA), a parliamentary requirement in spite of the fact that it was made permanent last year.

The renewal of the legislation, by 227 votes to 136, was opposed by members of the Labour Party who said that such legislation was "unacceptable" in a "democracy". Shadow Home Secretary Roy Hattersley said that the detention without charge for up to seven days of innocent men and women was "intolerable". He slammed the legislation as "working on the principle that there are men and women we cannot convict under the normal processes of law so let us therefore invent abnormal processes of the law to make sure they are convicted".

IRISH GROUPS IN BRITAIN ORGANISE TO REPEAL PTA

On March 27th, Irish groups in Britain joined with political and church representatives for the launch of a large-scale campaign demanding the repeal of the PTA.

Members of the Repeal the PTA Campaign met at the British House of Commons. Campaigners said they would undertake to co-ordinate information and publicise the Act's consequences for individuals and, in particular, the harassment experienced by the Irish community in Britain under the PTA. Campaigners will also be monitoring the use of the Act, compiling a list of sympathetic solicitors and strongly lobbying MPs, MEPs and international human rights groups.

New developments in Birmingham Six case

SIX TO REFUSE PAROLE

● In a radio interview on BBC Radio 4 on March 7th, two of the Birmingham Six, John Walker and Hugh Callaghan, demanded the quashing of their sentences and stated that they would

refuse parole if they were offered it. Walker said:

"We will not leave prison, and I speak for the six of us, until the truth is told. We have come to that agreement ourselves. We don't want parole. We want to go out as innocent men, which is what we are."

US CONGRESS HEARING FOR SIX

The campaign for the release of the Birmingham Six moved to the United States this month when a Congressional hearing was held at the request of Senator Joe Kennedy. Testimonies to the Congressional Human Rights Caucus were heard from Irish politicians, Amnesty International and Gerard Conlon of the Guildford Four.

The Caucus later came out in support of the campaign for the release of the six Irishmen convicted of pub bombings in Birmingham in 1974. The Congressman was shocked by what they heard and claimed that a submission from British Home Secretary David Waddington simply 'built hypotheses upon hypotheses'. Paddy McLkenny, brother of one of the Six, said that Congressmen had been very angry at Waddington's statement:

"It was the same old rhetoric — nothing more, nothing less."

The Chairperson of the hearing, Tom Lantos, told Gerry Conlon:

"We owe you and your friends an apology... We will pursue this case to make sure that the same thing does not happen again."

WADDINGTON INVESTIGATES NEW CLAIMS

British Home Secretary David Waddington has announced that at least ten issues relating to the interrogation of the Birmingham Six in 1974 and confessions taken from them are to be the subject of a new police investigation. The issues are among a considerably larger number contained in a 45-page written submission presented to Waddington last December by Ms Gareth Pierce, the solicitor representing the convicted Irishmen.

The Birmingham Six have protested their innocence throughout their 16 years in prison. In fact, the IRA has stated that its Volunteers were responsible.

The issues now to be investigated by the Devon and Cornwall police are believed to include the timing of the interrogations of the men, the way in which confessions were obtained and custody records.

Announcing the investigation on March 21st, Waddington also told journalists that a separate investigation already underway into malpractices by the West Midlands Serious Crime Squad (which initially interrogated the Six) can be expanded to include cases prior to 1986 and afterwards in which the squad obtained confessions by the use of force. (An Englishman convicted by these methods has been released.)

As regards the new investigation by the Devon and Cornwall police into matters regarding the interrogation of the Six, no deadline has been set for its completion which has prompted criticism from Birmingham Six supporters. Sinn Féin's Martin McGuinness labelled the new investigation as "yet another delaying tactic by the British government as it comes under increasing international pressure."

POLITICAL NEWS

New inter-parliamentary group — Expensive showpiece

● The new British-Irish inter-parliamentary group met in London on

February 26th and 27th. The new body, which consists of 25 deputies from the Dublin assembly and 25 members of the British parliament, has no decision-making or even reporting functions, and has been set up for parliamentarians to "debate issues of mutual interest".

The only elected representative from Northern Ireland in attendance was SDLP deputy leader Seamus Mallon. Unionist politicians are boycotting the new group as part of their continuing opposition to the Hillsborough Agreement. Article 12 of the Agreement, signed by the London and Dublin governments in November 1985, announced the setting-up of an inter-parliamentary tier by the two governments.

At the group's first meeting, British Conservative MPs dismissed a suggestion by former Dublin Prime Minister Garret FitzGerald that Dublin could represent Northern farmers in Brussels. They also dismissed suggestions by the Irish side that the Birmingham Six should be released.

Sinn Féin's Mitchel McLaughlin said of the new group:

"If it becomes a political mechanism through which the British government obtains approval for its policies in the North, then those Irish representatives participating will have contributed to the perpetuation of the conflict in Ireland."

He called on Irish representatives to "actively promote the demand for Irish independence".

British to reinforce partition

● British government minister Richard Needham has called for the partition of Ireland to be underwritten by the Helsinki Convention, which would effectively make partition permanent.

Needham made the suggestion during a meeting of British businessmen in the House of Commons in February but details were not reported until March 1st in *The Daily Telegraph*.

Sinn Féin was the only all-Ireland political party to denounce Needham's suggestion, which coincides with preparatory work by the Council for Security and Co-operation within Europe for a new Helsinki Convention in 1992 to settle the shape of the new emerging Europe.

Needham declared that, as with the Croats in Yugoslavia, the North of Ireland's Nationalist minority could share political power within the context of the Six Counties if they were "prepared to accept the existing boundaries of the state" and abandoned their aspirations of Irish unity. To this end, he said: "Minorities... under the Human Rights Convention of Helsinki would be protected from discrimination, whether it be political, educational, gender or race."

Needham also stated that the Dublin government should be given a *droit de regard* (right of inspection), as it has under the Hillsborough Agreement, to ensure the welfare of the Nationalist people in the North.

In response, Mitchel McLaughlin of Sinn Féin said:

"Needham's remarks are proof of Sinn Féin's view that British government policy is about making permanent the partition of Ireland. The Dublin government and the SDLP must now accept that Britain is not interested in creating the conditions for peace in Ireland but instead is solely concerned with protecting British interests."

"Britain's presence in the North and its denial of our right to unity and independence are the cause of division and conflict, and a recipe for continuing violence."

"It is time that the Dublin government and all

of those parties which espouse Irish unity met this challenge and organised to assert Irish interests."

McLaughlin ended by saying that this could best be achieved by the setting-up of a conference, representative of all of those in Ireland who genuinely wish to see Irish unity, and the creation of a programme of diplomatic activity "which would vigorously promote the demand for an end to partition."

Stevens Inquiry ends

● As senior British policeman John Stevens is ending his six-month inquiry into the leakage of confidential security files to Loyalist death-squads, it has been revealed that the latest killing by Loyalists (of Sam Marshall in Lurgan, a case where blatant collusion is evident) is not to be taken under the remit of the Inquiry.

Since September 1989, the Inquiry, headed by Cambridgeshire Deputy Chief Constable John Stevens, has dealt with an estimated 200 documents, containing the names, photographs and personal information of several hundred Nationalists, which 'disappeared' from British military bases across the Six Counties. However, almost all of the 50 people charged in connection with the investigation are Loyalists who have been supplied with the information.

It is estimated that so far investigations have cost the taxpayer more than £1/2 million. Yet it is clear, even before Stevens' report reaches the RUC chief constable's desk, that it is incomplete and fundamentally flawed in many key areas:

● The report's terms of reference were largely determined by RUC Chief Constable Hugh Annesley, which robs it of its proclaimed 'impartiality'.

● As with the Stalker Inquiry, there were tensions between the Inquiry team and the RUC.

● The report has failed to identify those members of the UDR, RUC and British army actually responsible for leaking the confidential security documents to Loyalists.

● It is extremely unlikely that even one member of the British forces will ever serve a day in prison for providing Loyalists with confidential information.

The Inquiry has not taken into account the fact that leaks are still continuing.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL CONCERNED

Both Amnesty International and the Committee on the Administration of Justice have expressed concern that the Stevens Inquiry is not tackling the nub of the problem. The Inquiry team recently stated that it would not be investigating the circumstances surrounding the assassination of Sam Marshall or the discovery of 30 security files in a house in Loyalist East Belfast which had formerly been occupied by a UDR member who has since gone 'missing'.

Similar documents discovered in Derry in February relating to 500 Nationalists are also to be ignored by the Inquiry. Included among these 500 names were those of murdered Sinn Féin Councillor John Davey and IRA Volunteer Gerard Casey, both of whose assassinations were claimed by Loyalist death squads.

In mid-March, Sinn Féin President Gerry Adams requested the Stevens Inquiry team to investigate the role of members of the British military forces in the murders of 111 people by Loyalist death squads over the past ten years.

Given that the Inquiry is already coming to an end with many serious questions remaining unanswered, it is appropriate to recall that at the time of Stevens' appointment, John Stalker

suggested that he (Stevens) should 'go sick' because no matter what the outcome of the Inquiry, it would not be made public. Almost four years on, Stalker's report to former RUC Chief Constable John Hermon on the RUC's involvement in shoot-to-kill incidents in County Armagh in 1982 has not been made public.

Gibraltar petition presented to Dublin government

● In Dublin, the Department of Foreign Affairs office was picketed on March 6th in protest at the government's continuing failure to indicate if it intends to seek justice in the European Court of Human Rights regarding the killing of three Irish people in Gibraltar in 1988. The killings of the three unarmed IRA Volunteers, Mairead Farrell, Daniel McCann and Sean Savage, were ordered by the British government.

Almost 18 months after the Gibraltar inquest hearing, which returned a verdict of 'lawful killing', the government has still not made public the report of its official observer at the inquest, David Andrews TD.

Supported by a number of TDs, relatives of the three handed in over 90,000 signatures which they had collected on an international petition calling on the Dublin government to initiate a case against Britain in Strasbourg.

Niall Farrell, brother of Mairead Farrell, said he believed the Dublin government "is running away from the case". Farrell added that the Dublin government and the Taoiseach, Charles Haughey, had received numerous written requests from the families, from TDs and other prominent individuals close to the government requesting that it should indicate what action, if any, it is to take about the case. He said that as yet their representations had not progressed past an official acknowledgement of the government's "concern".

He added that the attitude of the government would appear to indicate that it was prepared to delay its response for as long as possible in order to avoid embarrassment to the British government. This, he said, was "a deplorable situation. In effect, the government is saying to Irish people that it is prepared to forfeit its duty as a supposedly independent government and as a signatory to the European Convention, against the abuses of other government agencies. It is saying that the rights of Irish citizens and the lies of Irish citizens are expendable when it comes to avoiding international tension in British/Irish relationships."

He concluded that the truth about Gibraltar would continue to emerge and expose the fact that the three were executed by a so-called democratic government.

Supreme Court reinforces territorial claim to Six Counties

● In Dublin on March 1st, the Supreme Court rejected a move by Unionists to have the Hillsborough Agreement declared illegal under the South's Constitution. Instead, the Supreme Court ruled that the Agreement was "compatible with" the Constitution.

The judgement also asserted that the Agreement constituted a recognition of the de

facto situation in the North of Ireland, but did so expressly without abandoning the claim to the reintegration of the "national territory". The court defined Articles 2 and 3 of the Constitution as a "claim of legal right" over the "national territory" which is defined in Article 2 of the Constitution as: "The whole island of Ireland, its islands and the territorial seas."

The case, which began in June 1988, was taken by two Unionist brothers, Dr Christopher McGimpsey and Michael McGimpsey, who said that although they had failed in their main objective the ruling had clarified that: "It is quite clear that the South has a legal claim to Northern Ireland."

Official Unionist MP Ken Maginnis, however, stated that as long as Articles 2 and 3 remained in place, the Dublin government would be regarded as being "unfriendly" by Unionists. The judgement, he added, overruled previous assertions that Articles 2 and 3 were "merely aspirational".

SENATE REJECTS ABANDONING TERRITORIAL CLAIM

Meanwhile, the South's prime minister, Charles Haughey, has ruled out the establishment of an all-party committee to consider the possibility of removing or amending Articles 2 and 3 of the Constitution, primarily because he is aware that this would go against the deep-rooted national feelings of the Irish people.

This was reflected in a vote in the Dublin Senate on March 21st when a motion aimed at relinquishing the South's territorial claim on the Six Counties was defeated by 28 votes to 12.

Closing the debate, the Minister of State for Agriculture, Joe Walsh, rejected the view that Article 2 was aggressive in its intent but he made no apology for stating that:

"The idea of national unity is deeply cherished and the need to work for it, and towards it, is as compelling now as it was when the Constitution first came into force."

REPRESSION

The UDR — 20th anniversary of sectarian regiment

● The 20th anniversary of the formation of the Ulster Defence Regiment (UDR) on April 1st will undoubtedly be marked by triumphalist boasting from Unionists and the British government about the regiment's 'bravery' and its contribution towards eradicating the threat of 'terrorism' in the North. The fact that the UDR is seen by the vast majority of Nationalist and by the Dublin government as synonymous with the sectarian Six-County state, is not part of the British agenda.

In reality, the UDR, a 6,500-strong regiment of the British army, is overwhelmingly Protestant. It has a proven history of being deeply sectarian in its attitude towards the Nationalist minority. UDR members have been involved in sectarian murders and countless serious crimes against the Nationalist community.

Yet in spite of this and of growing evidence that a substantial number of its members are either sympathetic to, or actively engaged in assisting Loyalist death squads in the targeting of Nationalists for assassination, the UDR has been protected by the judicial process and by successive British governments.

A recent BBC Panorama programme which

highlighted the UDR's links with Loyalist paramilitaries provoked a wave of condemnation from leading Unionists and from British Secretary of State Peter Brooke.

However, in a surprise development, Lord John Hunt, whose recommendations in 1969 led to the disbandment of the 'B'-Specials and the formation of the UDR, called for the regiment to be "phased out". He said that his hopes in 1969 that "a proportionate Catholic recruitment to the regiment would continue, had not been realised. The distrust of the minority population in the 'B'-specials had been inherited by its successor. Serious crimes, attributed mainly to the part-time members of the UDR, had tended to discredit the whole regiment... It was arguable that, in this respect, the position had reverted to that which obtained in 1969".

SOCIAL/ECONOMIC

Inadequate EC aid-package for North's unemployed

● Nationalist politicians have expressed suspicion that an aid-package of £12-million, allocated by the European Commission to create jobs in the North, will be used to substitute existing British government spending on training instead of being used to finance additional schemes.

The EC financial allocation was approved at a meeting of all 17 European commissioners in Brussels at the beginning of March. It will be targeted at more than 8,500 long-term unemployed and the 45,000 out of work under the age of 25 in the North. But Nationalist politicians have heralded the package as inadequate.

Sinn Féin pointed out that:

"It is less than half what the North should receive as an Objective One Region."

The party's economic spokesperson Mitchel McLaughlin stressed that, while he welcomed the provision of job training, the fact remained "that if this is not part of structured progress to provide real training for real jobs, then the money is wasted."

McLaughlin stressed that Catholics in the North are more than two-and-a-half times more likely to be unemployed than Protestants, and added that the EC money "must be integrated into a structured programme of job training and job provision which has as its priority, the reduction of the disparity between Catholic and Protestant levels of unemployment."

SF calls for rural development plan

● Sinn Féin has called for the establishment of an Integrated Rural Development Plan for the Six Counties that would have as a priority the eradication of unfit rural housing by the year 1995. The party said that initially at least £250-million should be provided by the British government to tackle the situation of the 17,000 rural households who live in unfit housing. Over 7,000 of these households have no electricity supply.

Sinn Féin said that religious discrimination, poor planning by the British authorities, increasing unemployment and emigration "have caused a marked deterioration in the living

standards of rural households".

The development of such a plan, however, hinges upon the willingness of a British government, which has already failed to maximise European assistance through the structural funds for rural areas of the Six Counties.

The Single European Market

● The damaging effects for Ireland of 1992 and the Single European Market have been downplayed by the Dublin and British governments and a recent newspaper poll in the 26 Counties has shown that the majority of people there are unaware of the long-term implications for the Irish economy.

One of the main objectives of the internal market is supposedly to ensure that the market is flexible in order that resources, both of people and of capital and investment, flow into the areas of greatest economic advantage.

For Ireland, North and South, this means that the 'challenge' of '1992' will be a disaster:

● The completion of the internal market entails the end of all interventionist measures by governments of member states to protect jobs. Very few companies will be able to compete with the trans-national corporations in the Irish market much less the European one.

● Traditional measures used to bolster employment through public works projects such as road and house-building will have to be tendered on an all-EC basis and local authorities will be prevented from giving priority to local suppliers. The result will mean a net loss of jobs on an unprecedented scale.

● '1992' is a shorthand formula for a series of measures which are intended to bring commercial life in all countries of the EC into line. The intention is to open up the EC economy internally, while at the same time protecting it from external pressures.

What is projected is a state of affairs summed up as the "free movement of goods, services, capital and people". The effect of these measures will be manifested in the collapse of the Irish economy, North and South, and the forced migration of yet more thousands of young people. They will find themselves working as contract labour in the kitchens and on the building sites of continental Europe, working as au pairs, or perhaps cutting Irish fish in a Danish fish-processing plant.

● '1992' will mean profit for a few at the expense of the majority. It will mean even more privatisation of public services, bringing with it increasing pressure on workers' wages and working conditions, deterioration in services, and higher prices to consumers.

● '1992' will mean that consumers and local industry will suffer as big corporations from the EC compete for the most profitable sections of service industries.

● '1992' will mean that companies based abroad will be able to drive Irish-based companies out of business — then raise their prices in the absence of local competition — to the detriment of quality of service and high cost to customers in Ireland.

● '1992' will mean VAT on goods which are presently zero-rated, including children's clothes. It will also mean that the Dublin government will be restricted in its ability to limit taxes on certain items such as food and books and will be prevented from placing high taxes on luxury items.

● '1992' will prevent a government from intervening to subsidise a company in the interests of saving jobs if by doing so it will create

'unfair competition' for firms based elsewhere in the EC.

● '1992' will also mean that, despite EC structural funds, regional imbalances will increase.

In conclusion, '1992' will not herald the dawning of a new age of prosperity, rather, its combined effects will be to make matters considerably worse for the unemployed, low paid, single parents and young people of Ireland.

ENVIRONMENT

Major environment initiative urged for Irish Sea

● Sinn Féin President and West Belfast MP Gerry Adams has written to British government environment minister Chris Patten calling for an immediate major environmental initiative to save the Irish Sea. In a subsequent statement to the press, he also criticised "the absolute failure of successive Dublin governments to tackle this problem, clean up its own waste dumping and to confront Britain on its pollution record".

At the beginning of this month, the British government announced plans to clean up the North Sea but, says Adams, "this has raised the real fear that much of this industrial pollution and sewage will now be dumped in the Irish Sea". Adams accused the British government of a "disgraceful lack of concern for the worsening situation in the Irish Sea".

Each year:

● 1,200-million cubic metres of sewage are dumped into the Irish Sea;

● 4-million tonnes of sewage sludge are dumped at sites in Liverpool bay, Belfast Lough, in the Bristol Channel and off Howth Head outside Dublin;

● There are more nuclear power installations, including the notorious Sellafield, all producing waste, bordering the Irish Sea than any other sea in the world;

● Britain's dirtiest river, the Mersey, drains into the Irish Sea;

● A few miles away from Cork on the south coast of Ireland is the biggest industrial dumping site in the whole of the North Atlantic.

The Irish Sea is a shallow area, slow to drain. It has a restricted flow and is subject to complex and poorly understood circulation patterns. For this reason, pollution remains in place for a long time and the disposal of any waste, said Adams, "must be carefully evaluated for its likely effects".

According to Greenpeace, some serious ecological problems have already been discovered such as:

● Abnormal algae blooms;

● Changes to the species composition of phytoplankton populations — the foundation of the Irish Sea food chain;

● A rise in fish disease; and

● A decline in marine mammal populations.

In calling for measures to be taken to protect the delicate ecosystem of the Irish Sea, the Sinn Féin President declared his party's support for an end to all radioactive discharges into the Irish Sea and an end to the sea dumping of industrial waste and sewage sludge.

Adams further stated that the Irish Sea should not be designated as a site for ocean incineration:

"We cannot wait for the same length of time to elapse as that taken to reach an agreement restricting pollution of the North Sea. To do so will see the Irish Sea damaged, perhaps beyond repair."

WOMEN

International Women's Week

● Numerous events were organised to celebrate International Women's Week in Ireland. Several debates took place on the issue of partition and its effect on women's lives in Ireland, with the general consensus being that: "We cannot talk about national liberation without talking about self-determination." Several speakers emphasised the fact that women may have taken the first tentative steps towards liberation but still have a long way to go in a country where political, social and economic rights are still being dictated by men.

Events were also organised around issues of particular relevance to women, such as the freedom to information on abortion, and women and employment. There were also several events with an international flavour at which women from Zimbabwe, Lesotho, Uganda, Brazil, India and Nicaragua spoke about their lives and their experiences in Ireland.

The week ended with a picket of Maghaberry prison as an expression of solidarity with the women POWs. Former prisoner Grainne Barrett delivered the address from the women prisoners, part of which stated:

"We would like to thank everybody who has supported us throughout the years of our imprisonment and who has tirelessly highlighted and opposed the oppressive policies such as strip-searching and censorship which are directed against us. Life for Irish women, both inside and outside jail, is a life of struggle as partition affects every aspect of our lives. We are subject to harassment and abuse on a daily basis. We are liable to be imprisoned or murdered by the British state for daring to pursue justice in our country. Our political, cultural and economic rights have been violated down through the years and yet Irish women as well as men have remained strong in the face of such oppression."

The picket was also addressed by speakers from England as well as Liza O'Reilly of the American Indian Movement who said: "I have in my heart the same feelings for the struggle of these Celtic women warriors who have taken up arms to defend their country and themselves. It has to be said they will never break the struggle of our American Indian warriors, the spirit of our nation. They will never break the spirit of Irish Celtic warriors."

CULTURE

Irish-language TV demand at Westminster

● The demand that similar provision be made for Irish-language television in the Six Counties as for Gaelic television in Scotland was made by Welsh MP Daffyd Elis Thomas during a debate of the British Standing Committee on Broadcasting on March 13th.

Elis Thomas pointed to recent surveys carried out by BBC and UTV which projected a potential audience of 70,000 — 80,000 viewers, and stressed the importance of not merely regarding culture as a residual heritage but developing it as a modern culture through modern media.

In rejecting the suggestion, Home Office

minister David Mellor argued a special position for Gaelic and Welsh because they did not have a source of linguistic and cultural invigoration outside the country, which he defined as the UK, unlike other minority languages. "In this context, we assumed that the Irish language had its base in the Republic of Ireland and is sustained from there", he said. Mellor added that he was unaware of a substantial number of Irish speakers in the Six Counties.

Commenting on the refusal to set up an Irish-language TV station, West Belfast MP Gerry Adams said:

"The position of Welsh and Gaelic will be underwritten in the new Broadcasting Act. Does anyone really believe that the refusal to afford similar support and protection to Irish in the Six Counties is motivated by anything other than the British government's racist and discriminating attitude to Irish culture?"

The matter will be debated again when the Broadcasting Bill comes before the full parliament.

Cultural discrimination appeal highlighted

● Prisoners in Long Kesh this week launched a major publicity drive to highlight the question of cultural discrimination in jails throughout the Six Counties, and to win support for their demands for:

- The right to send and to receive letters in Irish;
- The right to speak Irish during visits;
- The right to play Gaelic games;
- The right to wear the fáinne (Irish speakers' badge);
- The right to use the Irish language form of their proper names; and
- An improvement in the lengthy delays in Irish material being censored compared to English material.

Last July, two Long Kesh prisoners, John Pickering from Belfast and Eoghan Mac Cormaic from Derry, issued a Civil Bill against the NIO in the County Court, alleging cultural discrimination but this was rejected by Judge John Petrie. The appeal against that decision is due to be heard in the High Court at the beginning of May.

London councils take steps against anti-Irish racism

● The beginning of March saw another major step forward in the battle by the Irish in Britain to gain resources to deal with the specific needs of their community, with the decision by Lambeth and Southwark Councils in London to recognise the Irish as an ethnic minority.

It is estimated that the Irish community make up one in six of the population of London, although a definitive figure cannot be given as there has been no separate category for Irish people in the national census of population.

In 1984, a Policy Report on the Irish Community published by the Greater London Council (GLC) found that the Irish suffered widespread discrimination, with housing, unemployment, media stereotyping, education and mental health provision as areas for serious concern. However, with the disbanding of the GLC, few councils were willing to take the same vigorous stand in making resources available to the Irish community.

Now Lambeth Council has decided to include the Irish in its ethnic monitoring procedures and Southwark Council is to establish an Irish community officer and to officially recognise Southwark Irish Forum as the main consultative body for the community in the borough.

New video on banned TV programmes

● April 5th will see the launch in the British House of Commons of a new video which outlines the impact of censorship on media coverage of events in the Six Counties. 'The Irish Question' is the work of independent programme-makers and will be launched in association with the Campaign for Press and Broadcasting Freedom.

A number of TV producers are interviewed on the video, and speak of the difficulties of making programmes which will actually be broadcast on British television. As 'The Irish Question' will be distributed on video cassette, the producers can include a large amount of censored material, which could not be screened due to the broadcasting ban, and this, they hope, will give viewers a taste of what, precisely, the British government is attempting to prevent them from seeing.

'The Irish Question' will be shown at 11am on Thursday, April 5th in the Jubilee Room, House of Commons, London. Speakers include Tony Benn MP.

LOYALISTS

Collusion in Lurgan killing

● In another example of collusion between the RUC and Loyalist death-squads, Republican activist Sam Marshall was shot dead on March 7th in Lurgan, County Armagh. The shooting happened only minutes after Marshall had left Lurgan RUC Barracks where he was required to register at specific times as a condition of bail.

Two survivors of the attack, Tony McCaughey and Colm Duffy, had been arrested with Marshall, a former Republican prisoner, two months previously but all had been released on bail. Since that time, the three men have been subjected to intense harassment and kept under close surveillance.

On March 2nd, the RUC visited Marshall's home and left a message for Sam to come to the local RUC barracks. There he was informed that his name, along with eight others, were on a death list compiled by Loyalists. The RUC also informed him that a leading Republican was to be killed over that weekend. The RUC failed, however, to alter the times at which Marshall was obliged to attend the barracks, which would have been a simple protective measure.

The RUC knew that Sam Marshall was a target. Local members of that force knew exactly when he had to attend the barracks.

The two survivors said that as they left the house to go to the barracks they were followed by a wine-coloured car which parked near the RUC installation. As they left the barracks, the wine-coloured Maestro car followed and passed them, as did a Rover. It was from the Rover that two men wearing masks appeared and shot at the men, killing Sam Marshall.

After the shooting, the RUC tried to drive away

the crowd that had gathered by batoning them and threatening them with plastic-bullet guns. The crowd included members of the dead man's family and one of the survivors.

In the wake of the killing, the RUC admitted that it had received a 'phone call giving details of an intended killing by Loyalists. The RUC at first denied that it had passed on this information to Sam Marshall, but later admitted it had. They also said that the conditions of his bail were 'public knowledge'. Yet the reality is that only the RUC would have known about the specific time and signing-on days of his bail condition.

Marshall's killing is one of the most blatant instances yet of collusion between the RUC and pro-British death-squads.

Duffy and McCaughey have challenged the Stevens Inquiry to investigate the murder. However, the Inquiry team, who are in the final stages of their inquiry into collusion between members of the British forces and Loyalist death-squads, has refused to do so.

Surveillance device found

● Sinn Féin has shown journalists a sophisticated surveillance camera capable of relaying high-quality pictures which was discovered on March 8th in Lurgan, the day after the killing of Sam Marshall by Loyalists. The device, a complete coded television and video transmission network, was fixed to observe the home of Colm Duffy, one of the survivors of the Marshall killing (see article this issue).

The equipment bears British Ministry of Defence markings and a NATO registration number, 25/6350-99-966-26570. It contains a powerful camera with a 12.5mm to 75mm lens capable of producing high-definition pictures in poor light. The camera was linked to a transmitter, power source and encoding module, and a battery supply pack which allowed transmission to be continued for three months. Also included was a 'disturbance' transmitter designed to emit a signal should the device be tampered with.

After the camera was discovered, a British army helicopter immediately began to circle overhead, continuing until the following morning when British forces carried out an intensive search of the area, presumably in the hope of recovering this item and any others nearby.

Colm Duffy described a surveillance operation which had taken place in the Nationalist Kilwilkie estate in the weeks leading to the death of Sam Marshall. This involved a red Maestro car which the RUC have refused to claim or deny was part of the operation. Local people are convinced that these events, coupled with the discovery of the surveillance equipment, is further evidence of collusion by the British forces and Loyalist death-squads in the killing of Sam Marshall.

'Bail system must be changed'

● Sinn Féin's legal affairs spokesperson Councillor Paddy McManus has written to the British Secretary of State Peter Brooke demanding the introduction of new arrangements for those on whom the courts have imposed fixed bail conditions. McManus's call follows the killing of Sam Marshall who was shot dead by Loyalists on his way back from

signing on at an RUC station as a condition of his bail.

Councillor McManus commented:

"The present bail system under which individuals have to sign on at a definite time and on a particular day, at a specified barracks, presents Loyalist killers with an opportunity which the legal system should deny them."

Loyalists assassinate Catholic

● Eamon Quinn was shot dead on the morning of Sunday, March 11th, as he was cleaning his car outside his home in the Kashmir Road, in Nationalist West Belfast. The attack was admitted by the Ulster Freedom Fighters, a cover name for the legal Loyalist group the Ulster Defence Association. Almost certainly their target was Republicans, as a Republican commemoration was due to take place in the street that afternoon. No Republicans were on the street at the time, and so Eamon Quinn, who had no connection with Sinn Féin, was targeted simply because he was a Catholic.

Local Sinn Féin Councillor Fra McCann has accused British military forces of collusion in the killing since the decision to hold the Republican commemoration in the area was only made the night before the shooting. Councillor McCann pointed out that a British army patrol had been seen in the area that night in possession of the leaflets advertising the commemoration. Eamon Quinn's killers were aided in their escape by the unusual absence of the British forces from the area.

The Kashmir Road area is linked by a fast dual carriageway to the Loyalist Shankill Road from where the gang had come. There have been repeated calls for the road to be closed as it gives Loyalist killers easy access to the area. Since 1987, at least five local Nationalists have been shot dead within a half-mile radius of this road. Following the killing, Sinn Féin President Gerry Adams called once again for it to be closed.

Loyalists syphon off £1/2-million from British army

● The North's major Loyalist paramilitary organisation, the Ulster Defence Association (UDA), has been involved in a racketeering operation from within Ballykelly British army barracks in County Derry. The UDA and the Ulster Volunteer Force have between them syphoned off an estimated £500,000 of public funds.

The *Guardian* newspaper said that details were disclosed to British MPs in a confidential memorandum from the Auditor General. The memorandum revealed that during an investigation into corruption, fraud and mismanagement in the Property Services Agency, which managed all Ministry of Defence bases, evidence was unearthed that Loyalist paramilitaries have inflated contracts for building maintenance and improvements at Ballykelly barracks, one of the British army's largest bases in the North. The scandal was discussed at a secret meeting in committee of MPs.

The British Labour Party's spokesperson on the North, Kevin McNamara, has stated that the scandal is "a most serious matter" as it infers that for years "[Loyalist] paramilitaries have had access to buildings inside the camp where they could obtain security information".

In addition to well-documented collusion between the British military forces and Loyalist death squads in the killing of Nationalists, these latest revelations point to collusion in other criminal activities. Sinn Féin and the SDLP have both pointed out that the UDA's racketeering operations may well extend to other British military bases, where its members would have access to information which could be used in the killing of alleged Republican 'suspects'.

PRISONS

Transfer Irish prisoners — Cardinal O Fiach

● Cardinal Tomás O Fiach, the Catholic Primate of all Ireland, has given his support to the widespread demand for the repatriation of Irish prisoners serving long sentences in Britain and abroad.

Speaking at the annual conference of the Irish Episcopal Commission for Emigrants in Celbridge, County Kildare, the Cardinal said it was "indefensible" that approximately 1,000 Irish prisoners abroad are not transferred to serve their sentences in Ireland. He said that not only are prisoners serving sentences "but also their parents, brothers and sisters and the whole family".

The Catholic Bishops of Ireland have called on the Dublin government to immediately ratify the Council of Europe convention on the transfer of prisoners, which would facilitate the transfer of Irish prisoners.

At present, of 720 Irish prisoners in England, 320 are from the North, at a time when there are 400 spaces in jails in the North of Ireland. Although the British government endorsed the European Repatriation of Prisoners Treaty in 1985, since 1980 out of 255 transfer petitions that have been made by Irish prisoners, only 41 low-risk category prisoners have been successful. It would appear, therefore, that the British government is not honouring the conditions of the treaty.

The Repatriation Committee, a group of relatives with family members serving their sentences in English jails, showed their campaign video 'Repatriation' at the conference. A Belfast spokesperson welcomed this latest display of support for the campaign. They called on Cardinal O Fiach to use his influence with other political and religious leaders to obtain their public endorsement of the campaign to end this intolerable burden on prisoners and their families.

Lives at risk in Belfast prison

● Prisoners currently held on remand in Belfast's Crumlin Road prison are warning that the forced integration of Republican and Loyalist prisoners there is creating a dangerous situation. Republican POWs have called for renewed public support to end the present policy of the Northern Ireland Office (NIO).

This forced integration, which is not implemented in any other prison in the Six Counties, has left Republicans vulnerable to assaults and

threats. It has also led to a situation where prisoners are confined to their cells for periods of up to 22 hours with the loss of access to the exercise yard, the gymnasium and the canteen.

In one incident, a prisoner was stabbed twice in the neck by Loyalists and was seriously injured. The following day, two more Nationalist prisoners were attacked while prison warders looked on and refused to intervene. The response of the prison authorities to such incidents is to lock up Republicans with loss of 'privileges' while allowing Loyalists to remain on association and recreation 'privileges'.

Calling for an immediate end to the forced integration policy, a spokesperson for Sinn Féin's POW Department said that the NIO could not guarantee the safety of any prisoner in the jail:

"What is absurd is that the NIO are well aware of what is going on and are refusing to rectify the situation. They know that what is needed is for Loyalist and Republican prisoners to be housed in separate wings. This would allow remand prisoners to settle in without the danger of the prisoner in the next cell making an attempt on his life. The NIO and the prison administration have the resources to solve this problem. They should not wait until a prisoner is seriously injured or killed before taking action."

IRA military operations

● The IRA continued its policy of targeting British military installations and members of the British occupation forces in the Six Counties. As a result, four members of those forces were killed in three separate operations, (two British soldiers, one RUC and one UDR). Equally demoralising to the British government is the IRA's ability to inflict serious damage on its bases.

In one 24-hour period on March 25th, IRA Volunteers breached tight security and succeeded in placing massive bombs outside Ballymena barracks in County Antrim and Castlereagh barracks in County Tyrone. Both bases were extensively damaged.

For the fourth time since July 1989, the IRA once again bypassed elaborate security precautions at Shorts Missile Division factory in Castlereagh, East Belfast, and placed two bombs. Adequate warnings were given and substantial damage was caused.

The Missile Division is currently executing a contract for the British Ministry of Defence on the sophisticated Star Streak missile. The firm in general is involved in a wide range of military contracts for the British.

In a statement claiming responsibility the IRA said:

"Statements by SDLP politicians and British ministers to the effect that this was an attack on fair employment or workers are nothing short of cynical disinformation to the general public. In fact, demanding 'fair employment' in such a military complex is a nonsense and disguises the nature of the work carried out in this area of Shorts and its importance to the British war machine."

Sinn Féin's demands

● Sinn Féin's ultimate objective is to create the political conditions necessary to secure a true and lasting peace in Ireland. This can only be achieved by:

- The ending of partition arising from British rule in six of Ireland's 32 counties;
- British disengagement from Ireland and the restoration to the Irish people of the right to exercise self-sovereignty, independence and national self-determination;
- The setting of a definite date within the lifetime of a British government for the completion of this withdrawal;
- The disarming and disbandment of the Royal Ulster Constabulary and the Ulster Defence Regiment as part of the military withdrawal;
- The calling of a Constitutional Conference to which all political parties would be invited. This conference to be responsible for determining the nature and composition of an emergent national police service and the judiciary. If Britain was sincere about disengaging and was committed to an orderly transference of power, this could be achieved with a minimum of disorder; and
- The unconditional release of all political prisoners.

SINN FEIN INTERNATIONAL INFORMATION SERVICE

Sinn Féin Foreign Affairs Bureau provides an International Information Service to subscribers in Europe, the USA and Canada. It consists of a weekly collation of articles from a wide range of Irish and British daily and weekly newspapers, as well as monthly magazines. In addition, there is a weekly issue of analytical and statistical data and reports on a wide range of issues relating to the political situation in Ireland.

NUAIGHT IDIRNAISIUNTA NA hEIREANN

IRELAND

INTERNATIONAL NEWS BRIEFING

Published by Sinn Féin Foreign Affairs Bureau,
51/55 Falls Road, Belfast BT12

■ Subscription rates for the monthly briefing are as follows:

BRITAIN:£5 per year

EUROPE:£6 per year

USA:\$12 per year

Cheques should be made payable to:
Sinn Féin Foreign Affairs Bureau,
51/55 Falls Road
BELFAST, BT 12

Subscription rates are:

BRITAIN:£15 per quarter

EUROPE:£20 per quarter

USA:\$40 per quarter

CANADA:\$40 per quarter

AUSTRALIA:£30 per quarter

Cheques should be made payable to:
Sinn Féin Foreign Affairs Bureau,
51/55 Falls Road,
BELFAST, BT 12,