

Sinn Féin

The **UNCENSORED**
voice of West Belfast

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ACTION ON DRUGS

The West Belfast MP Gerry Adams has said that there is a need for a comprehensive strategy to deal with drug abuse involving both the statutory agencies, the health authorities and the local community. Gerry Adams pointed out that while action by both the IRA and concerned community organisations had reduced the problem of drug abuse in nationalist areas of Belfast, there is a need for vigilance and a keener awareness of the problem.

Gerry Adams said:

"Every effort must be made to ensure that there is no further escalation of this problem and to ensure that at every level, from the community right down to the individual, there is adequate support and back up for those facing the problem of drug abuse.

"There is clear evidence that over the last two years there has been a well planned and organised attempt to introduce more dangerous drugs into nationalist areas of the North where they had previously not been available. Despite the scale of this operation, no serious attempt was being made by the RUC to confront this problem and it became clear that the RUC was prepared to turn a blind eye to drug pushing, as they have done with joy-riding and other anti-social

behaviour, as a part of their campaign to undermine our community cohesion and solidarity.

"A number of community initiatives proved inadequate to deal with the escalation of the problem and in response the IRA took action against those supplying drugs. (This

action had an immediate and direct effect on the availability of drugs in nationalist areas, but it also forced others, particularly the RUC and the SDLP, who had been inactive on the problem, to issue a series of self-promoting press statements.)

"Given the present reduction in the problem it is imperative that the community, and particularly young people, are made fully aware of the dangers involved in drug abuse. There is a need for a comprehensive health and education programme which will inform and educate at the widest possible level and which also provides immediate advice and practical assistance for those experiencing problems as a result of drug abuse."

There a number of agencies which give advice and assistance on alcohol, drug and substance abuse. For further information contact:

Sinn Féin Advice Centre
Connolly House,
Tel: 301939.



GERRY ADAMS MP

EDITORIAL

BRITISH MUST GO

A TELEVISION PROGRAMME broadcast recently reported that a MORI poll conducted in Britain shows 61% of people in favour of a British military and political withdrawal from the Six Counties within four years. A sizeable number wanted withdrawal immediately.

The poll which featured in Channel 4's *Pack Up Your Troubles* documentary and which interviewed 2,000 people, also found 51% in favour of involving Sinn Féin in political talks. A majority of those questioned also opposed repressive legislation employed by the British in the North.

These results allied with those of last spring's ESRI poll in the 26 Counties which found 82% of those sampled in favour of Irish unity, are a clear message to the British government, demonstrating that its occupation of Ireland is entirely undemocratic.

The wishes of the vast majority of the Irish people is for national unity and an overwhelming wish of the British people for many years now has been for their soldiers to be taken out of this country. The rejection of the democratic wishes of the people of Ireland by successive British governments and their continued indifference to the expressed wishes of their own people, has produced this violent conflict.

The responsibility for ending that conflict lies primarily with London. But there are important lessons too for the Dublin government and the SDLP in these recent surveys. By continuing to work to a British agenda in Ireland, they protract the problem and prolong the suffering of Irish people. The public good will is there in abundance in both Ireland and Britain for them to confront the British government in the international forum with the demand for Irish unity and national self-determination.

Those who most clearly express the aspiration to British withdrawal and Irish unity are banned from the airwaves in Britain and Ireland. The censoring of these views has obviously not had any effect in persuading people either here or in Britain that they are wrong. What it has done is to stifle debate on the Six Counties and to further erode democracy. Such measures are not aimed at reaching a solution to the problem but are an attempt by the British government to shove it under the carpet. Despite their efforts it has not worked.

The British government cannot ignore the will of the people forever. Sooner or later they will have to come to terms with the fact that their days in Ireland are numbered. It is towards such a realisation that the Dublin government should now be encouraging the British.

Save the RVH

West Belfast MP Gerry Adams has said that the campaign to save the RVH from privatisation will continue despite the British government's go-ahead for trust status at the hospital. Revealing that he is to make a detailed submission to the management at the hospital in an attempt to ensure that essential services and employment are not eroded, Gerry Adams said.

"The British government's decision to allow the RVH to opt-out blatantly disregards the wishes of the local community and could result in the dramatic erosion of essential health care in the Belfast area. Much needed medical services and specialised facilities may be moved or sold off to other hospitals. Patients may find that the opted-out Royal only offers services which are financially viable and that some specialised services will only be available to the highest bidder.

"It is a myth to suggest that opting-out, and the privatisation that goes along with that, will increase patient care. The reality is, as has been proven by the experience in England, that opted-out hospitals will be managed by accountants. The first priority will be to balance the books at the expense of patient care and working conditions.

"In these circumstances, the management of the Royal have a clear responsibility to be frank and open about their future plans for the group. I will be presenting a detailed response to the British government's decision which will include firm proposals to ensure that both services and employment, the primary concerns of the local community, are safe-guarded at the RVH."

BUS-RUN GO LOURDES

Ar dhul isteach sa chillín mór dom an lá faoi dheireadh (is é sin cillín 26, cillín caidrimh) thug mé Seán faoi deara, aghaidh bhrónach, fhéin-truaimhéileach air, le tri gheansaí agus dhá phéire briste á chaitheamh aige. Le guth íseal chogar sé liom go raibh sé marbh nach mór le slaghdán. D'imigh mé chomh tapaigh agus thioctadh liom. Ní raibh sin amuigh agam.

Síos an dorchla liom agus nuair a bhí mé ag dul thar chillín Michael, fear as Doire, shiúil sé amach, bhuel leis an fhirinne a rá bhí sé ag scuabáil a choise go mall. D'iarr mé air a raibh cearr leis.

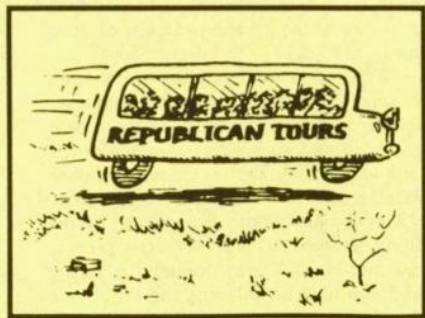
"Ach, tá mo chnaipe déanta agus níor chodail mé néal go maidin de bharr na péine agus tá sé mar sin le seachtain anuas. Táim ag fanacht leis an saineolaí droma a fheiceáil. Tá beirt eile sa sciathán ag freastal ar an dochtúir chomh maith le pianta sna glúine acu."

Bhí Dicky ag magadh níos déanaí sa lá go raibh cuma otharlainne ar an sciathán toisc go bhfuil an oiread sin de dhaoine ann a bhfuil

tinneas orthu. Bhí sé ag smaoineamh gur chóir dúinne turas a shocrú go Lourdes. Le sin tosaigh Sean ag déanamh casachta, bhí sé mar mhádadh ag tafann. Scaip achán duine óna thimpeall.

Leath uaire sular scairt na bardaigh "faoi ghlas" d'fhógair siad go mbeadh "cluiche peile" ar an pháirc mhór againn an tráthnóna sin. Chuaigh Seamus ó dhuine go duine ar lorg ainmneacha peileadóirí (mas é sin an focal ceart le tabhairt orthu!). Ansin shocraigh sé na foirne a roghnú. Michael ina chúil báire, Seán ar an eite dheas agus araile. Ar nós na gaoithe bhí slaghdán Sheáin ar shiúl, droim Michael ar bhisigh, agus an dá glúine ag obair gan arraig.

Scríos Dicky an fógra 'bus-run go Lourdes' a bhí sé ar tí cur in airde ar an bhalla sa seomra bia — ní thioctadh le Lourdes míorúilt níos fearr a dhéanamh.



WILSON CHALLENGED ON PARAMILITARY LINKS

West Belfast Councillor Sean McKnight has described Sammy Wilson's council motion, suspending further meetings until Peter Brooke meets unionists to discuss banning Sinn Féin, as "no more than a poorly contrived publicity gimmick which has again left unionists open to ridicule".

Councillor McKnight accused Wilson of "hypocrisy and deception" and the media of facilitating Wilson by ignoring his "scurrilous anti-Catholic comments and his well known links with loyalist paramilitary organisations".

Councillor McKnight said:

"Following the murder of Councillor Eddie Fullerton in Donegal, Wilson praised his killers, while after the successful election of Joe Austin in North Belfast, making Sinn Féin the second largest party in the Council, ahead of the DUP, Wilson described nationalist voters as 'sub-human animals'.

"More recently Wilson and his colleagues in the DUP have been less than forthcoming about their relationship with Ulster Resistance and their role in the efforts of loyalist terror

groups to procure arms from South Africa.

"The conviction of three loyalists involved in trading missile technology for South African weapons is generally accepted by commentators to have been only the tip of the iceberg.

"Many questions remain unanswered, not least of which is, what was the DUPs role in the affair?

"As one of the founders of Ulster Resistance, along with Ian Paisley and Peter Robinson, how much did Sammy Wilson know of Ulster Resistance links with the UDA and UVF? Was he aware that the three groups planned to bring in weapons with which to kill Catholics? Was he involved in helping to raise any of the money used to procure the arms shipment?

"Like the UDA, Ulster Resis-



SEAN MCKNIGHT

tance remains a legal loyalist death squad, largely armed with South African equipment. Unionist politicians links with such groups exposes as hypocritical their attacks on Sinn Féin and their refusal, and that of the British and Dublin governments, to talk to Sinn Féin about peace.

"Sammy Wilson is in no position to point an accusing finger at Sinn Féin."

RUC killers still 'On-Duty'

West Belfast MP Gerry Adams has claimed that the RUC men, involved in the shooting incident in which West Belfast youth Gerard Maginn was killed, are still 'on-duty'. "This even in spite of increasing evidence that the 17 year old was deliberately killed while the car was stationary."

Mr Adams said:

"I have learnt that the RUC men, responsible for the killing of Gerard Maginn, have not been suspended, pending the outcome of the current internal RUC investigation, but are still on duty.

"This decision makes a further mockery of Annesley's claim that



GERARD MAGINN

internal RUC inquiries, supervised by the Independent Police Complaints Commission, are 'thorough and impartial' and is evidence of his contempt for the whole community.

"There is widespread dissatisfaction within the nationalist community at the procedures for dealing with fatalities resulting from crown force action. Successive reports by Human Rights agencies, as well as politicians and victims' families, have argued for radical changes in the investigation of controversial crown force killings.

"The rejection by the British government of any measures which would help get to the truth underlines its desire to protect its force from the legal consequences of their criminal actions. The record on prosecutions speaks for itself!"

Gerry Adams added:

"The chorus of selective condemnations from Church leaders and politicians, which normally accompanies actions by republicans, has been noticeably absent following the killing of Gerard Maginn. Are they going to refuse to meet the RUC because of its attitude to the use of force? Or the British government because of its endorsement of RUC actions? Of course not! It is just that sort of double talk which has created obstacles to real dialogue and real peace."

ONSLAUGHT AGAINST CATHOLICS

As loyalist death squads pursue the British strategy of employing brute force to terrify the nationalist community into accepting a British imposed settlement, nationalists in the Six Counties are bracing themselves in the wake of an escalating series of random attacks on their communities by pro-British murder gangs.

In the wake of the recent upsurge in sectarian killings by loyalist death squads, the RUC cynically announced the creation of a new special support group which it claims is intended to combat sectarian attacks, particularly in the beleaguered community of North Belfast. The fact that this response only materialised after over 800 sectarian killings of Catholics, by British inspired loyalist death squads, is a clear indication of how seriously the RUC 'initiative' should be viewed.

Clearly, in the wake of continuing col-

lusion revelations, the RUC are engaged in yet another cosmetic political exercise to publicly distance itself from the groups which receive information, both from it, the UDR and British intelligence.

The IRA in response to loyalist killings took action against members of loyalist death squads. Pointing out that it would under no circumstances allow itself, "to become involved in a sectarian conflict which would only divert us from our war with the British forces and those who control, supply and sustain them."

Events in recent weeks which left so many dead must not be viewed in isolation from the political and historical backdrop in which they have occurred.

Tragedies like these have been part of our collective nightmare for many years, pre-dating not only the current 'troubles' but the establishment of the state itself.

Simple condemnations, allied to calls for internment or more British troops or RUC, will not resolve this crisis. There is an underlying political problem which successive British government and Irish political leaders have not properly addressed.

Sectarianism and the political conditions which have created conflict in the North will not end until there is a political settlement acceptable to all the people of Ireland.

Dublin government silent on Castlereagh ill-treatment

Sinn Féin Councillor Lily Fitzsimmons has attacked the Dublin government for its "absolute failure to use the many avenues open to it to raise the issue of ill-treatment to detainees at Castlereagh".

Councillor Fitzsimmons said:

"There have been consistent allegations of abuse by RUC interrogators in Castlereagh for two years. Amnesty International only 4 months ago produced a report containing 20 cases of ill-treatment stretching back as far as 1988.

"Despite claims by Dublin that the Inter-governmental Conference is a mechanism by which it can tackle issues of importance to nationalists in the North, it has turned a blind eye to events in the interrogation centres and left it to non governmental organisations like Amnesty International and Helsinki Watch to confront RUC brutality.

"The Dublin government claims the right to represent northern nationalist interests in its dealings with the British government. Its record on this has been appalling. Its

representations on issues as important as Diplock courts; Shoot-to-kill; Plastic Bullets and the UDR have all been ignored. Was this why it chose not to challenge Britain on RUC torture? Was it afraid of again being publicly snubbed?

"The Dublin government is better placed than Amnesty or any of the other groups to force a halt to ill-treatment in interrogation centres. It must do something and it must be seen to do something.



CASTLEREAGH

CALL FOR BETTER POST OFFICE FACILITIES

Over the past 18 months, Sinn Féin in West Belfast have been making representations to the Post Office authorities, pressing for improved post office facilities in the area.

West Belfast is currently serviced by twenty sub-post offices. However, despite the best efforts of post office staff and managers, some services are inadequate and unsatisfactory.

One of the reasons for this is the high level of unemployment and social deprivation in the area. Consequently, within the constituency there is a high ratio of DHSS claimants, 27,707 people in the area are presently claiming benefits.

Although the post office has a wide range of services to offer the general public, despite the best efforts of the local offices, given the present constraints, post office users in West Belfast area can only avail of a minimal service almost exclusively benefit related.

Sinn Féin have therefore proposed to the

Post Office authorities that sufficient funds be invested in post office services. This should be done in consultation with sub-post managers, should be aimed at upgrading and improving local post office facilities and should provide the full range of post office facilities including telephone booths, package and parcel delivery, registered mail delivery and, of course, a complete and customer-friendly counter service.

It is clear to everyone in West Belfast that the present situation in West Belfast is inadequate. The Post Office have a duty to provide an adequate service to the people of West Belfast on a par with other areas.



Bonus for Nursery education

West Belfast MP Gerry Adams presented cheques to Irish language nursery schools on behalf of republican prisoners, who undertook a sponsored run to raise funds for Irish medium education. Over £3,000 was raised by prisoners in Ireland, Britain, Europe, and America. Some of the donations came from as far as Australia. This year, for the first time, republican prisoners in Portlaoise Prison took part in the run in the prison exercise yard, collecting over £1,800 (IRE2,000) towards Irish medium nursery education in the Six Counties.

Speaking at the presentation ceremony in Belfast, Adams praised the efforts of the prisoners who initiated this novel fundraising scheme four years ago and who have overcome any obstacles to communication to make a valuable contribution each year to the Irish medium schools. He said, "The prisoners have recognised the importance of Irish medium education to the very survival of the language.

"We also commend all those who have worked hard to establish Irish medium schools and to maintain them, often in the face of serious financial difficulties. The vital role they play in the promotion of our language and culture cannot be underestimated.

"Numerous surveys have indicated that very many more parents would like to see their children educated through the medium of the Irish language but cannot have that wish catered for because of the lack of funding for Irish-medium education.

"A Working Group set up in May 1989 to make proposals about the future of Irish medium education called for Irish medium schools to be treated as favourably as integrated schools in the Six Counties and as Welsh medium schools in Wales. To date that call appears to have fallen on deaf ears.

"Given such a proven demand for Irish medium education in areas of high unemployment where few resources exist, it is high time the education authorities ensured that money is allocated in a way which reflects the needs and aspirations of those living here in these areas."

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Sinn
Féin**

Name

Address

Send to: 147 Andersonstown Road, Belfast BT12