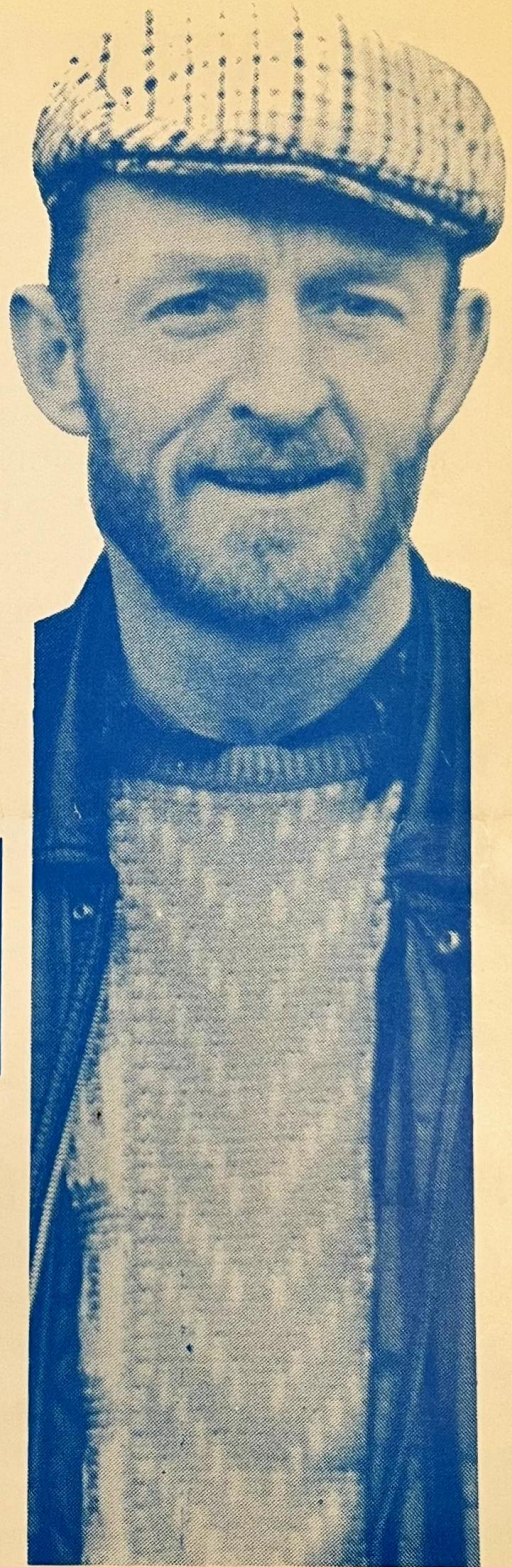


The

classic

political

offence



● PAUL MAGEE

**"THE FACTS OF THIS CASE PRESENT THE ASSESSMENT
IN ITS MOST CLASSIC FORM..." — UNITED STATES**

JOE DOHERTY AND PAUL MAGEE are both from Belfast. Like so many young nationalists of their generation, they grew up at a time when their community was experiencing British injustice in Ireland at its worst — from the suppression of the peaceful Civil Rights Movement, to pogroms against Catholics, to internment without trial, to the massacre of marchers on Bloody Sunday in Derry.

Both were arrested in 1980 following a pitched battle with SAS undercover soldiers, culminating in a siege in a house in North Belfast, during which SAS Captain Herbert Westmascott was killed.

Both escaped from Crumlin Road Jail in 1981.

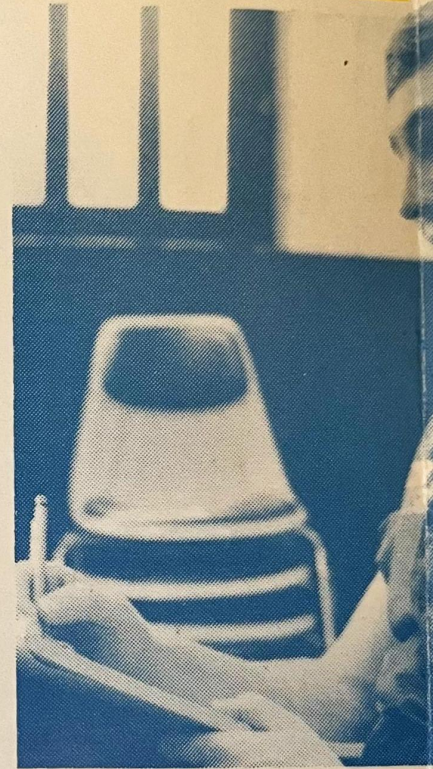
Both are now sought by the British government on extradition warrants to serve life sentences imposed for the killing of Captain Westmascott.

THERE IS BUT ONE DIFFERENCE

Joe Doherty fled to the USA — there he has been successful in every court appearance in a long fight against extradition. The courts there described the killing of an armed undercover SAS soldier in a pitched battle as "the classic political offence".

Paul Magee fled to the South. He has already served a ten-year sentence imposed under the Criminal Law (Jurisdiction) Act for escaping from Crumlin Road Jail.

Now he faces extradition under an act passed in 1987, which abolished the political exemption in many cases. Here his



● **JOE DOHERTY**

offence — that of fighting soldiers — is regarded as that of a common

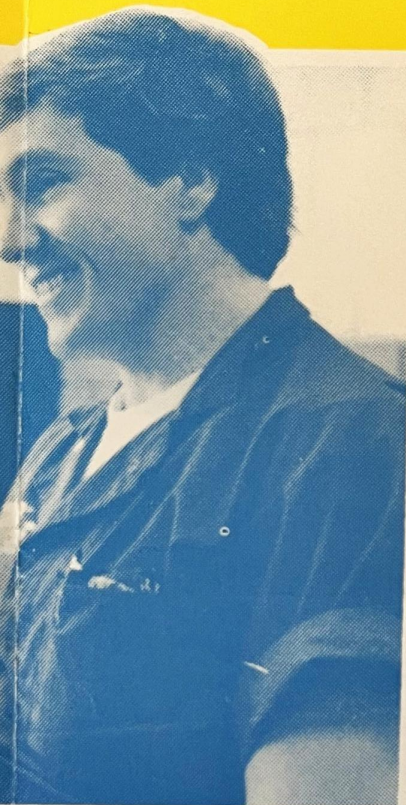
Paul Magee is being lined up to go on a conveyor-belt which saw Dessie Breen and other IRA members taken to British authorities on a stretcher.

Paul Magee deserves your support. No More Extradition.

PAUL MAGEE

Paul 'Dingus' Magee was born in Belfast, married to Maria and they have five children. On May 2nd, 1980, Magee, Joe

ABOLITION OF THE POLITICAL OFFENCE EXCEPTION SUPPORTS JUDGE JOHN SPIZZO (DECEMBER 1984)



were arrested following a shoot-out with the SAS. The undercover soldiers had attacked a house where the four men were located. During the battle, an SAS captain, Herbert Westmascott, was killed.

Magee was convicted of possession of firearms and the murder of Westmascott. The warrants against Magee seek his extradition to serve a 25-year sentence imposed for those offences.

THE SOUTH

Paul Magee escaped from Crumlin Road Jail in June 1981 and was re-arrested in January 1982 at his new home in Tralee where he was living openly. He was subsequently charged pursuant to the Criminal Law (Jurisdiction) Act and sentenced to ten years in Portlaoise Prison for escaping from Crumlin Road.

The day before his release was due on August 25th, 1989, Magee was served with extradition warrants. His extradition was ordered in the District Court and on January 25th the High Court rejected his appeal against that order.

Like the other extraditees, Tony Sloan and Michael McKee, the British government could have tried to extradite Magee in 1982. They did not do so because the law at the time accepted the political exemption.

In attempting to do so now the British government, with the co-operation of the Irish government, is claiming the double option — use of the Criminal Law (Jurisdiction) Act and then subsequent extradition.

Paul Magee's case is compounded by the fact that threats were made against him by RUC officers in the North — he will allege before the Supreme Court that there is a risk to his life if he is extradited.

ers he sees as "armed occupiers"
on criminal.

to be the next victim on the
Ellis handed over to the British

pport — Join the campaign.

n in Belfast in 1948. He is
five children.

e Doherty and two other men

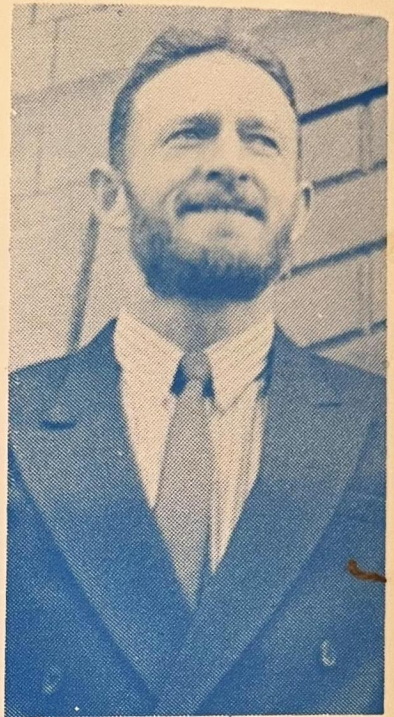
WHY SHOULD YOU OPPOSE PAUL MAGEE'S EXTRADITION?

■ Because Britain refused to try to extradite him in 1982 but instead waited until 1989 — a resulting extradition would be unfair and insidious because of lapse of time and because of the sentence he has already served here.

■ Because the activities to which the warrants relate are the "classic political offence". The 1987 Extradition Act limits the political exemption far beyond what is necessary under the European Convention.

Britain, Belgium, Cyprus, Denmark, Iceland, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Germany, Sweden, Switzerland and France retain the right of their courts to determine whether an offence is political or not.

■ Because if returned to the North he would be sent to the notorious Long Kesh prison. Other escapees, most notably those involved in the mass breakout in 1983, were beaten. These warders are still working in the jail — no disciplinary action was taken against them for the assaults, or for the attempts to pervert the course of justice, as revealed in the Pettigrew Judgement in Belfast Crown Court.



● PAUL MAGEE

JOIN THE CAMPAIGN:

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