

It shall be the duty of the government of this Republic to make provision for the physical and mental well being of the children, to secure that no child shall suffer hunger or cold from lack of food, clothing, or shelter, but that all shall be provided with the means and facilities requisite for their proper education and training as citizens of a free and Gaelic Ireland.

(The 1937reamble)

An Phoblacht

Iml. 8. Uimhir 48. 10p. Nollaig 14, 1977.

ANOTHER MURDER FOR THE CROWN

Barney McFadden next on SAS death list?

THE DERRY Sinn Fein leader, Barney McFadden, has been threatened by a high-ranking officer of the Crown forces in occupation of the city: "Before I leave this area I'll get you."

The threat is being taken seriously in view of the assassination record of the same Crown forces. As we prepare to go to press comes word of the SAS murder of the IRSP activist, Colm McNaught (20), near Derry's William Street, on the night of December 12, shot from a parked car, following threats from members of the Crown forces.

Barney is a former internee and our correspondent reports that since the Grenadier Guards have arrived for occupation duties in Derry members have not left the vicinity of Barney's home in the Bogside: "They prowled around when he is leaving for or returning from work and often wait just outside his place of employment trying to intimidate him and other workers there."

After a raid on the McFadden home last month a fellow worker told Barney that he had seen a Land-Rover roar into the yard of the gasworks, soldiers leaping out and running up the steps to the McFadden back-door.

They had taken a plastic bag from near the dustbin, this eye-witness reports, then had returned to the vehicle which had withdrawn quickly. That was November 19.

On Monday, November 28, a party of military called at Barney's place of work. Major Lindsay said the soldiers had found "some material we would consider illegal" in the plastic bag; Barney should "watch himself."

Major's threat

When Barney asked for this to be explained, as it sounded like intimidation, the Major refused to comment. Barney pointed out that had anything illegal been found the Crown forces hardly would have delayed arresting and charging him.

Finally, Major Lindsay said: "I'm here for three more months. You'd better watch yourself. I have your number and before I leave this area I'll get you."

Several of Barney's fellow workers overheard this threat. Our correspondent comments: "Given the history of the British army and its record against Irish civilians after making such threats in various parts of the Six Counties, Major Lindsay's threat must be seen in serious light."

It may be seen in even more serious light in view of the SAS murder of Colm McNaught, a member of the Danny Loughran Club, Irish Republican Socialist Party, in the Creggan.

A Sinn Fein spokesman said that Colm had been prominent politically and had been arrested many times. His life had been threatened by the secret police.

When walking up William Street, the S.F. spokesman continued, he had been shot at from about 25 yards through the window of a parked car by a man in civilian attire using either a Magnum or Browning.

The car used in the killing, he said, would be "found in Ebrington Barracks."

The McNaught murder comes close to marking the first anniversary of the blanket protest of IRSP member Connolly Brady of Derry in H-Block, Long Kesh Concentration Camp, where 17 other party members and supporters are making like protest, demanding PoWs status, along with some 250 members of the Republican Movement.

FOOTNOTE: The widow of the victim of a similar killing, Mrs. Maoliosa Costello, I.R.S.P., has succeeded in being co-opted to her late husband's seat on Wicklow Co. Council, on the proposal of Denis Kinsella (Indpt.).



FERENKA OCCUPATION WINS WIDE SUPPORT

THE 1,400 Ferenka workers who occupied the Limerick plant following its official closure received support from trade unionists from all over the world. Among them was Dutch trade unionist Jerome Terlingen who travelled to Ireland to meet the sacked Irish workers.

He said: "We will help the Ferenka workers whatever way we can. We have the same experience on the Continent. Over the past five years ENKA (Ferenka's Dutch parent company) have sacked at least 10,000 workers in its chemical plant."

In a bid to operate a workers' co-op on the lines of the French LIP firm, Ferenka workers occupied the factory gatehouse and won support from other unions, members of which refused to cross the picket lines.

At the mass meeting of over 800 of the sacked workers, they decided to continue the fight to save their jobs.

On the wall of the canteen where the meeting was held, the workers hung a banner inscribed "Ferenka Workers Unite."

Spirit of unity

This banner and the strong spirit of unity expressed at the meeting gave the lie to reports from the capitalist Press that it was in-fighting between the workers that led to the closure of the factory.

The workers' solidarity was shown in the way the occupation of the security office — which controls the entry and exit of all goods and personnel — was backed by members of other unions in the plant.

The occupation was begun by members of

the Marine Port and General Workers' Union but later members of two other unions joined — Irish Transport and General Workers' Union and TASS — joined in and Limerick Trades Council pledged support.

John O'Carroll, chairman of the local committee of TASS, stated: "We're all very gratified by the solidarity. There is no doubt now that the occupation is supported by the entire workforce — including the middle management."

The outcome of the meeting, which was presided over by Limerick Trades Council chairman Ger South, was a decision to seek State support in getting the factory re-opened. Many of the men, however, were sceptical of Fianna Fail coming to their aid.

Picture shows some of the Ferenka workers in occupation of the plant.

OUR NEXT ISSUE

OUR next issue will not appear until January 4 next but advertisers and contributors are urged to send copy for that issue as soon as possible to facilitate printing.

Gúonnn maid Nollaig faoi mhaise ar ar léitheoirí agus athbhliain faoi ráth. A Dhia, saor Éire.

That butter racket

FOR HUNDREDS of thousands of Irish people the reality of Common Market membership was made brutally clear by the way the cheap Intervention butter was made available to consumers.

If you had plenty of money and plenty of time you could buy a large quantity of it, store it away in your freezers, and save the few pence involved.

For those for whom the few pence meant a very great deal — the old, the infirm, the mothers of large families — the reality, if lucky, was one solitary pound of this luxury.

You didn't have the freezers. You didn't have the money to speculate. You didn't have the time, the health or the energy to go out, from shop to shop, to buy and stock up. As always, you were among the also-rans.

But that is the truth of the Common Market. It is the rich man's club, as much among the member states as among the individuals who make up this population.

Keep it in mind, along with the VAT racket, the constantly rising prices, the gross discrimination in other areas.

Your time will come. When it does, vote against the EEC. Vote for freedom. Vote for sanity. Vote in your own interests. Vote Sinn Féin.

● In some parts of Ireland, including Conamara, there is no sign whatsoever of the cheap butter. Why?

An Phoblacht

Iml. 8. Nollaig 14, 1977. Uimh 48.
44 Ceasnóg Pharnell, B.A.C., Éire. Guthán: 47611.

This just war

"WHEN THE Church leaders speak out against institutional violence all they get is abuse from the Provost". That was one immediate reaction to our back-page report of the four Church leaders' joint statement of the previous weekend.

"They spoke out against the police torture methods. They had to balance their criticism with an appeal to support the forces of law and order, otherwise their statement would be considered unbalanced and discriminatory". This was another.

The answer to both, from the Republican viewpoint and, we would hope, from reasonable, principled people everywhere, regardless of their political opinions, is that from people who see themselves as spokesmen for morality one is entitled to expect a morally principled statement, even if it might appear to come down on one side, against the other.

One is entitled to expect an attempt to reach the truth in the particular and in the general. One is entitled to expect a clear withdrawal from politics, stating clearly the rights and the wrongs of both sides, objectively, in terms of general morality. Such an approach would be respected by honest people on both sides and would earn respect from the world in general.

Christians admit an obligation to work for peace and to taking all reasonable measures to avoid war. Some Christians believe that all war is wrong. Others believe that war may be justified in certain circumstances. For Christian leaders to seek to pretend that one of these viewpoints is morally wrong is dishonest.

When Christian leaders, in a specific case, back establishment against armed revolt, on the basis that "all war is wrong", they are being politically, not morally, and, indeed, in contradiction to the principle on which they stand, for all states reserve the right to use physical force.

In the Irish situation, the Crown is an aggressor and has been an aggressor for more than 800 years. That aggression has been resisted by the most valiant of every generation. Even for those Churchmen who believe sincerely that all war is wrong, their moral obligation is to recognise publicly the right to self-defence and revolt against foreign domination.

If they were to recognise that fact they could play a traditional Christian role in seeking to keep warfare on as humane a plane as possible - defence of the innocent, uninvolved civilian, protection of the rights of belligerents and prisoners of war, condemnation of methods of warfare in conflict with an international code which, largely, has been fashioned by Christian concern and compassion.

Had the four Churchmen in their statement been guided by these principles their statement would have been other than what we have seen. It would have been generally acceptable and would have earned national and international respect, giving scandal only to the most bigoted and intolerant.

It would have been a principled answer to the command of the leader claimed by all four: "Give to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's".

The four Churchmen cannot stop the war. Only British withdrawal will end it. But they can work to ensure that it becomes a more compassionate war with less suffering.

The Republican Movement is so concerned about permanent peace in Ireland that, no other course being open to it, it is prepared to fight for that permanent peace, based on justice. It is ready, always, to meet principled people to see what contributions the Irish side can make in the interests of common compassion and humanity. That is our proud tradition and it bears fair scrutiny.

It is never too late for the four Churchmen involved to reconsider their position against the historical background, going back to the Papal Bull of Adrian IV, and the moral obligation of war within the Christian ethic insofar as it refers to the code of war.

If the Christian (and other) Church leaders can extricate themselves from establishment (and all) politics, apply themselves to the role of mercy, and engage in discussions with the Republican leadership, they will not find that leadership, or its following, wanting in trying to keep to the moral code of war within the accepted bounds of the international code, although we are not aware that those bounds have been transgressed willfully or deliberately.

With, however, brutality being deliberately escalated by the Crown, there is always a danger of more people becoming involved in death, maiming and destruction than would be necessary for a successful and just conclusion of the conflict.

The Irish side accepts as a general principle that no more physical force should be used, always within the bounds of morality and compassion, that would be necessary to bring victory; and that, while the objective is lawful (Irish freedom, permanent peace, based on justice), the means to that end also must be lawful.

There are no grounds for talks leading to surrender or compromise on Irish freedom. There are grounds for discussions designed to protect rights of belligerents, non-belligerents, prisoners of war, hospitals, schools, churches and political action. It is to such matters that the Church leaders profitably might turn their attentions, especially at this Christmas time.

Aiseanna le Gaeilge a fhoghlaim sa phríosún

CIBE a mheasann Cunnla faoi Chonradh na Gaeilge is e mo thuairim fein gur fearr ann na as do agus Rannóg Chearta an Chonartha, go hairithe, a chur san aireamh.

Fuairesas cóip de ráiteas a d'eisigh an Conradh tá seachtainí ó shin agus, ar chúis éicint, ar theip air mórán pobliocht a fháil. Faoi chini agus Gaeilge atá sé agus deir an Conradh gur de thoradh ghearáin éagsla ba ea a chuaigh an Conradh i dteagmháil le húdaráis an bpríosúin sna Sé Chontae agus sna 26 Chontae.

Bíodh is go bhfuairreamar, a deir ráiteas an Chonartha, eolas go héasca ó udaráis H.M. Prison, The Maze Co. Aontroim, dhúiligh an t-Aire Dlí agus Cirt son eolas a chur ar fáil dúinn. Níl hamháin ná cuirteadh an teolas ar fáil dúinn ach ba mhíne ná freagraíodh ná nár dháimhéal ar gcuil litreacha.

Seo thíos sloicéas le litir a fuair rónaí an Chonartha ó LeasGhobharnóir an Maise (Campa gheibhin Chluain Cheis), inar thagair sé do na haiseanna a chuirtear a fáil d'fhoghlaim na Gaeilge sa phríosún:-

"A full range of Audio Visual equipment is available for classes organised within the formal education programme, i.e. tape recorders, video tape recorders, etc."

Fuair an Conradh litir le déanaí ó Runaí an Aire Dlí agus Cirt, Gearóid Ó Coléain, mar thagair sé do litreacha a chuir an Conradh chuige, a leanann an ráiteas.

Seo a leanas an litir: "Tá ordú agam ó Aire Dlí agus Cirt, Gearóid Uis. Ó Coléain, T.D., tagairt do litreacha den 28ú Fómhair, 1977, agus 2 Deireadh Fómhair, 1977, maidir le chúrsaí éagsla, Príosún Phortlaoise san áireamh, agus dod chomh-fhuereas gar gheall ar foirmeacha dhífhála atá ar fáil i nGaeilge."

"Is mian leis an Aire aon fheabhu atá réasúnta agus a luíonn le sábháilteacht a dhéanamh i slí bheatha na bpríosúnach sa stát. I dtaca do fhoghlaim na Gaeilge i bpríosúin Phortlaoise, ba chóir a thuisceint go bhfuil leabhair Gaeilge ar fáil sa phríosún, go bhfuil an Gobharnóir toilteanach a thuille a chur ar fáil ach iad a iarraidh agus nach bhfuil aon bhac ar ranganna Ghaeilge a sholáthar agus ar phríosúin eatorra féin."

"M'áir mian leat féin leabhair-líonta a mhodhad, chuif ar fáil an méid dhóibh nach bhfuil ar fáil cheana féin i leabharlann an phríosúin. Ina theannta san, tá an tAire toilteanach áiseanna míneadh, ar nós teipanna agus ceirníní, a chur ar fáil ar cheintíocht go mbeidh siad fé churam na noifigeach amháin."

"M'ineidh an Gobharnóir do na príosúnaigh na sochraithe is féidir a dhéanamh. De bharr sochraithe atá déanta cheana féin, beidh sé níos éasca feasta do na príosúnaigh a labhrán Gaeilge gnó a dhéanamh sa teagmhl le na hoifigigh."

Fáilte an Chonartha

"Cfear don Aire, ámh, nach bhfuil sé indéanta, fé láthair ar aon nós, múinteoirí ón taobh a muigh a leigint isteach sa phríosún."

"Ní sé ar intinn ag an Aire fíoraí ordú chun a chuireadh i leith ríalú an phríosúin d'iniúchadh. Tá sé sásta gur léor an córas atá i bhfeidhm chun deilúil mar is cuí le na leithéid."

- Deir an ráiteas ón Conradh: "Tá scríofa ag an gConradh chuig an Aire ag fáiltú roimh na sochraithe nua seo atá i bhfeidhm anois:
- Go bhfuil leabhair Ghaeilge ar fáil sa phríosún; id;.
- Go bhfuil cead ag na príosúnaigh ranganna Gaeilge a reachtáil eatarthu féin;
- Go mbeidh áiseanna do mhíneadh na Gaeilge ar nós teipanna, ceirníní is leabhair foghlama, á gur ar fáil sa phríosún; agus
- Go bhfuil sochraithe déanta le go mbeidh sé níos éasca do na príosúnaigh a labhrán Gaeilge gnó a dhéanamh sa teagmhl le na hoifigigh an phríosúin.

Tá an Conradh tar éis iarraidh ar an Aire na pointí breise seo a sholáthair:

- An bhfuil céimeanna tógtha chun gur féidir le daoine cuairt a thabhairt ar phríosúnaigh ar bith trí Ghaeilge agus d'fhonn a chinnintú nach mbeidh coinneíochla ar bith ag baint le húdúid na Gaeilge idir cuairteoirí is príosúnaigh thar mar a bhaineann le húdúid an Bhéarla?
- An bhfuil sé beartaithe ag oifigigh oideachais na bpríosúin uilig córas a bhunú trína bheidh múinteoirí cáilithe sa Ghaeilge i mbun ranganna Gaeilge sna príosúin?

Tá céimeanna á nglacadh ag an gConradh chun a dheinmniú go bhfuil na haiseanna foghlama seo curtha ar fáil do na príosúnaigh gh.

Deir an Conradh gur "ábar mórthóim doibh é nach bhfuil an tAire toilteanach fiosrúcháin neamhspleách poiblí a bhunú chun an staid gearráta sna príosúin a iniúchadh."

"Bhí Coiste Gúo agus Ardfeis an Chonartha, agus rún á rith acu ag éiceamh fiosrúcháin dá leithéid níos tuise i mbliana, den tuairim go raibh gá le hathruithe i geóras reachtála na bpríosúin le go bhféadfaí chuige go mbeidh á reachtáil ar bonn a bheidh inlaghtha ó thaobh doannachta de."

"Bíodh is go bhfuil, de réir cosúlachta, staid na Gaeilge feabhsaithe go mór sna príosúin ní hionn don Chonradh go bhfuil céimeanna eile á nglacadh chun na gnéithe mísháda eile den chóras á chur i gearr."

Baile Múna

GO LUATH san aithbhliain, le cuidiú Dé, beidh thart ar 40 dúine i mBaile Múna, Baile Átha Cliath, ag dul faoi bhruichúrsa Gaeilge de chuid GhaeilLinn trí chabhair dheontais de chuid Chonradh na Gaeilge.

Ba chóir go ndéanfadh sin difríocht an-mhór ar staid na Gaeilge sa cheantar, fíat a bhfuil sí ann, ceart go leor, agus meas ag na hoibrithe uirthi, ach lag go fóill, in ainneoin a díograis. Casadh cuid de mhuintir



Roinnt seachtainí ó shin a tógadh an pictiúr álainn seo nuair bhí Súsan Ní Dhálaigh, Clochar Chnoc Sion, An Charraig Dhubbh, ag ullmhú do Shléadh 1978.

anois ina Ghaeilgeoir líofa agus tá thar 100 ball den UVF ag dul don Ghaeilge faoi láthair. Ní gá domh a rá nach raibh sa tuairisc sin ach cuid mhór géafachais, rud a bhfuil formhór na bpaipéar Domhnaigh beo air.

Bhaile Muna orm agus iad ag Gaeilgeoireacht lena ngasúir tigh an Ardmhéara, Baile Átha Cliath, agus Aonach na Nollag ar siúl. Orthu bhí Cora Marshall.

Uatha siúd a chuaigh an scéal faoin mbrúchúrsa agus faoin geasí iontach ar éirigh leis na gasúir de chuid na Scoile Gaela i slógadh 'tá trí ranganna Gaela ar bith ag aghaidh go dtí Slógadh Laighean, bail ó Dhia orthu.

Cuireann tuairisc an bhrúchúrsa brúchúrsa Gusty Spence i gciumhne dom.

As bheith ag léamh cuid des na nuachtáin shlíff go raibh Gaeilteach bunaithe ag na Dlíeoirí, ach, mar a tharlaíonn chomh minic sin tá aithbhéil ag baint le curios na nuachtóirí.

Seo a leanas tuairisc le "Fear Gasta" a d'fhoilsigh an "Andersonstown News" faoin ábhar seo ar na malláibh. Ar fhirici atá an tuairisc seo bunaithe.

Garfeachas

DE REIR tuairisc sa Sunday Press (Dé Domhnaigh 13) inar cuireadh i gcó gallamh idir Ciarán McKeown agus Gusty Spence, tá Spence

anois ina Ghaeilgeoir líofa agus tá thar 100 ball den UVF ag dul don Ghaeilge faoi láthair.

Ní gá domh a rá nach raibh sa tuairisc sin ach cuid mhór géafachais, rud a bhfuil formhór na bpaipéar Domhnaigh beo air.

Bhí níos mó den thríinne i dtuairisc eile i bpaipéir Dé Domhnaigh 20 Samhain inar dhúirt an tUasal Spence go bhfuil 'proficiency' bainte amach ag cúlgear dá chompanáigh agus go bhfuil sé chloigeann déag eile ag tarraingt ar an chnagheán chéanna.

Bhí an ráiteas seo ceart go leor ó thaobh uimhreacha de ach maidir le caighdeán ní siad, mar a déarf, próficiónt go fóill.

Tá dhá rang Gaeilge ar siúl measc mhuintir Oiglaigh Uladh faoi láthair.

Tá cúigear i rang amháin atá ag obair go dian i dtreo an fháinne airgid.

An cúl chloigeann déag eile ní siad ach i ndiaidh tosu ar na malláibh ach tá siad ag teach chun cinn go maith.

Chomh maith leis an teanga tá staidéar a dhéanamh fosta acu ar stair, cultúr agus ceol na hÉireann.

Tá na daoine seo ag fáil réidh de chur chéad bliain de shreabhadh goicill. Ní propaganda an lae inniu de dhíth orthu.

JOIN SINN FÉIN

Another new cumann has been formed in London. If interested in joining write to Box Eight, 182 Upper Street, London, N.1.

For a Federal Socialist Democratic Republic based on Community Government

Ainm (Name):
Soiladh:
Address:

Send this form to: Sinn Féin, Sráid Chaoimhín, Baile Átha Cliath, Éire.

MILITARY POLICE GRAB CIVILIANS

THE FIREMEN'S strike escalated the drift towards rule by the military in Britain but the drift became a sharp jerk forward with the arrest by military policemen of David Marzella (24) on a London street last month in an operation more typical of Pinochet's Chile than the capital of a self-styled democracy.

David was grabbed by the MPs in a suburban area of South London where members of the British Withdrawal from Ireland Campaign were distributing leaflets in letter boxes believed to be those of the families of persons serving in the Crown forces. With him was the veteran campaigner, Pat Arowsmith.

Friends of Ireland quiz A.I.

ON NOV. 17 a delegation from the Friends of Ireland met Amnesty International in Los Angeles and demanded a policy statement on political torture in the Six Counties because of allegations made by Amnesty headquarters in London that A.I. could not investigate human rights violations within their home country.

The Group presented evidence of the current individual cases of torture and ill-treatment in Castlereagh interrogation Centre and Wakefield Prison, also pointing out that the Crown had been convicted for human rights violations in Ireland by the European Human Rights Commission in Strasbourg.

A staff person for Amnesty, L.A., said that they would request that a study be made into the cases of William John McGrayle, Patrick Doherty and Seamus Ferguson, suggesting that when violations occur they should be presented to the London office with the insistence that copies of action and disposition of such, be forwarded immediately to Amnesty International offices in Los Angeles, San Francisco and New York.

Secret files

"The Friends of Ireland were appalled to learn that Amnesty maintains secret files of the torture of Irish prisoners in Britain and the Six Counties", according to a FOI statement.

"It was emphasised that these files were available only to the Home Secretary in London and British ambassadors, and are suppressed from press and public scrutiny. (The Nobel Peace Prize committee must have overlooked this discrepancy)".

Because of such a policy, a spokesperson for the Friends of Ireland stated: "The credibility of Amnesty International as a non-partisan organisation must now be questioned".

Northern Relief Committee

URGENTLY REQUIRED - Blankets and bed linen, also cooking utensils, delph and cutlery. Can you donate any of these articles? Collections can be arranged. Please send details or bring material to 5 Blessington St., Dublin, 44 Parnell Square, Dublin, or 2A Lower Kevin Street, Dublin. Tel: 308783
Ná clisteoir ar ár máinteir thuaidh!



David Marzella, two days before he was hijacked by military police in London, distributing leaflets outside a Crown recruiting Office in Central London. With him is the veteran campaigner, Pat Arowsmith, with posters publicising the Crown's bloody war in Ireland.

TRIBUNAL EXPANDS

A meeting of the committee for the International Tribunal, on November 15, was attended by 70 people, most of them delegates from trade union branches and other supporting groups.

The report given by the organiser, Gary Kinsella, covered the encouraging growth in the list of sponsors, a useful meeting at the House of Commons between the secretary and a number of sympathetic MPs, and a highly successful visit to Ireland by himself and two other officers, Bob Churchill, treasurer, and Jerry Fitzpatrick, press officer.

As a result of that visit, a Tribunal support committee is being established in Ireland. Its first task will be the formulation of an appeal for international support, signed by prominent Irish men and women.

Finance is urgently required, according to a Tribunal statement. Please contribute generously, making cheques payable to "The International Tribunal". A fund-raising committee was established to assist the treasurer. Ideas to help raise money will be welcomed.

Military lies
Asked about the incident a military spokesman said that Marzella had been taken to the guard room to find out who he was 'after he had refused to stop leafletting military living quarters.

The spokesman at first knew nothing of the involvement of MPs.

Later he alleged that Marzella had been detained, given a cup of tea and then released. He said a police constable from Shooters Hill station, south London, had been present.

A spokesman at Shooters Hill said there was no record of a PC attending.

Marzella is seeing solicitors with a view to taking legal action against the Crown Forces.

1 - In 1973-74 a total of nine Irish political prisoners were force-fed for a long period, four of them for months. As a result of

Comhaltas leader for prison on language issue?

THE IRISH Language had been made a cultural yo-yo down through the years, with the government and promotional bodies apportioning degrees of responsibility (or blame) for the language effort, the director-general, Comhaltas Ceolóirí Éireann, Labhrás Ó Murchú, stated at the annual congress of NACAÍ in Cultúrinn na hÉireann, Baile na Manach, Co. Bh. Á.C., on December 3 last. He was guest speaker at the Congress.

Promotional bodies, such as Conradh na Gaeilge, had done a mammoth job of work in preserving and promoting Irish for almost a century; they had done a service to the nation as significant as the fight for freedom.

In fact, the work of all cultural and sporting bodies was related to national independence, the aim of assuring a separate national identity for our country, and further ensuring that those who embraced that aspiration would have the freedom to do so.

It was ironic, therefore, he added that at the very time when Irish cultural aims were enjoying such widespread acceptance and goodwill people were virtually on the brink of a cultural civil rights campaign.

If such a campaign were not averted by positive action it could be a bitter, long drawn out and largely non-productive episode.

The provocation for those who wished to use Irish as their first language and those who wished to embrace other components was very great, at times totally insensitive and even vindictive.

Parking tickets

"Recently" he said, "I found it necessary to object to parking tickets in the English language only being issued in Limerick, in spite of the fact that my tax disc and tax book are in Irish."

"In spite of my objection, I have now received a summons in English. This kind of thing is provocative to the extreme, and I am quite determined to resist such a denial of civil rights."

"The first step towards resolving the shameful impasse which now faces our country in relation to the status of our native language and culture is a bill of rights from the government. Giving too little too late is no answer to the problem", he pointed out.

Funeral hijack: Garret accused of lying

ACCORDING to a report in "Irish Post", Britain, reproduced in "Andersonstown News" and "Western People", Dr. Garret FitzGerald's recent version of circumstances surrounding the Stagg funeral was not according to the facts.

The widow of the late Proinsias Stagg, Bridie, has refuted the FitzGerald version, which stated that the Coalition régime had intervened in the hero's funeral to carry out the wishes of his widow.

He said that everything that took place was at the behest of Mrs. Stagg and that she had not, on any account, wanted a Republican military funeral.

Dr. FitzGerald challenged Jack Lynch to consult the widow again on whether the body should remain in the Republican Plot in League Cemetery - to which it was dramatically transferred early in November.

Facts distorted

"The spokesman for Mrs. Stagg has told the Irish Post that Dr. FitzGerald's version is a distortion of the facts. 'At all times she was agreeable that Frank be interred with military honours and that his own wishes in this regard be adhered to, she made this clear in a statement given to the Dublin press on February 20th, 1976. Mrs. Stagg said: 'I am not a Republican'.

The report continues: "Mrs. Stagg had reservations about her husband's funeral being turned into a huge and emotive political demonstration but, she said, never sought to deny military honours."

"When asked if Mrs. Stagg favours the remains staying in the Republican Plot grave to which they have now been transferred, the spokesman said that this could be taken to be so."

The spokesman, according to the report, said: "She certainly will not be calling on the present government or anybody else to have the remains returned to the original grave and Dr. FitzGerald acted most unfairly in seeking, solely for the purpose of self-interest, that the present government, to drag Mrs. Stagg back onto the political stage."

"It is Mrs. Stagg's wish that this painful episode be brought to a close. She has suffered enough over the past four years."

PAC ACCUSES AMNESTY ON POW ISSUE

THE Prisoners Aid Committee picketed the Norwegian Embassy in London on Saturday, 10 December, to protest against the award of the Nobel Prize for Peace to Amnesty International.

The work of the PAC over the last six years has been concerned with the treatment of Irish political prisoners in the country in which Amnesty has its headquarters - England.

During this period and particularly in the last three-four years, Irish political prisoners have been treated appallingly, yet on no occasion has Amnesty International protested against the country in which Amnesty has its headquarters - England.

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1 - In 1973-74 a total of nine Irish political prisoners were force-fed for a long period, four of them for months. As a result of

this treatment, which is known as well as physical injury, one prisoner, Michael Gaughan, died. Constant appeals were made to Amnesty during this period to condemn this treatment. These were ignored even though the World Medical Association condemned the force-feeding of prisoners and the Labour Government gave an undertaking that it would never again be used against prisoners of "sound mind".

1 - In November 1975 Amnesty (British Section) held a conference on torture as part of a world-wide campaign against torture and information was given to two workshops on the prison conditions and treatment of Irish prisoners in England and Ireland. At the time the PAC was told that further work would be done on this, but nothing further was heard and furthermore the MP, Gwyneth Dunwoody, who chaired the meeting, refused to allow a resolution of the treatment of Irish prisoners to be put to the meeting.

Forced confessions
3 - To coincide with the

Campaign against Torture in 1975 the PAC furnished Amnesty with information about the treatment of Irish political prisoners tortured in police custody, in particular the case of the six prisoners unjustly convicted for the Birmingham pub bombs as a result of having been tortured into making "confessions". Nothing more was heard of this.

4 - During the hunger strike of the late Proinsias Stagg, Amnesty was asked to intervene on his behalf and raise with the Home Office the conditions in which he had been held for three years. His case was still under consideration when he died.

5 - In early 1977 Amnesty together with the NCCL and the Howard League for Penal Reform produced a "Report" on an incident in which six Irish political prisoners were savagely beaten by screws in Albany, sustaining severe injuries. The "Report" not only totally ignored the political significance of this assault, but it left nothing more than an "appeal" to the Home Office for more humane treatment, including such a bonus as allowing prisoners

in solitary to have a pencil. It was left to the PAC to advise the men and their families to take legal action and as a result of this their cases are at present before the European Commission for Human Rights in Strasbourg. In fact a total of 40 such cases are now before the Commission on behalf of Irish political prisoners whose situation has been totally ignored by Amnesty.

6 - Amnesty does not support the rights of Irish political prisoners to write their sentences in Ireland nor does it fight, regard them as being political prisoners despite ample evidence of the political nature of their trials and treatment.

Amnesty has never condemned the brutalities of the British army of occupation in Ireland. In a recent letter to "The Guardian", the chairman of Amnesty in Britain, Paul Oestreich, denied that he had implied in a speech that the British army had been guilty of torturing people in Ireland.

(Ar leannint ar lch. a 4)

THE AMERICAN BETRAYAL



Máire comerford continues her series

Neutron bomb to fall on an Irish target?

THE PUBLIC opinion of Americans, demonstrated in protests against the horrors of the Vietnam war, and again in the case of ex-President Nixon has given an example to the world and should provide us in Ireland with much encouragement.

It is a matter of life and death for us that American public opinion should turn its attention in this direction quickly. The English have put their most brutal commander into the north-east against us and, at the same time, announce the return there of the Parachute Regiment which carried out the massacre of Bloody Sunday, in Derry city, in January 1972.

There are no more signs of impending withdrawal.

These Paratroopers are, of course, NATO troops well trained to pursue and liquidate freedom fighters without regard for rules of war; protected by a censorship even more stringent than that which held the young American citizen, Pease Patrick Kerr, for three long months in prison without charge or trial.

Sinister moves

What Philadelphia did for him when his plight was known and relieved, the public opinion of Americans must be asked to do for Ireland in this extremity of violent aggression.

That the matter is urgent would appear from the timing of these troop movements. President Carter is dated to consult with NATO, in January, about the neutron bomb.

Whatever blow is planned will have fallen before he comes.

The holiday time; the Christmas trees lit up in the peaceful towns and cities of the New World may this year cover more, even greater horrors, than any yet experienced, horrors comparable to those in Vietnam.

The efforts of 800 years have failed to liquidate the Irish nation. The neutron bomb could do it. That the Parachute Regiment was withdrawn from Derry in 1972 was due in great part to the unfortunate fact, from the English view point, that their murderous deed, when they killed 13 unarmed people, young and old, in an hour, had aroused the long dormant interest of Americans in Ireland.

Propaganda, and the admission of counter-revolutionary Dublin politicians to the international talking shop and the Freemasonry of Big-power association, had hidden the fate of the partitioned six counties of Ulster.

Lying label

In their case, a totally different fabrication was put forward based on a supposed war of religion.

If depicted England as the benevolent spectator — and dispenser of much money — ready to retire at the moment when the natives of the so-called province would agree to a power-sharing home rule within the "province."

The question whether or not England was in fact ready and willing to leave seems to be settled in the negative with this new disposition of troops and other evidence pointing in the same direction.

What is England without America? Only the remains of dead power. When represented at international round tables she is free to talk, like Dublin, otherwise she is reduced to taking her orders.

She is powerful, by permit, in Belfast or Bermuda. Not any longer in Africa, where no one now remembers "the all-Red line" from Cairo to the Cape. Only the harm she did is relevant.

If we assume that the imperialist and capital-inspired motives for conquering Vietnam were comparable to the motives of the English in Ireland we can go on from there to examine the components of England's strength as displayed against us.

Weakest link?

A chain is only as strong as its weakest link. Why did the great power chain break at Vietnam? Why does the chain hold in Belfast?

Compare what President Wilson called the conscience of mankind to another chain the link of which could and should encircle the world wherever people are suffering under tyranny. A chain of brotherhood.

The Irish have, perhaps, served this individually as emigrants in a situation which drew a brave and generous response here and there.

But, as a nation, those among us who could possibly be accused of possessing such a thing as a conscience have been concerned mainly with our own great troubles to the exclusion of those of other peoples.

This is where Irish Republicans might do well if we examined ourselves in our capacity as a link in the conscience of mankind.

What are our reactions to the fate of Steve Biko in South Africa?

Where was the protest meeting? The brutal details emerging from the inquest ringed the world; but what link was forged by a response from Ireland?

I recall that after the death of Terence MacSwiney young Indian students broke away from the controls imposed by the Crown and made a link between India and Ireland.

It was claimed, too, that our example in those days helped in other directions. Some day I must try to disentangle my memories associated with Ma Woods of 131 Morehampton Rd., Donnybrook, and Lian O Maoliosa, Nehru and Gandhi and a mayor of Calcutta who, I think, never reached home.

He was thought to have been murdered by the English.

Paul O'Dwyer is the spokesman for the American League for an Undivided Ireland. He has supported many great causes.

He hopes to be here in January, to see what the English are doing in the north-east and to study the American involvement there.

I was honoured to have him here in my house, briefly, about 35 years ago. It might have been when we were celebrating the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, to have its 30th birthday next year, but without much success to celebrate.

How will Leinster House adjust itself when the NATO intent becomes clear and definite.

In the session of Dail Eireann which made Eamon de Valera President of Ireland in 1918, he made a statement which is suitable for study now — "Our first duty as the elected government of the Irish people will be to make it clear to the world the position in which Ireland now stands."

What answers has Lynch to give to these questions? Has NATO a lawful authority in Six Counties?

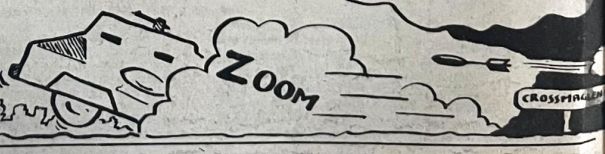


THIS IS OUR NEW SUPER SARACEN FOR USE IN SOUTH ARMAGH! ... IT HAS SIX GEARS.



FIVE OF THEM ARE REVERSE

IN CASE THE IRA ATTACK FROM BEHIND!!!!



AMNESTY UNDER SUSPICION

(Ar leantainn ó lch a 3)

spent long periods in solitary. Shane Paul O'Doherty is entering his second year; Brendan Dowd was 22 months in solitary; Joe Duffy was 13 months in solitary; Liam MacLarnon, two years in solitary; Gerry Cunningham Paul Hill, Ray MacLaughlin, John Walker have all spent periods of six months and over in solitary in the last 12 months. It is known that solitary can have massively damaging psychological effects. Steve Nerdonne was held under conditions of extreme sensory deprivation in a supposedly defunct control unit in Wakefield last year. None of these cases has been investigated by Amnesty.

Amnesty's record on the treatment of Irish political prisoners is appalling, the PAC statement continues. There are currently a score of prisoners serving massive sentences as a result of being framed by the police, yet Amnesty has taken up none of their cases although they

have received some publicity even in the bourgeois press.

Amnesty left itself to be used as a political tool by the British government when it launched an "initiative" in to the treatment of prisoners in the "Free State" which neatly coincided with the judgment against the British government by the European Court of Human Rights in the case of people tortured by the British army and RUC in Ireland.

They have shown no interest in the treatment of Irish people in police custody in England.

Perhaps this record is not surprising when we consider that amongst the "sponsors" of Amnesty in England are Harold Wilson, under whose prime ministerhip most of the brutalities outlined above took place; Lord Gardiner, responsible for the ending of "political status" for political prisoners in the Six Counties; Sir Keith Joseph, extreme right-wing representative of a party which supported 50 years of repression in Ireland accompanied by a

welter of legislation aimed at curtailing basic human rights in the Six Counties.

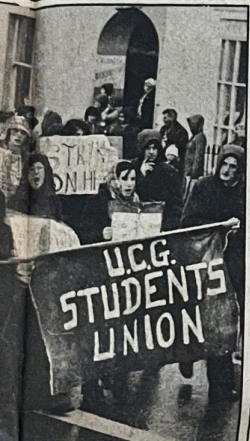
The "sponsors" also include numerous dignitaries who have never opened their distinguished mouths about the treatment of Irish people in England or Ireland. They include the Archbishop of Canterbury, Cardinal Hume, Jeremy Thorpe, Ralf Dahrendorf, Len Murray, the Chief Rabbi.

"While it is clear that it must be deeply embarrassing for Amnesty to find itself with its headquarters in the torture capital of Europe, we cannot but deplore that the opportunistic and politically selective stance they have taken. This has led to them being awarded a prize for "peace" while they have ignored the war waged on their very doorstep against Irish people who have dared to stand up and oppose British imperialism in Ireland.

"We urge you to make known your disgust at the award of the Nobel Peace Prize to Amnesty", the statement concludes.



Students in revolt against the stupidities and injustices of the status quo: Above, the dental students protesting outside the Dublin Departmental Education. Left: Students of U.C.G. and of Galway Regional Technical College join at Eyre Square to hold a protest meeting by the statue of Liam Ó Maoliosa.



Protest in blankets

PLANS for a parade in Sligo of men dressed only in blankets on December 17, to highlight conditions in H-Block, Long Kesh, were finalised at Comhairle Chiuige Chonnacht AGM in Strokestown, Co. Roscommon.

Each of Connacht's five counties will be represented in the Sligo parade.

Officers elected were: Cathaoirleach, John Joe McGill (south Leitrim); leas-do., and OCP(P.R.O.), John Costello (Roscommon); lunas, Carmel Hempenstall (Mayo), cisteoir, Dermot Mullooly (Roscommon); Brian McHugh (Sligo), oifigeach reigiunach, Tom Geraghty (Roscommon).

Ardchomhairle representatives: P.J. Kearney (Sligo) and Cathal Kelly (north Leitrim).

A vote of sympathy to the family of the late Joe McMorrow, Sligo, was passed during the AGM and especially to his son, JOE in Portlaoise Prison.

The Comhairle also passed a vote of congratulations to Carmel, on her recent marriage.

Tenants helped

WEXFORD Tenants and Residents' Association (re-organised recently by Sinn Féin) recently demonstrated at the municipal buildings in the town over the building and conditions of the Talbot Green housing estate.

After a deputation had been received at the Corporation's monthly meeting and details given the Association's demand that the Environment Minister be asked to hold a public inquiry was endorsed unanimously by Councillors.

● Cumann Phádraig Uí Fhearáill, Wexford, deserves congratulations for a successful protest in the people's interests.

BELFAST NOTEBOOK

Judge so gentle with killer squads

Le Seán Connolly

THE RECENT cases, involving members of the UVF killer squads, to appear before the Belfast City Commission, have brought to the fore some interesting facts.

On November 25, a UVF member, Moore McFarland from Ballymena, walked free from the Orange court after the judge refused to even impose a "suspended" sentence on him.

McFarland had appeared along with 13 other UVF members on charges ranging from armed robbery to shooting through the windows of a Catholic home where a mother and her young children were present.

The judge, Mr. "Justice" Kelly, told McFarland: "An official tells me that, but for this criminal charge, you would have been champion recruit (in the Royal Irish Rangers)." I want to take every step so that you can continue your career in the army."

Kelly went on to tell McFarland that he would not impose even a suspended sentence on him as such a step would jeopardise his chances of promotion in the Crown forces.

The other 13 UVF personnel grinned broadly as the benevolent Orange hack doled out derisory sentences.

Four were given absolute discharges or suspended sentences and joined McFarland for a celebration drink.

Mock trial

The other nine were given sentences of as few as 18 months. Most had been on remand for more than nine months and walked out free.

Considering that sentences handed out to IRA Volunteers appearing on "membership" charges have been consistently rising the mock trial involving the UVF men is seen by the Republican population, and civil liberty bodies, as an insult.

One young man is at present serving a mammoth 10 year

sentence for "membership" while more than 1,000 others, many in H-Block, are serving terms ranging from five to eight years for this "offence".

Several days after the above case another UVF man appeared at the same court and was given a minimum 18 month sentence by Judge Babington, notorious for his anti-Republican diatribes.

It seems that the UVF, the most vicious of the pro-Brit counter gangs, is gaining "respectability" in the eyes of the Orange courts.

Belfast city centre is fast becoming a "no-go" area for young Republican women. Repressive "screenings" and arrests are now at a record level. It is virtually impossible for a young woman to enter the Royal Avenue area from the Falls Road without being followed and stopped.

Large numbers of Crown forces arrest teams, plus plain clothes members of the alien war machine, lurk in shop doorways throughout two square miles of the city centre.

Civilians entering the city from the west are all "suspect" in the eyes of the demoralised Brits.

Recent publicity surrounding the stripping and photographing of young girls by male Brits has not had any noticeable effect on the activities of the colonial army.

One Tuesday recently 20 young girls were arrested outside the Unemployment Exchange and held, in pouring rain, for over one hour while details of their home life were taken by a combined military RUC squad.

Each girl was asked her religion. Those who refused to answer were threatened with the "heavy squad" in Castlereagh.

Despite the increased reign of repression Orlaigh na hEireann continues to wreak destruction on the economic heart of Belfast.

Incendiary attacks continue unabated as the frantic efforts of the Brits are directed against innocent civilians.

POEMS FROM THE REVOLUTION

Why War?

I am called a terrorist,
A murderer, a man without a conscience,
Without heart or soul:
It suits their purpose,
For, if truth prevail,
Who would aid them?

I have a heart and
I have a soul:
Both bursting with things to say
I have so much I want to say,
So much to tell, to explain,
But first I must wage war.

They say I enjoy war.
It is claimed war is my LSD, my drug, my high.

But I hate war.
I don't want to kill, destroy,
I want to work, to build,
But first I must wage war.

Why war?
Can't we talk, explain, understand each other?
It's impossible, they won't listen,
They twist and distort what I say
They always have.
It suits their purpose — to control
So, first I must wage war.

—Ristead Mac Amhlaidh.

Was it a crime

To harken to the needs of his people,
to want to force the chains of bondage out of sight,
to bear the phantom footsteps of Connolly and Pearse,
to shed tears for his country's wrongs,
to strive to make them right?

Was it a crime
to know the passions of a slave yearning to be free,
to be quided by the ghostly whispering or Emmet and Tone,
to look at his nation, divided and yet unconquered,
to watch the foe, to see the sufferings they caused, the damage they had done?

Was it a crime
to walk the streets of his native home
to see what they had done, the oppressor, the foe,
to feel the hate poise his young heart,
to pledge himself to the cause that they must go?

Was it a crime
to think of those, thus freedom lost,
to take their place, the cause to fight
to feel the surge of freedom, revenge in his blood,
to join with comrades true, to answer England's might?

If this was a crime
what, then, was their butchering of Derry
their slaughterings in Belrast, their whitewash, their lies?
What then was the tortures of notorious Castlereagh,
the cruel inhuman treatment that caused the just world to cry?

If he is a criminal
this man, alone, naked, in a prison cell,
what, then are the uniformed thugs, the
hired professional killers we know so well?

What, then is Roy Mason, his support for deeds, world renowned?
If this freedom fighter on the prison cell is a criminal
What then, shall we name, the British Crown?

ALL IRELAND WILL BE THERE

AN CUMANN CABRACH

Annual Testimonial Dinner
to honour
veteran Republicans.

MRS PATSY O'HAGAN
Ulster

MRS WOODS
Leinster

TOM KELLEHER
Munster

TOM MAGUIRE
Connacht

CÉILÍ AND BALLADS
in

Clare Manor Hotel (Malahide Road, Dublin)

Friday, January 6th next

21.00 — 02.00

Dress: informal

Tickets £5.00 (four-course dinner)

SPOTS Galore

BUS ROUTES

South Dublin: 7.30 p.m. from Dundrum through Churchtown; Rathfarnham Church; Terenure Cinema; Walkinstown, Crumlin (Submarine Bar); Dolphins Barn fire station; Harold's Cross Bridge; Portabello Bridge; Charlemont St.; 44 Parnell Square on to Clare Manor.

North Dublin: 7.30 p.m. from Blanchardstown; Palmerstown (West County); Ballyfermot; Inchicore; James Street; Church Street; Phibsboro; Finglas (Superquinn); Ballymun/Collins Avenue Lights; Whitehall; Griffith Avenue/Malahide Road lights; Raheny; on to Clare Manor.

Bus return fare: 50p.

TICKET SELLERS please forward cash returns as soon as possible to Mrs P. King, secretary, Ceili Committee, 44 Parnell Square, Dublin 1.

ENQUIRIES TO - Phone 314941 or 592863.

Cúrsaí eachtracha Foreign affairs

Genocide in the Americas continues

THE Economic Commission of the International NGO Conference on Discrimination against Indigenous Populations in the Americas - 1977 - during two full days of discussion heard indigenous peoples' organisations and nations from north, south and central America and from a number of representatives of NGOs. This report summarizes these presentations and the discussion in the Commission.

The indigenous populations and nations of the western hemisphere are suffering from all forms of genocide, from colonialist and neo-colonialist type conditions, from racism and discrimination, slavery and peonage, from the most extreme kinds of economic deprivation, including malnutrition and starvation, and from the super-exploitation of their labour.

These immediate everyday realities occur under the justification of racist ideology and Anglo - or Hispanic cultural superiority, which is used as the pretext for the continued plunder of the lands, resources and labour of indigenous people throughout the Americas.

Le Risteárd Behal

resources are coveted by transnational corporations.

The expropriation of the wealth, the lands and resources of the indigenous populations in the Americas resulted in the brutal extermination of 90 per cent. of the pre-Columbian population and yielded the vast capital - 40 million dollars a year in gold and silver which guaranteed the rapid economic growth and industrialisation of Europe.

Many of the genocidal practices of past centuries - such as extermination, germ warfare, peonage, slavery and forced resettlement - are still being used today in certain countries of the Americas, albeit with the use of modern methods.

Indeed, there are in some cases actual systematic plans for the future elimination of indigenous populations where land and

Birth control

To these classic genocidal practices must now be added techniques and processes of the contemporary age, such as birth control, sterilization, various kinds of forced assimilation, government bureaucratic practices, destruction of the environment and numerous national 'development' programs, which are being employed in the name of progress.

The colonial-like status of indigenous peoples and nations is dramatically demonstrated by the fact that they are on the lowest rung of the economic ladder

At the news conference before the Irish information tour of France began (from left) Roger Fallot, tour organiser; Jim Gibney, Sinn Féin (Foreign Affairs) and Niall Lennox, Irish Republican Socialist Party. The information tour, to explain the Irish freedom struggle, was organised by the new French paper, "Irlande Libre".

throughout the hemisphere. They manifest the highest unemployment - often 70 to 90 per cent. - the lowest wages, the lowest life expectancy - far below that of the dominant societies - the greatest infant mortality rates, widespread malnutrition and starvation and appalling health and housing conditions.

Everywhere in the hemisphere, native peoples are resisting the continuing theft of their lands and resources.

There is growing unity in this struggle which has resulted in some victories such as the halting by the Dene Nation of the construction of the natural gas pipeline through the MacKenzie Valley of Canada.

PEARSE CENTENARY ONLY A YEAR AWAY

IN THE current issue of "Treoir", the magazine of Irish traditional music, song and dance, published by Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann, the editorial recalls that Pádraig Pearse was born in 1879 and that the centenary of his birth will be commemorated in 1979.

The editorial suggests that Pearse "was a man of great cultural vision who, in his quest

for national identity, immersed himself in the community life of the Connemara Gaeltacht: he lived in his small cottage at Rosmuc; absorbed the characteristics and philosophy of the people and subsequently transmitted these to his young charges in Scoil Éanna, Rathfarnham, Dublin".

Pádraig Mac Piarais could never accept that Irish children should be educated as "happy little English children". He devoted his life to

Message to PoWs from revolutionary priest

REV. Camilo Torres, the revolutionary priest, had this message for the prisoners of war: "From jail, the revolutionary must give the people the example of bravery and decisiveness, of self-sacrifice and loyalty to the Revolution. He must spend his time studying, preparing himself to understand better the justice of revolutionary ideals and toughening himself even more for the day he regains his freedom. "Furthermore, the political prisoner must show his guards and other prisoners that there is a fundamental difference between himself and the common criminal. The revolutionary must demand by his conduct that his jailors treat him as a fighter for the people. "There is nothing more demoralising for the enemy than our bravery, than our integrity. Instead of feeling shame for being a prisoner, the revolutionary must feel pride in the fear he invokes in the capitalist ruling class, pride in the fact that he suffers persecution for justice."

(Ar leanúint ar chúil)



Ireland: the British Gulag

TO COINCIDE with the introduction of the first edition of "Irlande Libre" (Free Ireland): a two-week tour has been organised. The collective from "Irlande Libre" invited representatives from the Republican Movement and I.R.S.P. to France to explain to the French people the truth about the situation in Ireland and the reasons why the British are there.

Our comrades from "Irlande Libre" explained why they had decided to publish a newspaper and title it as they did. "There is a tradition of solidarity among the French people for the Irish people in their struggle against Britain, dating back to the 1798 Rising, when Wolfe Tone was assisted by the French navy when they attempted to land and conquer Ireland for the Irish people.

"When Maud Gonne MacBride lived for a period in Paris during 1897 she was the editor of the first issue of "Irlande Libre". She, helped by French comrades, produced this paper for the Irish-French community", said Roger Fallot, author of a book on Ireland called "La Résistance Irlandaise" and a member of the collective organising the tour.

"Irlande Libre", the name of the paper, was taken from the original printed in 1897.

"The need for a journal to explain the Republican struggle by the Irish people is as important today as it was in 1897", said Roger.

The theme of the tour, "Ireland, the British Gulag", is very appropriate and gave us the opportunity to describe in detail life for the Irish people under British domination and the partition of Ireland.

A film, "Ireland Behind the Wire", is shown by way of an introduction to the addresses. The collective, "Irlande Libre" has organised an extensive tour of France and meetings have been arranged with people who represent a wide spectrum of political opinion in that country.

Our first meeting was a press conference in Paris attended by a few members of the bourgeois press. An outline of the history of the colonisation of Ireland was given to help make comprehensible the Irish situation and also to explode the myth created by the British press that the war in Ireland is a religious conflict.

A Protestant Minister present and who works for an organisation called C.I.M.D.E., showed much interest and informed us that she had been to Ireland many times.

Protestant support

She supported the Irish people's demand to self-determination and she expressed concern on hearing details about 'H' block, Long Kesh; Crumlin Road Jail, all English prisons and Armagh Women's Prison.

Le Jim Gibney

We were invited to address her associates, many of whom are Protestant ministers.

In discussion we explained the Six Counties judicial system based on non-jury courts and how the torture used to extract statements was disregarded by the judges when the prisoners complained.

She was perturbed on hearing about the lack of interest shown by some solicitors, barristers and the professional class in general in condemning the judicial system and the methods used to extract statements from suspects.

Our first public meeting was organised by our comrades in Lyon, Southern France. They are working in co-operation with the paper, "Irlande Libre". Here we addressed about 60 people.

The debate after the addresses was very interesting and questions were asked about why the British are in Ireland.

Many people took the opportunity provided by the tour organisers to buy a postcard to send to a prisoner "on the blanket".

Wall slogans

An Irishwoman attending the meeting and who has lived in France for the past 35 years summarised the meeting by expressing the desire of all Irish people to see her country reunited and free from British interference.

Next section of the tour brought us to Grenoble. Here again we met people very interested in the struggle for Irish liberation.

The comrades in Grenoble had the town centre covered with posters informing the public about the meeting and on several walls it was encouraging to see slogans calling for a British withdrawal from Ireland.

The film, "Ireland behind the Wire" was shown to about 100 people. It deals with the period of struggle from the early stages of civil rights to 1972 and is an

excellent visual account of the tactics used by the RUC and British army to quell resistance.

The film prompted many questions about harassment and brutality by these same Crown forces today. Questions about the torture of political prisoners and torture in interrogation centres were asked. The public was relieved to hear that the I.R.A. had no plans to massacre Protestants or pack them off to England.

It was pointed out that the Republican Movement did not desire confrontation and hoped that the Protestant community would play its role in building a New Ireland on the basis of equality with the rest of the Irish people when the Crown withdraws.

One questioner pointed out to us that the reporting of events about the Irish struggle in his country (Canada) had led him and his people to believe the conflict was religious. We were pleased to hear him say that he now realised he had been duped by the British press and media and that he would tell his friends the truth.

Prison struggle

The following day our comrades organised a meeting with the deputy Mayor of Grenoble and the "chargé d'affaires internationales". Both are elected members of the local administration and influential members of the French Socialist Party.

Through our interpreters we explained that there were 3,000 political prisoners in Ireland and that at present the Crown is engaged in a prolonged campaign of brutality against them.

It was pointed out to both socialist administrators that attempts to gain access to the Belgrade Conference on Human Rights, to explain to the world what is happening to the men and women protesting about the withdrawal of political status in Six Counties was taking place and any assistance they could give would be very welcome.

Both men were reasonably well informed about the true reasons why Britain is in Ireland. They were interested in hearing about the "boom" in the Six Counties economy by Roy Mason's injection of 1,000 million and his well publicised tour of American cities, encouraging industrialists to invest in Ireland.

They were pointed out that North-East Ireland had an inflation rate of 16 per cent. and that unemployment was 10 per cent. and rising weekly.

It was pointed out that the problem was not the provision of employment but the British presence in our country.

We discussed the "peace" movement. It was pointed out that they were now irrelevant in Irish politics.

(Ar leanúint ar chúil)

CHRISTMAS greetings and blessings to all my friends especially those in concentration camps and jails. From May Daly, Furies.

CHRISTMAS greetings to my Paddy Shanahan, P.O.W. in Portlaoise Prison, from Paddy and Catherine.

HAPPY CHRISTMAS to my dad, Paddy Shanahan in Portlaoise Prison, from Mary, Tony, Gary and Sinead.

HAPPY CHRISTMAS to my dad, Paddy Shanahan in Portlaoise Prison U.T.P. from Sean, Rita, Deirdre and Martina.



THE G.H.Q. staff, officers and volunteers of Cumann na mBan extend Christmas greetings to our comrades in Six Counties, "Free" State and English jails.

BÁIL O DHÁ ar mhíneach chimi an chogaídh sa mbaile agus thar lear, idir mhna is fhir is ghasúir, anois agus faile na Nollag, baillte linn agus iad scartha óna muintir. Go mbeirimid beo — agus saor — ag an am seo arís!
— Ardchomhairle, Sinn Féin.

GOD BLESS the courage of the prisoners of war at home and abroad, women, men and children, at this Christmas time, when they are separated from their loved ones. May we be alive — and free — by this time next year.
— Ardchomhairle, Sinn Féin.

GUÍÓN FÓIREANN an phaiseir seo thar Dé ar chimi an chogaídh, cibe aith bhfuil siad, in Éirinn no thar lear, faoi ghlas ag gailleibh.



GEALLANN MUID go ndeanfaidh muid iarracht níos fearr fos sa mbliain atá romhainn chun páisear déin scoth a thóisiú ar leas na gcimí agus an náisiúin.

TO ALL our comrades in chains, in Ireland and in England, our thoughts are with you. You serve Ireland well.
Michael Faughan Cumann.

ALBERT FLYNN (Portlaoise): Happy Christmas and New Year from Jacqueline.

Beannachtaí na Nollag



CHRISTMAS greetings to all our prisoners from McNulty-Cannon Cumann, Raheny, Dublin.

CHRISTMAS greetings to the boys of Wexford from the three women in New Ross.

CHRISTMAS greetings to all PoWs from the Tomas Gibson Cumann, Portarlating.

NOEL SILLERY (Cage 12, Long Kesh) — Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year, from all his family and friends.

ANN and EILEEN GILLESPIE (Durham Jail, England): Christmas greetings from Michael.



PAT GUILFOYLE ("Tipp"), Garree Prison, England: Best Wishes for Christmas from Michael.

KEVIN O'BRIEN, Long Kesh: Best Wishes for Christmas and the New Year from Michael, Alice and Clara.

NOEL SILLERY, Cage 12, Long Kesh: Christmas greetings from Alice, Michael and Clara.

VIVION HAYDEN, Portlaoise Jail: Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year from Joseph, Brian and Roisin.

JOHN HAYES, Wakefield England: Best Wishes for Christmas and the New Year from Lita.

TO Joe O'Reilly, Dan Murphy, Jim Monaghan, Mick Fox and all the lads, wishing you all a merry Christmas.
— O'Rourke family.

TO DADDY, a very happy Christmas. Love, Aine.

EUGENE FANNING Portlaoise Prison: A happy Christmas to Eugene. We miss you. Love always, Sheila.

CHRISTMAS greetings to Eugene Fanning from Ma, Pa, Tom and Chris.

THE LEADERSHIP of the Republican Movement salutes the prisoners of war at home and abroad, praises their steadfastness and promises that there will be no relaxation until the objectives of the freedom struggle have been realised, among them the unconditional freedom of the PoWs.

BIRTHDAY greetings to Danny O'Sullivan in Portlaoise Prison — Love from Mary, Mum and Dad. U.T.P.

BEANNACHTAÍ na Nollag — To all the boys and girls, men and women who suffered in prisons in Ireland and England for Ireland and Oeasu, especially those from Craggan and most especially those "On the Blanket." Your dedication and courage sustain our hope for Ireland's freedom, pray for us, that we, too will have "what it takes" to stand by, your side when the "crunch" comes! Beannacht Dé libh, Patricia, the Derry Yank.



BEANNACHTAÍ do Cholm agus do Chaoimhin sa charcáir i bPortlaoise on mBreatain.

CHRISTMAS greetings to Paric in Portlaoise. "Half way home now." From Angela with love.

HAPPY CHRISTMAS Paric McNeela with love from Mary and all in Ballycrov.

ALBERT FLYNN — greetings from mother, six brothers and two sisters, who also greet Tony Mulally.



CHRISTMAS greetings to my dear husband, Paddy Shanahan in Portlaoise Prison, not forgetting all his comrades, from your loving wife Lil.

TO JACKIE BRADY in Portlaoise Prison, Happy Christmas Jackie and keep your chin up. There's somebody out there thinking of you. From Cora and George Marshall and family.

TO EAMONN SULLIVAN, Tony Mulally and all the lads in prisons North and South and in England and America. To wish you a Happy Christmas and hope it's the last one behind bars. Victory. From McCabe/Quigley Cumann, Ballymun/Finglas.

GREETINGS to Paddy Shanahan from Martin Forsyth Cumann, Rathfrilandham.

TO Kevin Mallon and Gerry Quinn, a happy Christmas, from the Ennis family.

CHRISTMAS greetings to Eugene Sloan in Portlaoise Prison. All my love, Una. U.T.P.

CHRISTMAS greetings to Mick Morgan, Jordie and Muscles, Portlaoise Prison, Una, U.T.P.

EAMONN McCANN (Portlaoise) Happy Christmas from Jack Murphy and family.



GREETINGS and encouragement to all Republican Prisoners in jails throughout England and Ireland from their friends and comrades in the Casement/Nolan Cumann Sinn Féin, Dun Laoghaire, especially to those men and women serving long prison sentences. "It is not those who inflict most but those who endure most who will triumph."

CHRISTMAS greetings to Bobby McNamara, Portlaoise Prison, from his father, mother and family and the Republican Movement in Limerick.

CHRISTMAS greetings to all my friends in "The Bog" from Lita.

TO ALL our comrades in chains in England and Ireland, our thoughts are with you. You serve Ireland well. Michael Gaughan Cumann, Dublin.



CHRISTMAS greetings to Paul Pattison, Portlaoise Jail, Hope your next one will be spent in Freedom. Always thinking of you. "Lipsmackin" Eileen.

MICHAEL QUINLAN: Christmas greetings. From his mother, father, brothers, sister and nephew.

ERIC MONTGOMERY Christmas greetings. From father, mother, brothers and sister.

TONY MULLALLY Christmas greetings. From his wife, 2 sons and his mother.

ALBERT FLYNN Christmas greetings. From his mother, six brothers and two sisters.

JOE ENNIS: — Hope you have a Happy Christmas from your friends around Ballinagh. We all miss you.

SINCERE WISHES for a happy Christmas to all prisoners in Portlaoise, Long Kesh and English jails — Mrs. McCoy, Rosera.

BEST WISHES for a happy Christmas to Jerry Finnan in Portlaoise — Mrs. McCoy, Rosera.

BEANNAIÖNN ceannasaocht Ghluaisceach na Pobhachta do chimi an chogaídh sa mbaile agus thar lear. Sos na scith n' ligfidh muid go dtí go mbeid na cuspair náisiúna i gcrích agus, orthu siúd, cimi an chogaídh saor neamhspleach arthuair.



Birthday greetings to NOEL GIBSON, Parkhurst, Prison, on Dec. 11. Remembered by all in Thomas Gibson Cumann, Portarlating.

To Hugh Doherty in Leicester Jail

Birthday greetings are sent to Hugh on his 27th birthday — From Madge, Ann Marie, Maureen, in Glasgow. From Joseph, Jim, Edward and Paul. From John, Annagry, Co. Donegal. From Una, with all my love, in Annagry. From brother Pat, Mary and the children in Carrigart.

Beannachtaí na Nollag

SPONSORED SWIM

Christmas morning, third lock canal bridge Inchicore, Dublin. Sponsored cards: Mick O'Malley, 11 Abercorn Terrace, Inchicore.

— ROBERT EMMET CUMANN

Irish classes

Irish classes are run every Wednesday, beginning at 21.00 hours, in 5 Blessington Street, B.A.C.

Comhairlecheantar Thuaidh

Grand Cabaret Show

PENTHOUSE, Ballymun

Fri. Dec. 16.

Jimmy Day and Pepper

John Gannon

MANY OTHER ARTISTES

Tosú: 19.30 Táille: 50p

SHOP AT THE CRAFT CENTRE FOR CHRISTMAS GIFTS

SAVE money and help swell the prisoners' dependants' fund by buying Christmas cards and gifts in the Craft Centre, 44 Parnell Square, Baile Átha Cliath. Splendid collection of prisoners' craft work, jewellery, records and cassette tapes, and books are available.

Why not buy a year's subscription to "An Phoblacht" and "Republican News" for a friend, a Christmas present that lasts the entire year? Inquiries: Phone 747611.

Christmas appeal

THERE ARE more than 100 Irish Republican Prisoners-of-War in British gaols. An Cumann Cabhrach (England) hopes to make Christmas as pleasant for them as possible.

We appeal to readers of "An Phoblacht" in England to help us to help the prisoners and their families by sending donations and contributions to: M. Holden, Box 8, 182, Upper Street, London, N.1. All contributions will be gratefully received and acknowledged.

AN CUMANN CABHRACH

(Republican Prisoners' Dependants' Fund)

CÉILÍ

Wonderland Ballroom, Bawnboy

Friday, December 23
Ceol: Doonaree Ceili Band

This ceili is being run in aid of the wives and families of Republican prisoners of war by Belurbet Sinn Féin Cumann. Táille: £1

Provisionals

We owe it to those who have died to complete the task they nobly served. Previous generations have failed — we must not.

JANUARY						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

These calendars, at 30p each, are available from our Craftshop, 44 Carnóg Parnell, Baile Átha Cliath.

Strip-searching in the streets illegal, Mason

STRIP-SEARCHING by Crown forces of women passengers, photographing of taxi drivers and passengers and questioning them about religion, all are illegal, according to a statement from the Falls Taxi Association, Belfast, last weekend.

Nine days on hunger strike

RECENTLY released from Limerick Jail were two members of Carmody - O'Rahilly Cumann, Ballylongford, Co. Kerry, Bill O'Shea and Joe Morrissey, after serving a month for selling Easter lilies.

When interviewed by the Governor on their arrival at prison they demanded political status, asking to be sent to Portlaoise, to serve their sentences there. When refused they went on hunger strike and continued it for nine days.

The Governor and deputy-Governor promised to contact the Department about their demands but no day after day passed and there was no word from the authorities.

Neither of the prisoners' next of kin were notified that they were on hunger strike.

Regardless of what Collins claims about improved conditions in prisons as to food, recreation, exercise, he should visit Limerick prison where conditions are atrocious.

People's post in Belfast

Andersonstown Advice Centre has announced that a postal service similar to that conducted successfully in Derry last year, will be in operation in Belfast from various Advice Centres.

An appeal has gone out for volunteers to operate the service. These are asked to call at 77b Andersonstown Road or phone 622904, and leave names, addresses and hours available for work.

Cuimhnítear ar Sheán Sabhat

The anniversary of the death in action of Seán Sabhat will be commemorated in Limerick on January 1.

Parole rejected

A Crown offer to allow Republican Prisoners of War home for Christmas has been rejected. A Republican spokesman said "Republican prisoners have never accepted the offer in the past and they will not be accepting it this year, as a matter of principle."

The taximen issued a public challenge to Gauleiter Roy Mason to explain under what section of the Emergency Provisions Act the offending soldiers claimed to be acting.

The FTA also has criticized the Crown's press office in Lisburn for its "feeble attempt" to justify such violations of human and civil liberties.

The statement, which is signed by Mr. P. Donnelly, adds that the FTA has been informed by the Civil Liberties, their solicitor and the Association for Legal Justice that the three points mentioned were illegal and contravene their basic human rights and that they should stop immediately.

"We also ask anyone who has been subjected to this degrading treatment to contact the Falls Taxi Association so that we may take legal action on their behalf," the statement concludes.

The FTA has 500 members.

Firemen harassed

A member of the Middle Falls voluntary fire service has criticized the military for harassing some of its members.

Mr. Gerry Kelly, a spokesman for the service, said soldiers had lifted three of their members at 6 a.m. last Friday and interrogated them for four hours about the fire service and what equipment was being used.

Mr. Kelly said: "We see this as an attempt by the Brits to stop us operating in West Belfast, because they have already been over to our area taking names and addresses of volunteers."

Mr. Kelly added that all they were doing was providing a service in case fire broke out in the area.

Execution pledge

The following statement has been issued by Brigáid Heiste (Belfast Brigade), Oglaiha na hÉireann: "In recent weeks a series of robberies have taken place in the nationalist ghetto areas of Belfast; those robbed have ranged from social clubs to milkmen and in most cases have been robbed by a local gangster element using the name of the Republican Army."

"Our volunteers were not involved in these acts. Indeed it is our policy not to involve ourselves in this type of action."

"The Belfast Brigade would like to warn that anyone caught using the name of the Irish Republican Army in these circumstances will be executed," the statement ends.

Community service improves

AN improved system of the People's Fire Service is now operating in the Falls area of Belfast giving a 24 hour service.

This is an emergency fire service to cover domestic fires and will not be used when fires occur in commercial premises.

The People's Fire Service will not act as strike breakers but it has been found necessary to have an alternative method to combat fires when people's lives are endangered.

In an EMERGENCY RING: Andersonstown Advice Centre: Tel. 622904. (09.00 to midnight) Falls Area (Comprising Above) Tel. 46995 (midnight to 09.00 hrs).

Anyone who can volunteer to help man the phones, please phone the above addresses, giving name, address and hours available.

Centenary of (Ar leanant P. Pearse o'ich. a 6)

they are certainly not so impoverished, or spineless, that they would disown their sovereignty on the promptings of an alien philosopher. The Irish people know and respect their own, and the politician who ignores this is doomed to oblivion".

"Treoir" is published by Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann, Belgrave Square, Baile na Manach, Co. Bhaile Átha Cliath.

Ireland : British Gulag

(Ar leandtóir o'ich a 6)

By way of immediate practical assistance to the Irish struggle both men agreed to accept an article for their Socialist newspaper about the situation in Ireland, in particular, the torture of political prisoners.

That night we attended a meeting organised by the P.S.U., United Socialist Party of France. Here we were provided with facilities to erect a book stall and an opportunity to speak was also arranged.

Several organisations involved in similar work to that of "Ireland Libre" had stalls and we exchanged literature and expressions of solidarity.



As lár an chogaidh

FROM THE WAR ZONE

SATURDAY, DEC. 3

Ballinderry: The premises of Ballinderry Antiques were damaged when an incendiary device exploded.

Caledon: Another antique shop was badly damaged by a number of devices.

Dungannon: A firebomb exploded in Wellworth's store, Market Square, after a warning had been given.

Oglaiha na Éireann claimed responsibility for the three attacks but denied responsibility for a fire in a church hall on Black's Road, Dunmurry.

Enniskillen: Etam's store, High Street, was badly damaged after a firebomb exploded. An incendiary found in Gordon's carpet shop in the Arcade was defused.

Portrush: An incendiary device found in Graham's record shop was defused.

Belfast: The Golden Street Restaurant, University Street, was badly damaged by fire after an incendiary device went off.

MONDAY, DEC. 5

Belfast: A supermarket on Crumlin Road was damaged when a firebomb exploded. Brigáid Heiste claimed responsibility.

TUESDAY, DEC. 6

Belfast: The B. Coats and Sons upholstery warehouse, Talbot Street, was destroyed after two firebombs exploded. The adjoining premises of "Belfast News" also were damaged. Brigáid Heiste claimed responsibility.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 7

Belfast: An explosion badly damaged an architect's office at the corner of Malone Road and Eglantine Avenue.

To round off a very successful week of the tour of Southern France our friends in "Ireland Libre" arranged an evening out to listen to a very famous folk singer from Quebec, Pauline Julien.

She writes and sings about the struggle of the women of the world and Quebec for liberation. She is also a socialist and ardent supporter of Quebec independence from Canada.

When I met her she accepted a copy of "H' Block, the Facts", and other literature written in French. She expressed solidarity with the Irish people in their struggle and wished us a speedy success.

