

MANDELA SHAMES IRISH COMPROMISERS



• NELSON MANDELA - would not repudiate armed struggle to win his freedom in 1975 ...

IRISH REPUBLICANS welcome the unconditional release of Nelson Mandela. We salute him on his uncompromising stand: for 27 years and seven months he has been a beacon-light to all lovers of freedom as an unyielding political prisoner of the White South African racist regime.

For the first twelve years of his sentence served in Robben Island prison, he and other political prisoners were forced to break stones with small hammers while sitting on the ground.

In 1975 he was offered immediate but conditional release if he would publicly repudiate and condemn the use of physical force against the oppressive apartheid regime.

He would not disown the banned organisations nor denounce the armed struggle. He would not regard the use of such double standards as "mere tactics".

PRINCIPLES

For him the highest political principles were at stake. And so he remained in jail for another fifteen years - until 1990 and his 72nd year rather than compromise himself and his Cause.

His stand contrasts sharply with the Leinster House politicians and the SDLP who are loud in his praise - even making him a Freeman of Dublin - and yet condemn the people's struggle against British rule and oppression in their own Six Occupied Counties.

Likewise his noble stand is in unyielding opposition to those in Free State Sinn Féin who agreed at their Ard-Fheis in January 1989 to take any British-imposed political test oath.

Their candidates in the Six-county local elections last May declared publicly that they "would not by word or deed express support for, or approval of" any banned organisation, e.g. the Irish Republican Army, Cumann na mBan or Fianna Éireann; they further repudiated publicly the use of armed force in the Cause of Irish Freedom.

JUSTIFIED

On the other hand, Mandela on the evening of his release told the world that

armed struggle was justified in 1960 following the Sharpeville Massacre of 69 black people when Umkhonto We Sizwe (Spear of the Nation) was founded. It was still justified in 1990, he asserted.

Irish Republicans, for their part, would reply that every means of struggle including physical force is justified against British rule in Ireland from 1169 (when the Anglo-Norman invaders first came here) to date in 1990.

Mandela later appealed to reformist and revolutionary black people not to fight each other. The common enemy was Apartheid, he said.

A Sinn Féin Poblachtach anti-extradition leaflet of two years ago asked if Fianna Fáil would extradite Nelson Mandela back to South Africa (if he had escaped from prison and come to the 26 Counties)?

EXTRADITION

This is a moot point in March 1990 with several political prisoners about to be extradited to the British by the Dublin administration. After all, Mandela was sentenced to life imprisonment for "conspiring to commit acts of sabotage", etc in South Africa.

Such "offences" are not "political" now in 26-county law, yet Free State minister Collins goes to Lusaka, Zambia to meet Mandela at the same time as Yasser Arafat, leader of the PLO greets the world's most famous political prisoner, recently released unconditionally.

The reason Mandela is universally acclaimed is because he did not compromise his Cause or himself. That is why we in Sinn Féin Poblachtach salute him and applaud the triumph of his indomitable spirit.

"In matters of principle there are no tactics" - Terence Mac Swiney.



BACK TO THE EMPIRE!

THE FIRST meeting of the 'British-Irish Inter - Parliamentary Body' in the Palace of Westminster over the three days February 26-28 surely marks the willing return to the British Empire by the 25 Irish participants.

The establishment media described the occasion as the first visit of Irish parliamentarians to Westminster to conduct formal business since 1918 - the date of Ireland's Declaration of Independence. Hardly a progressive move and one that is totally alien to the separatism upon which the Republican tradition is based.

'DOLLY MIXTURE'

In one way however it

is quite fitting that this 'Dolly Mixture' of Leinster House politicians - from Garret Fitzgerald on the right to Tomás Mac Giolla on the 'reformed' left - should end up in Committee Room 14 next door to where the Redmondites used meet before 1918. It marks the return of the Free Staters to their Mother Parliament.

Where, in fact, the 26-County state was conceived in the Government of Ireland Act (1920) and enacted without a single Irish vote (Unionist or Redmondite) in its favour, in true British-style democracy.

The awe and subservience which passing through the Central Lobby obviously inspires in the discredited politicians of

Leinster House can be gauged from Dick Spring's eagerness to tell British MPs that they are spending £180 million per year (or £51 per person in the 26 Counties) to protect their Border and that the 26 Counties had a far "better" record on extradition of people to Britain than had many other countries.

In fact the whole process is a reversal of the events in Eastern Europe and in the Soviet Union where nationalities such as the Lithuanians and Estonians are freeing themselves from imperialist control and re-asserting their separate identities - Leinster House politicians in contrast seem only too happy to have a state, if not a country, to sell.

SEE CENTRE PAGES

NEUTRALITY

REAL and UNREAL

50 YEARS AGO:

HUNGER-STRIKE IN MOUNTJOY

FOLLOWING the execution by hanging of Barnes and McCormack on February 7, 1940 and the first re-internments under the amended Offences Against the State Act two days later a dramatic event took place which lifted Republican morale.

With the creation of a new Northern Command in the IRA - which embraced units in the Six Occupied Counties plus Donegal - a recovery in Republican fortunes occurred in that part of Ireland.

Following receipt of accurate intelligence from the British Army Camp at Ballykinlar, Co. Down, a unit of the Belfast Battalion staged a lightning raid on the armoury there on February 10. While the much-sought-after Sten submachine-guns were missed, over 100 Lee-Enfield rifles were netted and taken safely to Belfast.

Not a shot was fired and one of the raiding party in high spirits pinned a note to the inside of the armoury door which quoted a ballad of the 1920s: "The IRA was far away in Johnson's motor car!"

IRA RADIO

The British kept silent about the raid in an attempt at cover-up but a new IRA radio had been broadcasting in Belfast for some weeks. It had come on the air following the seizure of the transmitter in Dublin on December 28 and its first news bulletin had been an account of the Christmas Day demonstration and fight by the Republican internees in Derry Jail.

The Belfast radio broke the good news next day: "Seo dhíbh Raidió Phoblacht na h-Eireann. This is the Irish Republican Army calling . . ." At 3pm and again at night transmitting took place on the medium waveband that day.

Normally the radio broadcasted once weekly after the programme had been distributed throughout the city. Bowyer Bell re-created the atmosphere of the time: "It was possible to walk through the side streets off the Falls Road at the appropriate time and hear every radio tuned in to the IRA broadcast, to the dis-

1942 but the radio in Belfast evaded capture until eventually in the autumn of 1940 it failed for want of spare parts.

Between them the Dublin and Belfast underground transmitters had the IRA on the air for eighteen months - from Easter 1939 to October 1940 - which was no mean feat in the circumstances of the time. The Dublin radio in contrast to its successor broadcast a short-wave at 21 metres, which wavelength was advertised in "War News".

RECOVERY

With the recovery of the Army in the Six Counties from the arrests and internments of December 1938 and October 1939, a move was made to galvanise into action the Western Command which was centred on Co. Galway with a young businessman from Headford named Tony Darcy as OC.

A meeting was summoned for the Meath Hotel at 40 Parnell Square, Dublin on February 17. Representatives of units in the five Connacht counties as well as Donegal, Tyrone, Belfast and elsewhere were instructed to go direct to the location on this occasion, but were to enter Dublin individually.

The OC South Roscommon Unit, Tommy McDermott who had been "on the run" since he was released from the first internment in Arbour Hill in December, cycled all the way to Dublin. At Kinnefad, Co. Westmeath Tony Darcy overtook him in his car, gave him a "thumbs up" sign, and continued alone as per instructions.

DISASTER

Disaster awaited them in the capital. Michael Traynor of Belfast as Adjutant-General represented GHQ Staff. He said years later at an Easter Commemoration in Co. Longford at the grave of Comdt. Barney Casey in Killoe (1951) that the purpose of the meeting was to implement plans "for the invasion and occupation of the Six North-Eastern Counties."

But matters did not proceed even to that subject. Traynor was taking notes and testing the arms and munitions under the control of each unit when Special Branchmen armed with sub-machine-guns entered the Hotel.

Free State troops in full war-kit had sealed off most of the western side of Parnell Square outside and 16 Volunteers were taken in the swoop. As in 1922 Free State action had prevented another blow aimed at British power in the Six Counties.

The men arrested got three months in Mountjoy for refusing to answer questions but the gates of the Curragh Concentration Camp would open for them on their release from jail.

MOUNTJOY CONDITIONS

Conditions in Mountjoy were bad in "D" Wing with poor food and a 4pm lock-up in the cells until 7.30am next morning, but worse still a small number of men held in connection with the Magazine Fort Raid in December were confined not in "D" Wing with the Republicans but in "A" Wing with the ordinary prisoners.

Political treatment was denied directly

in "A" Wing and this on top of poor conditions in "D" Wing would not be tolerated by the prisoners. In an effort to force change a hunger-strike for political status - not for release - was begun by the six-man prisoners staff in "D" Wing on February 25.

The staff consisted of: **Tomás Mac Cur-táin**, awaiting trial on a capital charge; **Tommy Grogan** of Drogheda (a brother of Lawrence) who was charged in connection with the Phoenix Park Raid; **Michael Traynor** and **Tony Darcy** recently held at the Meath Hotel; and **Seán Mc-Neela** and **Jack Plunkett** who were arrested when the Dublin-based radio was seized.



• Tony Darcy

The portents were not good. The Magazine Fort Raid and the shooting dead of a Special Branchman in Cork had intervened since the successful hunger-strikes for release of three Cork internees and Paddy McGrath before Christmas. The Emergency Powers Act and the Offences Against the State Act had been amended to copperfasten internment without trial.

MEETINGS BROKEN UP

The surge of protest and public feeling at the Birmingham hangings, the "suppressed passion" as it was called at the time, was not allowed to work in favour of the strikers in Mountjoy. Support meetings were broken up at the command of the Dublin Administration; telegrams of protest to Mrs. Kathleen Clarke, widow of Tom Clarke, 1916 Signatory, as Lord Mayor of Dublin were not delivered.

Even press notices of Masses being offered for the spiritual welfare of the men on hunger-strike were forbidden to be carried in the Dublin daily papers under the new war-time censorship.

The six prisoners were not throwing themselves upon the mercy of the Irish people who were not allowed to hear their case; in effect they were throwing themselves on the scant mercy of de Valera and his followers - and the hunger-strikers and their comrades had embarrassed the former President of Sinn Féin enough in the past year and more, it was felt in 26-county Establishment circles. The hunger-strikers were trapped.

Tim Pat Coogan graphically describes developments in Mountjoy itself: "On March 1 . . . it was decided to prevent them (McNeela and Plunkett) being taken to the (Military) court. The prisoners barricaded themselves in "D" Wing using

their beds, tables and anything else they could get, and armed themselves with the legs of tables and chairs. Some very savage fighting broke out when the warders, augmented by members of the Special Branch, stormed the barricades."

"Cornered, the prisoners fought fiercely and the police were not too particular how they subdued them. Traynor remembers seeing Darcy standing with his hands up after surrendering, when a policeman brought his baton down across his head."

HOSES

Hoses were turned on the prisoners. "With men who had been on hunger-strike for four days this was a harrowing ordeal", Coogan continues.

Later he quotes Gerry Boland's statement in Leinster House early in February that conceding to hunger-strikers had "got to stop". Coogan concludes that the Mountjoy strike "was obviously coming at a moment of peak determination on the government's part to resist such pressure and the men who rejected their food on February 25 realised this but were determined to die if necessary in order to achieve their aim."

On March 1 then, McNeela and Plunkett were sentenced to two years and eighteen months respectively for running an underground radio and were transferred to Arbour Hill and to St. Brigid's Military Hospital on March 27.

Tony Darcy and Michael Traynor got 3 months each for refusing to answer questions, were sent to Arbour Hill on March 5 and to St. Brigid's on March 27. Mac Curtain and Grogan were also removed to St. Brigid's. Tragedy loomed . . .

FINAL BLOWS IN ENGLAND

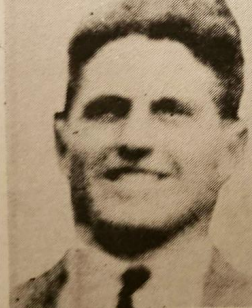
Meanwhile in England, the valiant few delivered their final blows. On March 1 in Salford an incendiary device ignited at a Bayswater stores. On March 4 another bus in Salford was burned and two days later there was an explosion at a bank in London's Park Lane.

St. Patrick's Day saw an explosion at the rear of Paddington Town Hall in London. The following day an unexploded bomb was found in a litter bin at Grosvenor Place, SW1 while another exploded at Westminster City Council refuse depot.

The English Campaign ended and the Six-County people were left to depend on their own resources for the time being due to action by the Dublin government. An assessment of the Sabotage Campaign in England will be made later in this series.

Note: **Brendan Behan** (16%) as related last month had gone to England but it is authoritatively learned that he had done so of his own accord. He had two years earlier attempted to go to Spain to fight for the Spanish Republic but was not accepted. He was already making a name for himself as a literary person.

(More next month: Refs: "Ar Ur Mo Shealbhá" le Tarlach Ó h-Uid, FNT 1960; "The IRA" by Tim Pat Coogan; "The Secret Army" by J. Bowyer Bell and "The Trial of Peter Barnes and Others" by Letitia Fairfield.)



• Seán McNeela


may of the RUC who had failed to turn up a clue to the wandering transmitter."

War News on about 10 gesterred sheets to each issue of 7,000 was distributed and continued circulation until

EASTER '90
 APPLICATIONS FOR SPEAKERS AT EASTER COMMEMORATIONS SHOULD BE MADE TO:
 AN RÚNAÍ
 COISTE CUIMHNEACHÁIN NAÍSIÚNTA OIFIG ÉIRE NUA
 13 ASTON PLACE, DUBLIN 2

COMMEMORATION COMMITTEES ARE REMINDED TO BOOK BANDS EARLY
EASTER LILIES ARE NOW AVAILABLE
 PRICE £17.50 PER 1,000 FROM PEIG KING, 29, ALL SAINTS PARK RAHENY, DUBLIN 5
HONOUR IRELAND'S DEAD - WEAR AN EASTER LILY!

TESTIMONIAL DINNER 1990
 C A B H A I R
 West County Hotel, Chapelizod, Co. Dublin on Friday
 May 18, 1990, 8.00pm - 1.00am.
 All members are asked to forward adverts (and money) for this year's Testimonial Brochure to Head Office, 13, Aston Place, Dublin 2, not later than April 30. Rates per page, same as last year.



Protests at Extradition Appeals

THE ESSENCE of political extradition in the 26 Counties was stated by prosecuting counsel in the Free State's Supreme Court during Jim Clarke's appeal on February 13 — it ACCEPTS THE FAIRNESS of the legal system in Britain and the Six Counties and therefore cannot examine, question or allow evidence to the contrary.

Of course this flies in the face of the public acceptance throughout Ireland, and among many people in Britain also, that there is no British justice for Irish citizens.

Regardless of how "fair" these legal systems are

Republicans have always argued that they are part of the machinery of an occupying power and are not legitimate. While All-Ireland Democracy is denied by British force there can be no handing over of Irish citizens to their oppressors.



• Sinn Féin Poblachtach picket outside the Four Courts during Jim Clarke's appeal.

PICKETS

Sinn Féin Poblachtach Dublin Comhairle Ceantair maintained pickets outside the Four Courts during Jim Clarke and Owen Carron's extradition appeals in February. Banners and leaflets asking "Would ~~Finna Fáil~~ have sent Nelson Mandela back to South Africa?" and "Cry Freedom for Jim Clarke — No Extradition!" were displayed and distributed to the public. Members from Donegal, including Cllr.

Joe O'Neill, Bundoran, and Fermanagh travelled to join the pickets on successive Tuesdays.

INEVITABILITY

In the Supreme Court itself the proceedings had an air of inevitability — resembling nothing as much as a conveyor belt creaking into action. The fact that Jim Clarke signed three "confessions" after being tortured in Omagh RUC station and only one was produced in court or that Owen Carron was

beaten up in Gough RUC barracks counted for little or nothing.

Justice Brian Walsh did obtain an acknowledgement from Counsel for the State that prisoners were beaten and bitten by dogs after the 1984 Long Kesh prison escape, that there was a conspiracy of silence among the prison warders and that none of them were ever charged for their abuse of the prisoners.

"Extradition arrangements between the Rep-

ublic and Northern Ireland are based on trust and good faith in the system of justice in the requesting country . . .", said State Counsel.

Who believes that?

With three extradition cases — Dermot Finucane (brother of assassinated solicitor Pat Finucane), Jim Clarke and Owen Carron — all awaiting judgement now it is feared that the state will try to extradite all three together, probably before the end of March.



SHUT SELLAFIELD!



THE RECENT comments by 26-county Energy minister Bobby Molloy about pressing for the closure of Sellafield nuclear processing plant came in the wake of the Gardner report in February which indicated that the high level of leukaemia and lymphoma in children living around the Cumbrian plant could be linked to fathers who worked there.

Information supplied by the Shut Sellafield Festival 1990 group, organising a series of concerts and other events this year, shows up the reality of the 26-county administration's concern over nuclear pow-

er and also the abandonment of Irish power station workers, such as those at Arigna in Co. Roscommon who are faced with the closure of the coal-burning station there.

The group states: "The

EC wants to see an increase in the proportion of electricity generated from nuclear increased from 35 to 40%. They also want our grid linked into an EC grid, so that we can import nuclear power, and close our less efficient power stations (Arigna and indeed Poolbeg included). The Irish government (*sic*) agrees, and had budgeted £84 million in the National Plan for the interconnector. It will probably go through the North, since the NIEB (Six-county electricity board) is planning a link with Britain, and that would be the shortest route. We understand that the ESB are still considering a direct link with Britain and also direct to France."

So, Leinster House ministers are planning to im-

port nuclear power from countries like Britain, which has 26 civil or military nuclear reactors on the West Coast of Britain and 10 others throughout Scotland and England. They are the oldest and most dangerous in the world.

And at the same time they want Sellafield to be closed and an "independent" EEC inspection force to be set up to monitor nuclear plants.

How the EC, which is clearly pro-nuclear, can set up an independent monitoring body does not seem to have occurred to the Irish media, who rarely question the flood of propaganda coming from Leinster House and the EC anyway.

NEWRY DSS HARASSMENT

BEARNA ULADH Sinn Féin Poblachtach, South Armagh and Newry, has made known its concern at recent activities by certain DSS officials who have apparently embarked on a campaign of harassment and intimidation of the unemployed in parts of South Armagh.

It has come to their notice that certain homes

have been visited in the last week or so by DSS personnel, allegedly from Banbridge, who are demanding certain information from individuals on their efforts to find work. These visitors have tried to frighten people with threats of action which they may take against those who give "unsatisfactory" answers to their questions.

In a statement the PRO of the Comhairle Ceantair

said: "Sinn Féin Poblachtach is appalled that the unemployed nationalist people of South Armagh, the victims of decades of discrimination from Stormont and Westminster and almost ritual harassment from the British Occupation Forces should now be targeted by yet another agency of the British state."

"Sinn Féin Poblachtach calls upon the DSS to explain this new departure. The unemployed people of

Newry and Mourne have the right to be told if their benefits are now under threat from those who administer Thatcher's unjust policies in the occupied Six Counties. Sinn Féin Poblachtach opposes all such threats from agents of the British government and will uphold the rights of the nationalist people to oppose all such draconian measures administered on behalf of the colonial regime."

Barnes & McCormack Remembered

THE HANGING of Barnes and McCormack on February 7, 1940 in Birmingham, England was another episode in the long line of legal cases of British injustice against Irish people, stretching backwards to Fenian times and forwards to the present day, Ruairí Ó Brádaigh, former Longford-Westmeath TD and President of Sinn Féin Poblachtach said in his 50th Anniversary Commemoration lecture in Mullingar, Co. Westmeath on Wednesday, February 7. Despite atrocious weather and storm warnings on the media, a good crowd of local people were in attendance.

He paid tribute to the work of the local Repatriation Committee who successfully brought the remains of Peter Barnes (32) from Banagher, Co. Offaly and James McCormack (29) of Mullingar back to Ireland in July 1969.

"If the death penalty was still on the statute books today in England there would be many more repatriation committees now having to be formed for the Guildford Four, Birmingham Six, Judith Ward and the Maguire Family," he said.

A member of the 1969 committee, Seán (Bap) Lynch of Castletown-Finca, Co. Westmeath, told the audience that they must spare no effort to secure the release of the Birmingham Six. "It was the efforts of the ordinary people of Ireland that secured the release of the remains of Barnes and McCormack from the prison clay of Winson Green Prison and it will be by the efforts of the same people that the Birmingham Six will win their freedom," he said.

Earlier in the day a wreath-laying ceremony was held at the Barnes and McCormack Memorial in Mullingar Cemetery.

20,000 people attended the re-interring of their remains in July 1969.

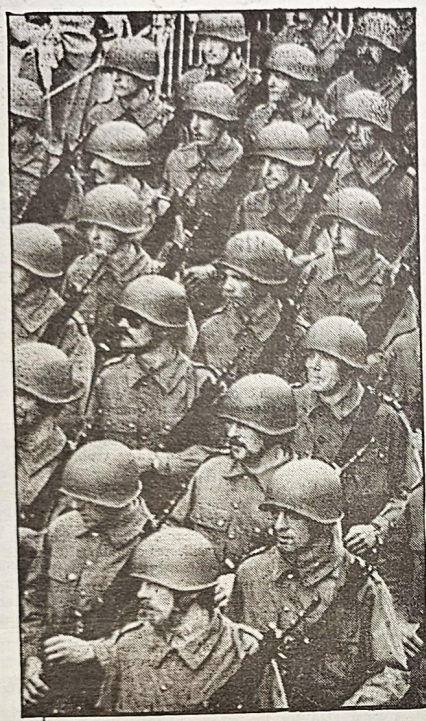
NEW YORK

On Sunday, February 11 a Memorial Mass for Barnes and McCormack was offered in Lazarus Community Church, 606 East 9th Street, Manhattan, New York. The celebrant was Fr. Patrick Moloney and the principal speaker at the secular service which followed was Frank Durkan, a leading figure in the Irish community. The co-ordinator was veteran Republican and socialist, George Harrison.

• (Right) Part of the crowd at the 50th Anniversary lecture.



NEUTRALITY



(Left and below) SWISS ARMY PERSONNEL - In the light of recent developments in Europe, the Swiss government has charged the Federal Military Department with drawing up a report on the possible threat scenarios and the security needs which result.



by a Special Correspondent

THE EUROPE in which most of us grew up, after the Second World War, is undergoing profound change. The Allied victors of 1945 agreed at Yalta on a carve-up of the continent, which stabilised two major spheres of influence, western or US dominated, and eastern or USSR dominated.

The Soviet decision to allow the satellite countries of Eastern Europe to go their own way has recently led to an upsurge of national democracy from the Baltic to the Black Sea. The centre of gravity of Europe is being moved decisively eastwards. Most striking of all is the imminent unification of Germany and the re-emergence of the small Republics of Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia which had been annexed by Stalin.

All of these developments have upstaged the European Community plans for the Single Market and Political Union. The EC President, Jacques Delors, has admitted to being "haunted by anxiety" at the prospect of a united Germany of over 80 million people in Central Europe.

The meeting in Ottawa, Canada of the four Second World War victors, along with the representatives of West and East Germany, was a snub to the EC and was seen as such. To them, a united and neutral Germany would escape from their protectorate and would not be acceptable.

POLITICAL WING OF NATO

As J.J.O'Molloy reminded us in the *Sunday Tribune* on February 11 "the EC is still the political wing of NATO . . . there can be no question of this new Germany opting for either military or political neutrality." For Germans, of course, Germany understandably comes first.

As German unity looms over the horizon and as national democracy spreads throughout Eastern Europe the Leinster House politicians in Dublin are completely silent on the need for democracy and unity in Ireland.

They are caught in the bind of the contradiction that they themselves are part of the erosion of democracy that the EC represents. Within the EC democracy is being steadily dismantled as the Council of Ministers, a non-elected bureaucratic elite, gets a grip on us. The militarisation of the EC is not too far down the agenda.

DISMISSIVE

Following his recent meeting with President Mitterand in Paris Mr. Charles Haughey was dismissive of the idea of a neutral Germany. A strange stance for one who is himself the leader of a neutral state. Or was it strange? When the journalists pressed him on this he became quite evasive. "If someone is neutral, the question is, who are they neutral against?" he asked. Fianna Fáil supporters have long acclaimed Eamon de Valera's success in keeping the 26 Counties out of World War Two. Even a cursory glance at some of de Valera's speeches would supply the answer to Mr. Haughey's question.

When the Single European Act was ratified by Mr. Haughey's administration in 1987 they inserted a qualifying clause on Irish neutrality. The Cork solicitor, Mr. Joe Noonan, has noted that the text of the Single European Act sold in the Government Publications Sale Office in Dublin does not contain this proviso. This is how our rights are filched from us. Now you see it, now you don't.

MAKE-BELIEVE

We do surely live in a land of make-believe. There is confusion about the name of the 26-county state. Recent pronouncements from the Bench in the Four Courts by Mr. Justice Brian Walsh settled nothing and only served to underline the confusion. It all results from part-

tion; logic is stood on its head and the part (26 Cos.) is equal to the whole (32 Cos.).

Permanently neutral Austria applied in 1989 to join the EC and was surprised at the cool reception she received. Even the great "European", Garret Fitzgerald, was dismissive on the grounds that there is really no room for a neutral in the EC. "I was concerned about the easy assumption by people that, if Austria joined 'that would be great, we have another neutral country'. In fact it might make things worse for us." (*Irish Times*, 15 January, 1990).

Austria declared her commitment to neutrality in her letter of application. Maybe she was naive in expecting support from Dublin. The fact is that real, genuine neutrality is not compatible with membership of the EC.

Leinster House neutrality is about as real as Leinster House commitment to national unity and the national language, the twin national aims, God help us.

There has never been a formal revocation of any of these policies. Rather do they fade away, step by step and bit by bit. When does a man become bald? Not on any particular day, but it happens all the same, imperceptibly but really and beyond doubt.

PHANTOM NEUTRALITY

The Austrian insistence on neutrality is embarrassing to the Leinster House people because it exposes their lip-service and deceit. They got into the EC by nod and wink and British verification of the real status. "Irish neutrality" is not just "irrelevant" as Dr. Fitzgerald says, it is by now a veritable phantom.

Since our economy became integrated with the rest of the EC we no longer have even the capacity to manufacture the boots for our soldiers' feet, much less the more important hardware. Yet neutrality involves being able to stand alone and defend the country from attack.

In foreign policy we toe the

AUSTRIAN CONSTITUTION

The Constitutional Law on Austrian Neutrality states:

Article 1

- 1) For the purpose of the permanent maintenance of her external independence and for the purpose of the inviolability of her territory, Austria of her own free will declares herewith her permanent neutrality, which she is resolved to maintain and defend with all the means at her disposal.
- 2) In order to secure these purposes, Austria will never in the future accede to any military alliances nor permit the establishment of military bases by foreign states on her territory.

Article 11

The federal government is authorised to enact appropriate legislation.

REAL and UNREAL



EC line. In recent months we voted at the United Nations to reinstate the murderous Khmer Rouge in Cambodia and refused to condemn the US invasion of Panama. The Free State has long ago shot its bolt in its pretence to be an independent national entity. If people like Haughey and Fitzgerald get their way our youth could be sent to fight and die in the modern equivalent of the Somme or Gallipoli.

Seán Citizen may consider neutrality to be a national policy, but it has long ago been shelved and the captains of the EC well understand the situation, even if some Irish people do not.

Neutral, Federal Austria (nine provinces, 32,000 square miles, 8m. people) has a well-developed economy, 2.7% inflation, 4.9% unemployment, 4% annual GNP growth, a balance of payments surplus and high currency reserves.

REAL AND GENUINE

Why is the EC stonewalling her application to join? It is all about neutrality, of the real and genuine sort. Within the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) she can maintain it, but not within the EC. A three-fourths majority in the Austrian parliament could change their neutrality.

Switzerland is the most stoutly neutral country in Europe. The overriding principle of her foreign policy is permanent neutrality, dating from the 16th century. The Vienna Congress of 1815 recognised it and the Treaty of Versailles, 1919, confirmed it. She enters no reciprocal offensive or defensive alliances or treaties and with her militia army (500,000 soldiers can be mobilised out of a population of 6.3m in 48 hours) she is in a permanent state of readiness to repulse any threat to her independence.

The Swiss economy is well developed but she does not join the EC for political reasons. The institutions of the EC are irreconcilable with, if not repugnant to, Swiss neutrality, federalism and direct democracy in the 26 autonomous Cantons.

There are also economic reasons, relating particularly to protecting her agriculture. Although only one quarter of the land is suitable for cultivation, self-sufficiency in an emergency is important. If control of agricultural policy were ceded to Brussels then neutrality would be compromised.



FOR A NEUTRAL EUROPE - Protest at EC Commission President Jacques Delors' visit to Dublin, Friday, February 23. Delors, appointed not elected, is calling for a common 'defence' policy.

NUTRITION PLAN

"Switzerland has a national nutrition plan for emergencies (breakdown of food imports) with the objective of ensuring that domestic agriculture can change over to growing high-calorie vegetable products (arable, mainly potatoes and grain), as was the case during the Second World War. This will guarantee Switzerland's food supplies." - Switzerland 1989, Kummerly and Frey, Bern.

If all comes to all the nation will be defended and its citizens will be fed. Under threat of attack from Germany to the North and Italy to the South, they organised themselves admirably between 1939 and 1945. They still speak with near reverence of General Jean Guisan who organised their defences when their country was virtually cut off from the rest of the world, surrounded by the Axis powers and their occupied territories.

Concern at the amount spent on defence and the rigorous military service arrangements led to an "initiative" on which the Swiss voted last November, on a proposal to abolish the army completely. The proposal was defeated, yet the 35% who voted for abolition surprised many. At the same time, the economy, the famous banking system and the strong Swiss Franc came under pressure in 1989. The times are not easy for a small and neutral European country.

Negotiations began in Brussels on 19 December last on the creation of a new European

Economic Space (EES) between the EC (12 states) and the EFTA (six states, Switzerland, Austria, Finland, Sweden, Norway, Iceland).

NO INFERIORITY COMPLEX

The room for manoeuvre for the neutrals is narrow, the economic pressure is great, but there is no inferiority complex about the Swiss and they do not have to contend with a slave mentality. Swiss interests will be protected, particularly agricultural policy, road transport (28-tonne vehicles) and competition (cartels). Their policy on immigrant workers is also a factor and this is an area in which they are open to criticism.

Above all, the Swiss press speaks of the need to avoid "satellisation" of the country by the powerful Single Market European Community.

The outgoing President of the Confederation, Mr. Jean-Pascal Delamuraz, spoke frankly to the nation on the threshold of 1990. He expressed his concern for the future of his country. He felt that decades of comfort and a certain opulence had weakened the cohesion of Switzerland. He spoke in the aftermath of the 35% vote to abolish the army, which he saw as an indication of a malaise and a questioning of their *raison d'être* as a nation. If one believes in a Swiss Nation how can one not believe in organising an army to defend her?

The President spoke of the centripetal (inwards) forces which create the internal cohesion of the nation. If the former prevail, then Switzerland will disintegrate and lose her identity; if the latter prevail she will become introspective and isolated.

side and the centripetal (inwards) forces which create the internal cohesion of the nation. If the former prevail, then Switzerland will disintegrate and lose her identity; if the latter prevail she will become introspective and isolated.

EQUILIBRIUM

"Both extremes are suicidal", the President declared. "The very existence of our country depends on a proper equilibrium between these two forces."

This is an interesting analysis, which can be applied to any country, community or individual person. A healthy condition depends on how one sees oneself

and how one relates to one's neighbours, with a healthy balance between the two.

The President then identified what he regarded as the major factor in correcting the imbalance and restoring a healthy national outlook - "cultural factors which have been neglected in our national priorities".

How true for Ireland, where cultural deprivation, a flood of Anglo-American pop values and a deliberate poisoning of the wells of our history have undermined our sense of identity and self-respect.

NATIONAL RECONSTRUCTION

We have slavish, parasitical leaders who preside over the disintegration of one of Europe's oldest nations. Instead of a bold, honest policy of national reconstruction, we have a sell-out and hype about "Presidency of Europe". All while those who could present a real alternative are censored and vilified.

As for the countries of Eastern Europe which are moving to national democracy, it is being suggested that they be accorded "associate membership of the EC, to enable them to develop". Interesting!

Footnote: Recent figures on the number of female deputies in national parliaments, show the Scandinavian countries as being the most progressive: Finland 31.5%, Norway 34.4%, Sweden 38.1%, Switzerland 14.7%, USA 5.7%, France 5.7%, Italy 12.9%. The world average is 12.7%.

A POLICY OF NEUTRALITY NEED NOT BE ISOLATIONIST

Switzerland's neutrality does not prevent her pursuing an active foreign policy. The principle of *solidarity* has led her to lend humanitarian aid and cooperation to developing nations. A relief corps to help in major foreign catastrophes has also been formed and in recent years has been very effective in bringing aid to people in different countries struck by natural disasters. The principle of *universality* means that Switzerland maintains diplomatic relations with as many foreign States as possible, regardless of their political or social system. Finally, by her principle of *availability*, Switzerland offers to intercede in matters of conflict and represents the interests of several countries in dealing with foreign Governments. In the light of this principle, she attaches great importance to Geneva's role as the headquarters of many international organisations, and as an international conference centre where delegates from all over the world gather together frequently.

- Switzerland 1989. Kummerly & Frey, Bern.

Imeachtaí

OICHE CHEOIL

agus
CHAIDRIMH
LE BHRÍD NIC
DHOMHNAILL
 9in DÉ hAOINE
 2ú MARTA
CLUB NA MÚINTEOIRÍ
 35 Cearnóg Pharnell
 ceol, canadh, bia
 agus deoch
Fear a' Tí
 Liam Mac Con Iomaire

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S WEEK

SEACHTAIN IDIRNÁISIÚNTA NA mBAN

LAUNCH:
 11am Saturday March 3
ATGWU HALL
 55 Middle Abbey Street
 Dublin

"Irish Women's Movement - the last 20 years"

MARCH:
 International Women's Day

7pm Thursday March 8
Assemble Parnell Square
 Dublin

PICKET:
 Maghaberry Prison
 Co. Derry
 Sunday March 11
 Details: phone
 (01) 615268 or
 (084) 322823
 creche/seomra do pháistí
 Dé Sathairn/
 Dé Domhnaigh

HOGAN-PARLE

-CREAN COMMEMORATION
 Will be held in the Republican Garden of Remembrance, Hill St., Wexford on Sunday March 11. Parade from Bullring at 3.00pm.

Speaker:
 Éamon Larkin,
Leas-Uachtarán,
Sinn Féin Poblachtach.

WINCHESTER THREE

PUBLIC MEETING
 8pm THURSDAY
MARCH 15
ATGWU HALL
 55 Middle Abbey Street,
 Dublin. **Speakers:** Kadar Asmal (ICCL), Paddy Hill-yard (NCCL) and family members. **Chair:** Michael Farrell.

FREE THE BIRMINGHAM SIX!
WORLDWIDE PICKETS ON BRITISH EMBASSIES
 11.30am - 2pm
SATURDAY, MARCH 31
 Dublin (31 Merion Road, near RDS), New York, Boston, San Francisco, Paris etc.

Weekly vigils also every Saturday, 11.30am - 2pm. Contact Bootertown Support Group, tel. 883798.

SCHOOLS POSTER COMPETITION

Theme: Justice. **Prize Fund:** £500. Closing date extended. Send SAE to: Birmingham Six Committee, Usher House, 40/41 Usher Quay, Dublin 8, tel. 793288.

MÁLA POIST

RE-UNITE GERMANY. WHY NOT IRELAND, MR. HURD?

A chara,

The British Foreign Secretary's recent visit to Germany and his remarks on German re-unification, in Bonn, testify to the blind arrogance of Hurd and the British Establishment. While not hesitating to give his irrelevant approval to German unity in the near future, a process he can hardly upset in any case, and still claiming that his government has always advocated the German peoples' right to self-determination, Mr. Hurd's generosity does not extend to another cruelly divided nation much closer to home. Ireland is a nation which he falsely regards as a subdued colony across the Irish Sea.

If Mr. Hurd applauds German re-unification why does he at the same time deny it by force to the Irish people? He holds the Irish peoples' inalienable right to democracy, freedom and peace in contempt as only a former colonial Direct Ruler could. His arrogance is such that he can claim that the Germans are the only people in Europe to be denied the right to self-determination. What rubbish! What hypocrisy!

While he posed at the remains of the Berlin Wall and extolled their right to unite Hurd did not tell his German listeners that he is a major figure in a government which remains the last of the colonial tyrannies of Europe. While regimes and despots fall throughout Eastern Europe and freedom seems at



• Douglas Hurd

hand in South Africa none of this inspires Mr. Hurd to allow democracy in Ireland.

He refuses to accept that the Irish people, the first to break the shackles of serfdom, have been waiting since 1918, the last time they were allowed to vote as a unit, when they declared their right to sovereign independence only to have that right denied them by a British government which unleashed the Black and Tan terror in Ireland. This was followed by the imposition of a cruel, undemocratic, unwanted and divisive border which has had tragic consequences for all of the Irish people ever since.

Comments from Douglas Hurd and his colleagues on

the historic events taking place in Eastern Europe and South Africa are crass hypocrisy and opportunism. If Hurd really believes in freedom and unification for the people of Germany, then he should do the honourable thing at home. He should dismantle the Six County police state which he imposes through force of arms and oppression. Further, he must take all possible steps to persuade his colonial regime to take itself and all of its murderous armed forces out of Ireland forever and allow the Irish to govern themselves in peace.

Sinn Féin Poblachtach maintains that the Irish people have the right to freedom which is common to all nations and only by ending the British armed occupation and interference in Irish affairs can Mr. Hurd and his like ever have anything to say to the divided German people. Mr. Hurd must accept that the Irish have that right too and that it is he and his government at Westminster, not a distant tyrannical, which built the walls and spy-posts along the imposed border in South Armagh.

PRO, Comhairle Uladh Sinn Féin Poblachtach EDDIE McNULTY RIP

A chara,
 A native of Castlewellan, Co. Down, Eddie McNulty (who died on February 17

WE ARE NOT INTIMIDATED

THE FOLLOWING is a statement issued by Kerry Comhairle Ceantair of Sinn Féin Poblachtach following an emergency meeting on Monday February 12, 1990:

We, the members of Sinn Féin Poblachtach condemn the recent actions of individuals claiming to be "Republicans", for entering the home of the Smullen family at Marian Park, Tralee in the early hours of this Monday morning, assaulting Brian Smullen - who is our county organiser - and upsetting his wife Teresa and eight young children, who had to flee to the protection of neighbours.

Sinn Féin Poblachtach condemns all types of intimidation as it only furthers the cause of British rule in Ireland. As Terence Mac Swiney said:

"In matters of principle there can be no compromise."

last) spent his life in the cause of Ireland. As a young member of the Dublin unit of the Irish Republican Army he was one of 38 Volunteers arrested in May 1957 while on a cross-country hike in the Dublin mountains.

The entire band, which then included Froisias De Rossa, now leader of the Workers Party were sent to Mountjoy Jail for two months for not answering questions and were interned without trial in the Curragh Concentration Camp on release.

Eddie stood unyieldingly by the All-Ireland Republic in the vicissitudes of 1969-70 and again in 1986. His brother Peter gave his

life for Ireland in an attack on an RUC barracks in Co. Down in January 1972. Eddie spent six months in Portlaoise Jail in 1973 for membership of the Irish Republican Army. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dílis.

- Down Republican (see obituary on page 7)

DUBLIN DRAW

February winners in the **CABHAIR** (Republican Prisoners Dependents Fund) Dublin Draw were: £100, no. 237; £50, no. 371; £30, no. 311; £20, no. 329; five prizes of £10, nos. 304, 322, 106, 290, 50. Next draw for Sinn Féin Poblachtach on Sunday, March 11.

'Máire' agus an Phoblachtachas

CUID A h-AON

CHUIR SÉ iontas ar mhórán cén fáth ar thaobhaigh an scríbhneoir clúiteach as Tír Chonaill Séamas Ó Grianna le daoine gan mhaith a bhí go nimheanta in aghaidh na Gaeilge ins na blianta deiridh dá shaol. Bhí cur agus cúiteamh a dhéanamh ar an cheist sin agus go leor ceisteanna eile ag Eigse "Mháire" comóradh ina onóir i Rann na Feirste mí na Samhna na blianta chuaigh thart.

Ba seo an fear a bhí go mór chun tosaigh san athbheochain ins na fichid a bhí ina rúnaí ar an Fhainne, ina eagarthóir ar *Fáinne an Lae*, ina thimire in Aireacht Oideachais an Rialtais Sealadaigh 1920 - 22, a bhí i gCumann Cosanta na Gaeilge, a throid ar son cearta na Gaeltachta, a ghlac taobh na Poblachta sa Chogadh Cathartha agus a rinne tréimhse próisúntachta i gcampa an Droichead Nua.

Sílím gur ghoill na Cogadh Cathartha go mór ar Shéams, nach raibh sé sásta maith-eamhnas a thabhairt don dream a d'ionsaigh na Ceithre Cúirteanna agus go raibh tionchar ag a tréimhse damanta sin ar a dhearcadh ina dhiaidh sin. Féach ins an leabhar (Ailt, 1977):

"An saoirse bheith faoi umhlaíocht do Rí Shasana? Agus an rud is goillúnaí uilig, dar liom, díolaíocht a thabhairt do na fir a sheilg sinn trí chnoic agus glann-táin, a tharraing cuid dáir geuill saighdiúirí amach as na leathacha in uaigneas na hoiche agus a shíob an inchinn astu."

inGACH COIRNÉAL

Bhail shéilg "Máire" na fir seo nuair a fuair sé a shaoirse gur mhaith sé agus gur ionsaigh sé iad i ngach coirnéal, fá chur i gceill, fá easpa Gaeilge agus go leor rudaí eile. B'fhéidir in amanna go dteachaidh sé ró-fhada agus gur chuir sé an neamh choirteach isteach in eangach na súiste.

Níor ghéill sé do mhórán údarais agus tháinig sé amach go láidir in aghaidh na Státáirí agus é ag scríobh i *Fáinne an Lae* Nollaig 1929:

"Ná trácht ar na fir a tugadh amach agus ar cuireadh pléascán futha nu gur síobadh ina bpíosá miona in abrad sa



• Séamas Ó Grianna

spéir iad. Ná trácht ar na fir a fuarthas marbh i ngleann-táin sléibhe agus an fheoil picíochta do na crámha acu ag éanacha na spéire. Ná chuirtear smid as do bhéal fán mhaidín fhuar dhuibhnéaltach geimhridh úd a tugadh amach Ruairí Ó Conchúir agus Seosamh Mac Ealghaigh agus Liam Ó Maoliosa agus Risteárd Batreáid agus a cuireadh chun báis iad mar a bheadh madadh ann."

Agus arís in (Ailt 11) . . .

"Níor éirigh siad ina saighdiúirí riamh go bhfuair siad gunnaí na mBlack and Tans le cuid oibre na mBlack and Tans a dhéanamh. . . ."

NA HEASPAIGH

D'ionsaigh sé na hEaspaigh fosta fan dóigh shuarach ar chéin cuid mhaith acu laochra na Cásca 1916. Agus b'iomaí léaspairt teangan a thug sé do bhoic mhóra a raibh postanna acu i Rialtas na Sé Chontae Fíchead agus a bhí go mór-tasach ag glacadh forlámhas ar Ghluais-eacht na Gaeilge. Bhí cairde aige fosta a raibh meas aige ortha sa ghluaiséacht sin. Bhínn ag áirneal aige amuigh in Ascal Ó Gríofa nuair a bhí mé mo mhac léinn i gColáise Ollscoile Baile Átha Cliath i dtús na gCaogaidí agus b'iomaí uair a thrácht sé ar an tuaiseart. Bhí sé ag teagasc i gCill Scíre i dTír Eoghann 1914-15 agus aithne mhaith aige ar shagart náisiúnta na háite An tAthair Maguidhir.

Mheas sé go raibh neamart a dhéanamh i mBaile Átha Cliath i gcaointiú Uladh agus throid sé go dian ar a son. Scríobh sé go minic don Ulthach go minic go gan-gaideach fan ábhar seo. Bhí an dubh ghéirín aige don litriú simplí agus throid sé an cás sin go bás. Mheas sé gur loic rialtas na sé geontae as fiche go gránna ar a mhuintir ó thuaidh. Ní raibh muinín aige in aon stát deighilte a chuir Rialtas íasachta ar bun le púdar gunnaí. Agus tá mé á meas gur é an dearcadh a bhí aige ag am sin nach raibh bealach ar bith eile le deireadh a chur leis an chríochdeighilth sin ach le treise lann. Chuireann sé síos ar seo go minic, arís i *Fáinne an Lae* 1924:

"Le fiche focal a chur i bhfocal amháin ní raibh námhaid ag Éirinn riamh leath go holec leis an drong úd a gceannas rialtas na Sé gContae is Fíche."

- Ruairí Ó Dónaill (Cuid a dó le teacht)

Brón ar an mBás

ÉAMON McNULTY

IT WAS with deep sadness that Republicans learned of the death on February 17 last of Eamon McNulty of Castlewella, Co. Down. He had been ill for some time. At both the removal on Monday night, February 19, at St. Patrick's Church, Bryansford and the funeral on Tuesday to the adjoining cemetery, the National Flag was placed on his coffin and a Guard of Honour of his comrades in Sinn Féin Poblachtach was provided.

At the graveside, Ard Chomhairle member Frank McCurry, Glens of Antrim, extended deepest sympathy to Eamon's brothers John, Paddy and Jim, sisters Peggy and Mary and to the family circle on behalf of Sinn Féin Poblachtach. He continued: "Few families could match the dedication, loyalty and steadfastness to the ideal of a 32-county Irish Republic of the McNulty family in this parish of Bryansford. We remember with pride the supreme sacrifice of his brother Peter McNulty, who died on active service 18 years ago on January 26, 1972. We gathered here in this cemetery to honour him a few short weeks ago.

JAMES 'SONNY' O'SULLIVAN

THE death occurred (suddenly) on Thursday, February 8, of James (Sonny) O'Sullivan of 20 Mitchely Road, Tralee, Co. Kerry, where he lived with his niece and family.

As a lifelong Republican who until the time of his death never deviated from the principles of true Republicanism. He was a 'Guest of the Nation' 14 times in Limerick Jail for selling Easter lilies. He was very

ENTHUSIASTIC
"I first met Eddie in Dublin 33 years ago. He was an enthusiastic member of the Republican Movement. He gave his services and support in an unquestioning and generous manner which made it a pleasure to work with him.

"We later spent a period interned in the Curragh Concentration Camp where his good humour and selflessness were a joy to all around him. Eddie like everyone else interned could have gained his freedom at any time by signing a declaration of allegiance to the Two-State Ireland but the thought never entered his head.

"The whole idea was as abhorrent to him as the idea of signing a similar declaration in order to participate in the apartheid form of local government which exists in this apartheid Six-county state.

"Nelson Mandela similarly could have secured his release at any time by sign-

ing a declaration renouncing violence but Mandela would never renounce violence merely to gain his freedom. After 27 years the White Apartheid Government in South Africa were forced to release Mandela unconditionally.

PARALLEL

"Nelson Mandela's attitude to oppression is exactly parallel to that held by our departed comrade Eddie McNulty and to that held by us in Sinn Féin Poblachtach. I quote Mandela directly: 'We cannot and will not give any undertaking to anyone while our country remains unfree.'

"This was the spirit in which Eddie McNulty lived and in which he died. While those of us who knew him grieve at his parting, we also rejoice in the fact that we were privileged to know him during his lifetime. With these thoughts in mind we take our final farewell of our departed comrade, Eddie McNulty."



• **Sonny O'Sullivan** closely associated with the St. Johns Pioneer Band in its early days and was also a fervent supporter of basketball, mainly the Old Tannery team. Despite the storms on Sunday evening large crowds turned up at the funeral to pay their res-

pect to Sonny. The cortege was led by a lone piper and the hearse was flanked by a Colour Party of members of Sinn Féin Poblachtach. The coffin was draped with the National Flag and basketball jersey.

At Rath cemetery the following day Liam Cotter chaired the proceedings and Emmet Walsh of Offaly gave the oration over the grave.

Sonny is survived by his sister Joan (England), niece Marian, Terence, Terry, Lisa and numerous nieces and nephews. Leaba i measc na nGael go raibh aige.



• Eamon McNulty

COMHBHRÓN

DELANEY, Sincere sympathy is extended to the Delaney family, Ath Luain and the O'Bradaigh families, BÁC agus Roscomáin, on the death on January 29 last of Máire Og Uí Dhubhshláine. From the Liam Mellows Cumann, Sinn Féin Poblachtach, BÁC.

DELANEY, Deepest sympathy is extended to Jim Delaney and family on the death of Máire Og, sister of Ruairí and Seán Ó Bradaigh. From Pádraig Ó Pearraill Cumann, Loch Garman. Go ndéana Dia trócaire ar a hanam.

FAGAN, Deepest sympathy is extended to Niall Fagan and family, Summerhill, Co. Meath on the tragic death of their son Pádraic. From Pádraig Ó Pearraill Cumann, Loch Garman. Go ndéana Dia trócaire ar a hanam.

FAGAN, Deepest sympathy is extended to our comrade Niall Fagan and family, Summerhill, Co. Meath on the recent death of their son Pádraic. From the Liam Mellows Cumann, Sinn Féin Poblachtach, Dublin Central. Beannacht Dé lena anam.

KELLY, Deepest sympathy is extended to the family of Barney Kelly, Kileo, Co. Down, who died recently. A life-long Republican, he was a former Quartermaster in E Company, South Down Brigade, IRA. He spent five years in Crumlin Road and Derry Jails. A wreath was laid by South Down members of Sinn Féin Poblachtach at his funeral. I measc Laochra na nGael go raibh sé.

McMAHON, Deepest sympathy is extended to Paddy McMahon, Dundalk on the recent death of his nephew. From Pádraig Ó Pearraill Cumann, Loch Garman. Go ndéana Dia trócaire ar a hanam.

McNULTY, Sincere sympathy is expressed with the brothers, sisters and family circle of Eamon (Ned) McNulty, Castlewella, Co. Down who passed away on February 17. From the Ard Chomhairle, Sinn Féin Poblachtach.

McNULTY, Liam Mellows Cumann, Sinn Féin Poblachtach, Dublin Central, deeply regrets the death of comrade Eamon McNulty on February 17 and extends to the family circle their deepest sympathy.

McNULTY, Deepest sympathy is expressed with the family circle of Eamon McNulty, South Down and Dublin, who died on February 17. From Cumann Áine Ní Dhoibhlin, Sinn Féin Poblachtach, BÁC. Leaba i measc na nGael go raibh aige.

McNULTY, Sincere sympathy is expressed with the brothers and sisters and family circle of Eamon McNulty, Burrenreagh, Castlewella, Co. Down, who died on February 17 last. From his comrades on Comhairle Uladh, Sinn Féin Poblachtach. Cuimhneois air.

O'CONNOR, Sincere sympathy is extended to the O'Connor family, Weston, Limerick on the death of Jimmy Connor. From John and Margaret Houlihan and Mrs. Doherty, Droumroe, Currow, Killarney, Co. Kerry.

O'SULLIVAN, At a recent meeting of Kerry Comhairle Ceantair Sinn Féin Poblachtach a vote of sympathy was extended to Joan, sister of James (Sonny) O'Sullivan. Also to niece Marian, her husband Terence, son Terry and daughter Lisa and numerous nieces and nephews. Ar dheis Dé go raibh sé.

O'SULLIVAN, Sincere sympathy is extended to the family of Jimmy Joe O'Sullivan, Coolcorcoran, Killarney, Co. Kerry, who died recently. From John and Margaret Houlihan and Mrs. Doherty, Droumroe, Currow, Killarney, Co. Kerry.

O'SULLIVAN, Deepest sympathy is extended to the family of Sonny O'Sullivan, Tralee, Co. Kerry who died on February 8 last. From John and Margaret Houlihan and Mrs. Doherty, Droumroe, Currow, Killarney, Co. Kerry.

Women in Ireland's Fight for Freedom

THE EASTER RISING - PART 2

THE ONLY women casualties of the Rising were Margaret Keogh of Cumann na mBan, who was killed in the South Dublin Union while rushing out to help a wounded Volunteer and Margaret Skinnider of Glasgow Cumann na mBan, who was also a member of the ICA. She was badly injured whilst taking part in a sniper attack in Stephen's Green.

Helena Moloney was one of a group of nine women and ten men who launched an attack on Dublin Castle, in which the Commandant, Seán Connolly, was badly injured (he later died). Dr. Kathleen Lynn was called to City Hall to attend him and later that day, when the garrison was forced to surrender, she, as the only officer present, insisted on taking the surrender, to the astonishment and confusion of her captors.

Most of the work undertaken by women in the 1916 Rising was mundane and boring. In most cases the male leaders were afraid to allow women to take part in the actual fighting and encouraged them to leave where possible. A notable exception were the 26 women in the Marrowbone Lane Distillery, which was under the command of Con Colbert, where there was a great feeling of camaraderie between the Volunteers and Cumann na mBan members. At the surrender 22 of the women marched out alongside of the men. Of the 34 women in the GPO, 20 had been persuaded to leave after a

very heated debate. Others helped to evacuate the wounded. At the surrender only three women remained - Elizabeth O'Farrell, Sile Grenan and James Connolly's secretary, Winifred Carney.

SURRENDER

Elizabeth O'Farrell of Cumann na mBan was chosen to perform the sorrowful task of taking the final surrender order to the British and then to the various Republican garrisons still fighting.

77 women were arrested after the Rising, although only five were detained for any length of time - Bridgid Foley and Máire Perolz until June 1916 and Winifred Carney and Helena Moloney until Christmas 1919. Constance Markievicz was courtmartialled, along with the other garrison Commandants and was sentenced to death but was reprieved because of her sex and sentenced to life imprisonment. She was sent to Aylesbury prison in England, treated as a criminal and isolated from



• Margaret Skinnider

all the other political prisoners. She was released in June 1917.

All the women arrested were held in Kilmainham Jail and had the terrible experience of hearing the volleys of shots killing the 1916 leaders, those men all of them had known so well.

Armed rebellion had been curbed in Ireland, using maximum force. Sixteen of the leaders had been executed, many were killed during the Rising and hundreds imprisoned. The mood of the Irish people, most of whom had not initially supported the Rising, was changing with every new British repression. Only the women remained free to consolidate this changing situation and generate a new movement. They were not to be found wanting.

Anonn is Anall i Meiriceá

US News

OVER 1100 people attended the 20th Annual Banquet of Aid to Ireland, organised by the Friends of Irish Freedom, in Boston on Saturday, February 10. The K. of C. Hall in Charlestown, Massachusetts was packed for the event and the organisers said that they could have sold several hundred more tickets. In addition the Ad Journal was larger and contained more gold pages than ever before.

Those honoured included James B. (Jimmy) Fitzgerald, the President of Boston City Firefighters Local 718, Philip X. Carr, Funeral Director, Suzanne Murphy, Businesswoman and Eileen O'Flaherty of the New Jersey Irish American Fenian Society. Mike Flannery of Cumann na Saoirse was the guest speaker. All in all a smashing success.



THE IRISH American Unity Conference, Chicago, have sent us a copy of a resolution passed by Chicago City Council on January 19 last, the text of which was only released publicly during February. Their call for the exoneration and release of the Birmingham Six, Guildford Four and Winchester Three (unfortunately Judith Ward's frame-up was not included) will add to the pressure on the British government in the light of the upcoming Court Appeal on April 2-3 of the Winchester Three — John McCann, Martina Shanahan and Finbarr Cullen — and the hearing of the Birmingham Six cases in the United States Congress, due to be held on March 13 next.



ON DECEMBER 17, 1989 Cumann na Saoirse held a commemorative Mass in honour of Liam Mellows, Rory O'Connor, Dick Barrett, and Joseph McKelvey, at St. Brigid's Church, 119 Avenue B, New York. The four were murdered by the Free State reaime while held as



• Mike Flannery (above) addresses the Friends of Irish Freedom Boston dinner on February 10 and (below, left to right) Jim Maunsell, Mike Flannery, Pat O'Connell and Mrs. O'Connell.



POWs in December, 1922. The programme consisted of a Mass with Father Pat Moloney officiating and secondly, a report from Michael Flannery of the actual events leading up to December 8, 1922 and details of said day, as Michael was imprisoned at the same time as the above martyrs.

Mickey Whalen was chairman of the meeting. The Committee consisted of: Mickey Whalen, George Harrison and Maureen Kelly (all members of Cumann na Saoirse.) Michael Flannery gave a very moving account of his personal experiences at the time of his imprisonment and facts surrounding the murder of the above martyrs.

George Harrison concluded the commemoration with a reading from *The Gates Flew Open* by Peadar O'Donnell.

A FUNDRAISER in aid of CABH-AIR was held by Cumann na Saoirse in New York City on February 23. Mike Flannery who chaired the event introduced the speaker Fr. Pat Moloney. After being enthusiastically greeted by the crowd Fr. Moloney gave a rousing speech.

He condemned both the British government and the Free State government. "The Berlin Wall is down after only 40 years yet we Irish still can't get the British out of our country." Talking about Portlaoise Prison he called the Free State government as such an enemy as the British government. He referred to the emigrants being forced out of Ireland and the problems facing them on their arrival in the USA.

After Fr. Moloney's speech a drawing for two round-trip tickets to Ireland was held — all monies

going to CABHAIR (Irish Republican Prisoners' Dependents Fund). Local Secretary, Maureen Kelly, thanked the "Roaring Twenties" and the staff for all the help and thanked all supporters, members, and friends who had attended and donated so generously.



BANDS from two regiments of the British army (the Black Watch and the Argyle and Sutherland Highlanders) held a performance at Madison Square Garden during December. Under the auspices of the American Irish Congress, Cumann na Saoirse participated in a protest outside of Madison Square Garden, on the night of the above performance. Numerous Irish organisations participated in this protest and the protest was reported in various newspapers.

Two years ago similar protests were held in New Jersey when British army bands appeared at the Meadowlands Sports complex there. As a result, the management of said complex agreed not to allow the bands to perform at their complex if they in fact were regiments that served tours in Northern Ireland. The organisers hope to force the Madison Square Garden management to impose a similar ban on future tours by these full-time terrorists/part-time musicians.



ON FEBRUARY 3, 1990, Cumann na Saoirse held an evening of Irish entertainment at St. Mary's School Auditorium in Dumont, New Jersey with the proceeds to benefit CABH-AIR (Irish Republican Prisoners Dependents' Fund). The guest speaker at the event was Michael Flannery, and as usual, he had the audience spellbound. In addition to beer, wine, and door prizes raffled, Dermot Henry and his Band entertained at the benefit. The event was a huge success and everyone had a wonderful evening.

NICARAGUA - A TEMPORARY HALT

THE REVERSE sustained by the FSLN (Frente Sandinista) under Daniel Ortega in the recent elections in Nicaragua has saddened Irish Republicans.

A bright light for human liberty has been put in the shade but not extinguished, it is constantly hoped. The revolution that was successful on July 19, 1979 when the Sandinistas reached the "bunker" in Managua and overthrew the Somoza dictatorship has been stopped in its tracks.

United States pressure in the form of a proxy war by the

Contras and an economic blockade has triumphed for the present. Over 40% of the annual budget in Nicaragua going in defence costs and inflation soaring to staggering heights were the results. Unbearable hardships followed for the ordinary people.

The election may have been free and fair on the ground but outside imperialist encirclement slowly brought a most idealistic revolution to a stop. Cultural and spiritual values with a highly-successful literacy campaign were at the core of the Sandinistas efforts for the Nicaraguan people over the past 10½ years.

Just as the British threatened "an immediate and terrible war" in Ireland in 1922 and stampeded the people away from the 32-county Republic in an election allegedly free and fair so the Nicaraguan Revolution has had its reverse — a temporary halt, its friends in Ireland believe.

Readers Please Note

Readers please note change of address of Sinn Féin Poblachtach, SAOIRSE and CABHAIR. Also note change of phone number and new Fax number:

Oifig Éire Nua
13 Aston Place
Dublin 2

Fón: 799120 Fax: 799206

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