

SAOIRSE



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75th ANNIVERSARY OF 1916
Celebrations at home and abroad
See page 5



Fermanagh Frame - Up RUC Records 'Missing'

THE RUC in Co. Fermanagh now join the West Midlands Police in Britain as the latest to be caught out 'producing' written statements in support of 'Oral Un corroborated Evidence' to gain a conviction.

Even more blatantly than in the Guildford Four and Birmingham Six cases this time the accused had stuck strictly to his 'Right to Silence' so that even 'doctoring' of notes could not have produced any genuine evidence against him.

Barry Murray, a father of three from Co. Fermanagh was sentenced to a savage 18 years in Long Kesh in November of 1989 solely on an alleged 'oral' statement with absolutely no other evidence in support.

ort.

This particular frame-up by the RUC is all the more sinister when there is unique forensic evidence to show that there had been tampering and rewriting of interview notes.

During the trial a scientific process known as Electro Static Document Analysis (ESDA) was used by Barry's defence to show that the interview notes were not only bogus in content but also showed the text to have been altered and contained serious and irrefutable flaws which the RUC men could not or would not explain under oath.

DENIED

Mary Murray, Barry's wife, states: "My husband denied during his evidence that he made any admission whatever to the interview-

ing RUC men, and despite having exercised his right to silence they produced some eight to ten pages of flawed and discredited evidence showing massive irregularities which were ignored by the trial judge who convicted."

In preparation for his appeal on May 20 Mr. Murray's solicitors sought the original Custody Record from the RUC and received the following reply from Assistant Chief Constable WG Monaghan.

"The original Custody Record in respect of your client (Barry Murray) is

held at Enniskillen Police Station by Inspector Devlin. Please contact Inspector Devlin to arrange a mutually suitable date and time for the forensic examination. The original interview notes which you request cannot be located at the present time. Full enquiries are continuing in an effort to trace their whereabouts."

Shades of the West Midlands Serious Crime Squad?

RECENT CASES

In a number of recent cases the ESDA test exposed serious irregularities, similar to that shown in

Barry Murray's case and resulted in the acquittal of Liam McGrath before Judge Basil Kelly in Belfast, and the throwing out of cases against two Englishmen Paul Dowdy and Keith Parchment in England.

The arrogance of the RUC in believing that the 'lost document' trick which was tried and failed against the Birmingham Six will frustrate the scientific findings of the ESDA in the Barry Murray case shows they are as incapable of learning as they are of changing.

CABHAIR TESTIMONIAL DINNER

8pm May 24, 1991
West County Hotel
Chapelizod
Co. Dublin

1991 HONOREES: Paddy McNulty (Ulster), Pat McGill (USA), Tom Malone (Munster), Paddy Fox (Connacht), Matt Casey (Leinster).

'E4A' SHOOT-TO-KILL

LOCAL people in South Down have identified the RUC E4A assassination squad as being responsible for the shooting of Colm Marks (29), who died in a hail of bullets in Downpatrick on Wednesday night, April 10 last.

It has also been revealed to SAOIRSE by sources in the South Down area that the British Crown Forces staked out the spot where Colm Marks was killed for at least 48 hours prior to the ambush. A local man who was out walking his dog came upon the RUC undercover squad and was arrested and held

in custody until after the killing.

None of these facts were uncovered by the Irish media after the shoot-to-kill incident when they simply repeated the RUC line that there was a "confrontation" with their members at about 10pm in the driveway of a vacant house opposite St Patrick's Church. Eddie McGrady, SDLP MP for South Down climbed quickly on board the RUC bandwagon by issuing a statement shortly after the incident saying that "the lives of many people had been saved by the police operation".

UNARMED

It became known within 24 hours that Colm Marks was unarmed, was shot some distance from the mortar found in the area and that no warnings or challenge were made by the RUC before opening fire. A second man arrested 500 yards away from the scene was released within 24 hours.

A witness said that he heard up to 12 shots ring out. "Moments later

police emerged from the hedges. It appeared to be a stake-out by the police."

Colm Marks was a married man, who had recently moved from Newry to Downpatrick where he lived in the Model Farm estate. His late father, Gerard Marks, was a well-known Republican who had been imprisoned in Long Kesh for his beliefs in the 1970s.

The RUC E4A Special Branch death squad first came to public notice in the Shoot-to-Kill incidents in Armagh in 1982. On November 11 that year three local Republicans were shot dead in Lurgan in their car by three members of the E4A, trained by the SAS in 'firepower, speed and aggression'.

Eugene Toman, Seán Burns and Gervaise McKerr were unarmed when they were killed and at a trial in June 1984 Lord Justice Gibson acquitted the RUC squad involved and praised them for their "courage and determination in bringing the three deceased men to justice, in this case, the final court of justice."



Colm Marks



A PROVINCE ONCE AGAIN?

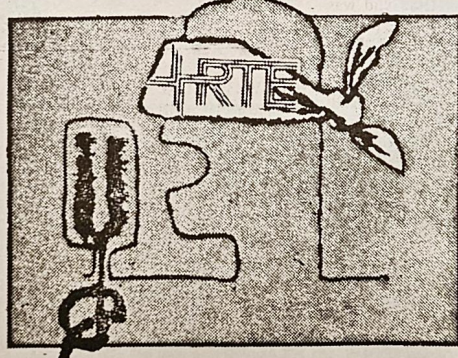
DUBLIN Comhairle Ceantair of Sinn Féin Poblachtach passed a resolution at its recent meeting opposing the moves towards political and economic and monetary union planned at two Intergovernmental Conferences of the so-called 'European Community' this year.

"We condemn these moves as anti-democratic and against the interests of a less developed and peripheral economy like Ireland which will result in a drain of capital and labour to the more developed EC core and the total abandonment of Irish neutrality as we are reduced to being a province of the proposed 'European Union', the resolution stated.

The members of Dublin Comhairle Ceantair called for this vital issue to be raised in the workplace, at union meetings and among any group of citizens to alert them to the dangers this sell-out poses to all the Irish people.

BRANCH RAIDS IN LIMERICK

THERE have been widespread raids on homes in the Limerick area by the Special Branch in recent weeks. They have paid special attention to personal and political papers. Sinn Féin Poblachtach Vice-President, Des Long's home was raided on Thursday, April 16 by a Branchman, and he reported that a personal address book was taken by the raiders. Emer O'Connor, Rúnaí, Comhairle na Mumhan, Sinn Féin Poblachtach was also visited by the political police at her home and minute books were taken. The homes of other Limerick Sinn Féin Poblachtach members, Bernard Brew and John Carroll, were also raided in this period.



SECTION 31 FIGHT WILL CONTINUE

It was noteworthy that one of the 26-county administration's arguments in front of the European Commission for defending Section 31 was that it was in the interests of "territorial integrity", partitionist thinking surely. It was also remarkable who one of the Dublin administration's legal counsel at the hearing was: Gerry Danaher, barrister and former editor of *An Phoblacht*.

analysts, pointed out that one reporter had complained to the Commission that he was unable to represent the views of a large number of the people of Galway because the then chairman of Galway County Council, Sinn Féin Poblachtach Councillor Frank Glynn, was barred under Section 31.

"Today's decision is in line with that of 30 years ago when the Dublin government's action in interning without trial more than 200 people including elected representatives (a Sinn Féin TD

and a local councillor) was upheld in Strasbourg.

EXPRESSION

"In view of this ruling the right to freedom of expression and the public's right to receive information will continue to be denied, as will be the consequent interference with the right to free and fair elections. The Establishment has made certain that our councillors, our candidates and our spokespersons are non-persons as far as the broadcast media is concerned."

In spite of this major

handicap Sinn Féin Poblachtach will be fielding its candidates and attempting to put its programme for maximum decentralisation of government before the people during the election campaign. The organisation's spokesperson added that people should be reminded that the Section 31 ban has now been extended to local radio.

The rejection of the case against Section 31 in Strasbourg does not mean the end of the road. Jim Eadie of the National Union of Journalists pledged that his members would continue to oppose censorship. Sinn Féin Poblachtach also asked that the unions and journalists who have been active in opposing Section 31 continue their public-spirited work in mobilising public opinion against it here at home.



Frank McCarry

MOYLE CANDIDATE CHOSEN

ON Sunday, April 28 Sinn Féin Poblachtach announced the candidature of Frank McCarry, Ard Chomhairle member and former councillor, in the forthcoming by-election in the Moyle District Council area, which will be held on 30 May. The by-election is caused by the death of Independent councillor James McShane.

Mr McCarry, a farmer who lives in the Ballycastle area was last elected to Moyle District Council in 1985 and proved to be a very energetic and effective representative of the Republican people who elected him.

WEXFORD SLAMS EXTRADITION

WEXFORD Corporation has come out against extradition and called for the immediate release of Dubliner Dessie Ellis, extradited to Britain from the 26 Counties in November 1990. At its monthly meeting the councillors condemned the "total abuse of the current extradition law by the British authorities in the Dessie Ellis case" and called for a total review.

DUBLIN DRAW RESULTS

WINNERS in the Dublin draw on April 14 for CABHAIR (Irish Republican Prisoners Dependant's Fund) were as follows: £100, no. 373; £50, no. 279; £30, no. 306; £20, no. 008; five prizes of £10, nos. 133, 347, 040, 031, and 340. Next draw for Sinn Féin Poblachtach on May 12.

IN VIEW of the upcoming June local elections in the 26 Counties it is important to bear in mind the fact that Sinn Féin Poblachtach councillors have been silenced as far as the broadcast media is concerned for 20 years, due to the Section 31 censorship. Over the past 12 years this ban has applied to the chairpersons of Galway, Longford and Leitrim Co. Councils, as well as of several urban councils.

In a statement issued on April 17, in reaction to the rejection of their case by the European Commission for Human Rights in Strasbourg, Sinn Féin Poblachtach complimented the NUJ and SIPTU trade unions as well as the RTE journalists and administrators and individual journalists on taking the Section 31 case.

Anne Neary, one of the solicitors for the jour-

1 Republican SINN FÉIN Poblachtach

CLARE

TONY FOLEY (44) is contesting the Killaloe Electoral Area for Sinn Féin Poblachtach in Co. Clare. He was educated in Nenagh CBS, for whom he played hurling. He has been chairman, selector and team manager of Killaloe Hurling Club over the years. He married Ann Noonan of Killaloe in 1968 and they have four children, two boys and two girls.

A carpenter by trade, Tony is a member of Limerick and Clare District Trades Council and is active on issues such as unemployment and environment. His other interests include Irish music and culture. A lifelong Republican, Tony Foley spent three years as a POW in Portlaoise. He was a comrade and friend of the late Dáithí Ó Conaill and the late Mick Brody. He was very active during the H-Block/Armagh Campaign in 1980-81.

DONEGAL

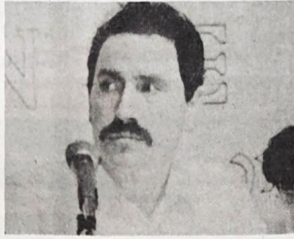


JOE O' NEILL was selected at the recent Sinn Féin Poblachtach South Donegal Electoral Area convention to contest the County Council Elections. A native of Ballyshannon, Joe is a well-known publican in Bundoran and is a sitting councillor on the town's Urban Council since 1974. He is also a member of the Co. Donegal Vocational Education Committee. He married Mary Breslin of Aghyaran, West Tyrone in 1977.

Joe has been a member of the Republican Movement since the late 1950s and was very actively involved in the Civil Rights Campaign in Derry City. He was present in Duke Street in October 1968 when the RUC baton-charged a Civil Rights march and he took part in the Battle of the Bogside in 1969. He was imprisoned in Mountjoy jail in 1973-74 and is a member of the Ard Chomhairle of Sinn Féin Poblachtach. Joe missed taking a Co. Council seat the last time out by a mere 12 votes. He is an active member of the local GAA club.

DUBLIN

PETER CUNNINGHAM (43) is from the Southside of Dublin City and has lived in Old Bawn Avenue, Tallaght for the past 19 years. He was selected at a convention during April to contest the Tallaght Old-bawn Electoral Area in the local elections. He is married with two children.



Peter was educated at Donore Avenue CBS and Clogher Road and Kevin Street Technical Schools. He is an electrician by trade and self-employed. He has been actively involved with the Republican Movement for many years and is currently chairman of the Wolfe Tone Cumann of Sinn Féin Poblachtach in the Tallaght area and also is a member of Dublin Comhairle Ceantair.

Director of Finance for the campaign in Dublin is Andy Connolly and anyone wishing to contribute to the Dublin Local Election Fund should contact him c/o 13 Aston Place, Dublin 2.

GALWAY

TOM CURRAN (44) of Fothraí, Maola Thiar (Furrymeelia West) Bearna, is to contest the Galway Rural Electoral Area for Sinn Féin Poblachtach in the forthcoming County Council Elections. Ruairí Ó Brádaigh, Uachtarán, Sinn Féin Poblachtach, was present at the convention to select a candidate. Tom Curran is contesting to regain the seat formerly held by Paddy Ruane of Carn Mór, as a Sinn Féin member of Galway County Council for about thirty years. Paddy Ruane had held that seat until the last election, when he lost it by a few votes. Paddy Ruane was present at the convention, as was Frank Glynn, Sinn Féin Poblachtach member of the present County Council. Paddy Ruane was asked by the convention to go forward again, but he declined. He pledged his full support to Tom Curran.

Tom is married to Kathleen Walsh, from Mullagh, Killimor. Tom is a member of the Ard Chomhairle of Sinn Féin Poblachtach, where he represents the Province of Connacht. He worked in England at tunnel-mining. He worked as a sea-fisherman out of Bearna harbour. He also worked at gardening in County Galway, and is, at present engaged in the building trade in Galway city.

He has a very keen interest in hurling and football. He played hurling here and in London. Tom was active in Sinn Féin in London, and played a big part in raising funds for Irish Republican prisoners and their dependants.

LEITRIM

DECLAN CURNEEN is a native of Glenade in North Leitrim and will be contesting the Manorhamilton Electoral Area in the elections. A married man with two children, he is a farmer, and secretary of Comh-

airle Chúige Chonnacht, Sinn Féin Poblachtach. Declan has been active on many issues in the area including the health cut-backs and in opposition to the centralisation of services in the county away from local areas to the large towns.

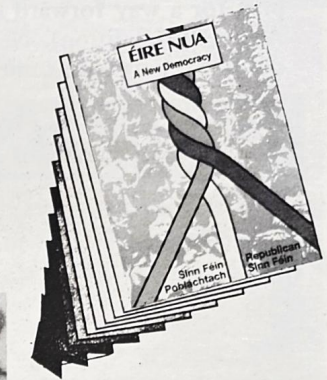
"I hope that in the course of the campaign that the people will reject the false promises and guarantees made by the major parties prior to and during the Local Council Elections. I feel that they are solely responsible for the decline and decay of life in rural Ireland, especially Leitrim, over the past number of years", he said.



LONGFORD

SEAN LYNCH is standing in the Drumlish Electoral Area of Longford County Council for Sinn Féin Poblachtach. Seán represented that area from 1974 to 1985 and was chairman of the Co. Council in 1980-81 during the Long Kesh H-Block hunger strike and the candidature of the late Martin Hurson in the Longford-Westmeath constituency.

Seán is respected throughout Co. Longford for his honesty, integrity and fearless representation of the people. His father Seán F. Lynch was clerk of the Sinn Féin courts in North Longford in 1919-22. He was an Independent Republican member of Longford County Council for many decades. His uncle Tom Brady of Granard was a member of Longford Flying Column and was OC Longford Brigade, IRA in the war against the Free State 1922-24.



ROSCOMMON



DERMOT MULLOOLY, Lisheen, Strokestown, was selected as the candidate to contest the Strokestown Electoral Area. He served a term as councillor 1979-85 and narrowly missed being re-elected despite an increased vote.

A statement issued after the meeting said that in this 75th anniversary year of the Easter Rising 1916, Dermot Mullooly would contest on a strong platform based on the updated EIRE NUA programme for a totally New Ireland free of British rule and based on a federation of the four provinces.

At local level, the programme as before seeks the re-structuring of local government with maximum local power and decision-making including the retention and upgrading of local services e.g. post offices and hospitals.

Ruairí Ó Brádaigh, President, Sinn Féin Poblachtach, who attended the selection convention, said that Dermot Mullooly had served the people of Roscommon on the Co. Council most honourably and was a completely dedicated and committed traditional Republican.

Republican SINN FÉIN Poblachtach LOCAL ELECTION FUND

Sinn Féin Poblachtach will be contesting the local government elections in all four provinces.

In order to mount an effective campaign finance is urgently needed.

All donations large or small should be sent to:

Local Election Fund
c/o 13 Aston Place
Dublin 2

26-CO. LOCAL ELECTION CANDIDATES

IN THIS SECOND article covering the public meeting "Ireland's War - A Political Solution?", held in Dublin on March 13 last we carry a summary of Dr John Robb's paper entitled *Sovereignty of the People, a Proposal Based on the Principle of Consensus*. A native of Ballymoney, Co. Antrim, Dr Robb is the Consensor of the New Ireland Group. *Towards a Peaceful Ireland*, Sinn Féin Poblachtach's plan for a way forward (see panel) was introduced at the meeting by Seán Ó Brádaigh (see SAOIRSE, April 1991 edition). Next month former 26-county minister Kevin Boland's contribution will be covered, along with some of the public debate which followed.

Solutions To Ireland's War



• (Above) Speakers at the Dublin seminar Dr John Robb, Paddy Healy, Kevin Boland, Seán Ó Brádaigh. (Below) Dr John Robb.



Throughout the process the New Ireland Group urges the lifting of the British Broadcasting Ban on Republican political groups, the suspension of the "Anglo-Irish Conference" and the replacement of the Maryfield Secretariat by a European Secretariat. These declarations and actions would result in a changed climate, according to Dr Robb.

PUBLIC FORUM

The process itself would involve convening an open public forum in the Six Counties with a neutral chairperson and secretariat. This forum should be open to receive submissions from all parties, groups or individuals without prejudice.

The next step would be a constitutional convention, convened by "general election using means such as the list system to yield the widest possible representation." Once elected the convention would consider the submissions made to the public forum and debate all proposals likely to lead to consensus.

"At the conclusion of the convention, representatives to vote by *preferendum* (a mechanism devised by the Ecology Party) in order to assess which option has the greatest degree of consensus." This preferred option would be put to the people (of the Six Counties) in a referendum requiring two-thirds support of the valid votes cast.

Towards A Peaceful Ireland outlines three practical steps in the securing of self-determination together with a credible timescale in which to implement it.

- Firstly Republican Sinn Féin calls for the establishment of a Constituent Assembly for the 32 Counties, elected by the people to draft a new Constitution within a six-month period. The agreed Constitution would then be submitted to the people in a referendum; secondly
- prior to the setting up of the Assembly the British government must declare that it will withdraw its forces and establishment from Ireland within 12 months of the adoption of a new Constitution by the people of Ireland; thirdly
- an amnesty for all political prisoners and people on the wanted list. All political prisoners must be released one month prior to the election for the Constituent Assembly.

Failure to reach a conclusion would mean a reactivation of the "Anglo-Irish Conference" and Secretariat "until such time as the process could be tried again unless, through deadlock, it became necessary to consider European protectorate status for Northern Ireland as an interim measure."

NEW IRELAND

Dr Robb made clear that the New Ireland Group believes that "the most enduring consensus for the most liberating outcome is to be found in the building of a New Ireland," and they have outlined 15 considerations to promote consensus in favour of it in their pamphlet *A Process Based on the Principle of Consensus*.

Among these is the setting up of an All-Ireland Constitutional Conference. If the New Ireland Group's option of a New Ireland was the most favoured outcome of the consensus-seeking process then representatives from the South and the North - "and here we have reached the point of agreement", said Dr Robb - would be charged, at the succeeding All-Ireland Constitutional Conference, with the task of drafting a provisional constitution "which would reflect the degree of consensus that must be the basis of any claim to unity."

He suggested that any such provisional constitution for a New Ireland should be ratified by two-thirds majority of votes cast separately in the North and in the rest of Ireland.

If two-thirds was not achieved, the proposal should be referred back to the All-Ireland Conference for further consideration "and this process to continue to successful conclusion unless it becomes apparent that such conclusion cannot be reached, in which case the Northern people would be compelled to reconsider the other options which had already been brought forward at the preceding consensus-seeking convention in Northern Ireland", said Dr Robb in conclusion.

● **EDITOR'S NOTE:** The 'proposal for a New Ireland' part of Dr Robb's paper was completely ignored in the national daily press coverage of the Kinlay House meeting (see *The Irish Times*, *Irish Independent* and *The Irish News* of March 14 last). This gave the mistaken impression that the New Ireland Group was only concerned with Six-county based solutions. Their preference, as Dr Robb made clear in his address, is for "the building of a New Ireland" taking in the whole 32 counties. SAOIRSE welcomes letters from readers in relation to all these proposals.

DR JOHN ROBB, who was warmly received by the attendance in Kinlay House, prefaced his proposal by stating that he shared Seán Ó Brádaigh's vision of the endpoint (a New Ireland). "I disagree very profoundly with how we are going to get there. He may not think it quite so profound when he hears what I have to say."

The New Ireland Group believed that it was timely to seize the opportunity of fundamental change in Europe and the Western World to start a new and novel form of political dialogue.

This dialogue should "start where commonsense dictates, in the territory central to the conflict, Northern Ireland, and conclude where history indicates, in an accommodation for a New Ireland in which people may live at peace with each other."

In the view of the New Ireland Group, "any community which can agree on how to govern itself, provided it respects the fundamental human rights of the individuals composing it, along with fundamental obligations with regard to such rights to others who do not belong to it, has the right to self-determination. In other words, the right to self-determination must be qualified by demonstration of consensus for it."

He outlined a consensus-seeking process beginning with a call for the London and Dublin governments to acknowledge that claims to sovereignty over people were redundant. These claims should be replaced by promotion of sovereignty of the people based on consensus in the context of the right of all peoples to self-determination.

FAILED

Both governments must acknowledge that "separately and together, they have failed to produce consensus in Northern Ireland." They should withdraw jointly their respective claims to sovereignty over "Northern Ireland", which would involve amending the Constitution in the 26 Counties.

They should further agree to act as joint sponsors for a consensus-seeking process in the Six Counties and further agree to act as joint guarantors, with European support, for the outcome of the process provided it meets the requirements of democratic self-determination based on the principle of consensus.

Finally Dublin and London should agree that a general amnesty would mark a successful outcome of the democratic process provided an agreed ceasefire can be sustained.

75th Anniversary of Easter 1916

DUBLIN CELEBRATES EASTER WEEK



● Scene at the GPO during the Pageant to mark the 75th Anniversary of 1916. Labour Leinster House Coalition administration.

The mixture of spoken word, poetry and music combined to make a powerful impact on the crowd and there was a complete hush for Joan McDermot's beautiful singing of 'James Connolly'. Another actor read some verses from Bobby Sands' poem 'The Union Man' and all the crowd joined in the final chorus of 'O ró 'sé do bheatha 'bhaile', composed by Pádraig Pearse.

Ruairí Ó Brádaigh, President, Sinn Féin Poblachtach, was then introduced by Cathaoirleach Eamon Larkin and gave the only address of the day.

"Never was the undiluted gospel of 1916 more relevant than 75 years after Easter Week," he said, "a quarter-of-a-million unemployed, 200,000 recent emigrants and 34 per cent of the population living under the poverty line in the 26 Counties show clearly that 'all the children of the nation' are not 'cherished equally' and 'equal rights and equal opportunities' are not available to all citizens.

"The destruction of the environment in the name of a rampant capitalism and the near-loss of the Irish language, including the foot-dragging on Teilifís na Gaeilge, show how far removed from the Spirit of 1916 official attitudes are.

CRUSHING

"In celebrating 1916, it is important to realise that the Ireland of today came

about by the crushing in 1922 of the Independence movement begun in Easter Week. This two-state Ireland was born out of the defeat of the Republic of 1916 and all that it stood for in the counter-revolution which imposed the present strait-jacket on the Irish people 70 years ago."

STRANGERS

The 'revisionist' historians, he said, would have us deny our roots and make us strangers in our own land. "They would reject the historic Irish nation in order to suit the political needs of the 26-county state facing 20 years of popular struggle in the Six Counties. The establishment may be shamefaced about 1916 but the ordinary people honour and cherish Easter Week and see today's Ireland as a marked contrast to the high ideals of that time.

"Their generous support to the plight of the Kurdish nation is at variance with official support for the Gulf War and the moves to entangle us in a military alliance within the EC," he said.

The proceedings finished with the playing of Amhrán na bhFiann by the Glens of Antrim accordion band.

● Four days later on the actual anniversary date, April 24, the US Congress in Washington D.C. came to a halt at 3pm in memory of the 1916 Rising. In Dublin, the 26-county administration and Leinster House maintained an embarrassed silence. Who fears to speak?

"ALL-IRELAND elections to a Constituent Assembly, British disengagement, a general amnesty for prisoners and a four-province federation with maximum local power are Sinn Féin Poblachtach's practical way forward to implementing the programme of 1916." Ruairí Ó Brádaigh's message in his address at the 75th anniversary celebrations of Easter 1916 in Dublin on April 20 could not be clearer.

In contrast, the President of Sinn Féin Poblachtach said, the Brooke talks represent a step away from the All-Ireland Republic of 1916 and not a move towards its realisation. "The talks are based on the premise that the Six Counties remain under British rule and the idea is to include the SDLP and the Dublin government in copperfastening that situation," he said.

Hundreds of people from all parts of Ireland gathered in Dublin for the National Rally and Pageant to honour the 75th Anniversary, which was chosen last year for April 20 as the nearest Saturday to the actual date - April 24, 1916. It commenced on the south side of St Stephen's Green led by a Republican colour party, members of Cumann na mBan and Cumann na gCailíní and by a group of women marchers holding a banner with the words 'Who Fears to Speak of Easter Week 1916 - 1991'.

'Ceiliúránn Béal Feirste 1916' (Belfast celebrates 1916) read one of the banners proudly held as the march wound its way past the Jacob's factory, Peter's Row, where Thomas McDonagh's 2nd Battalion, Oglagh na h-Eireann, fought during Easter Week. Other banners identified contingents from Tipperary, Galway and Tyrone marching behind the Dr Arthurs Memorial Accordion Band from the Glens of Antrim.

After marching down George's Street

into Dame Street and along Westmoreland Street into O'Connell Street there was a short pause while the rally called by An Post workers to protest against proposed job losses and closure of sub-post offices, concluded. To accommodate this protest, the National Commemoration Committee, who organised the day's events, did not go ahead with the planned fleadh ceoil at the GPO.

PAGEANT

Sprid na Saoirse (the Spirit of Freedom) was the title of the pageant, written and directed by Tomás MacAnna and performed by a group of actors on the specially-decorated stage, which was dominated by an eight foot by four foot copy of the 1916 Proclamation.

Also on the stage was a poster from the 1976 60th Anniversary of 1916 march, with the word 'Banned' written across it. Many of those who stood on the platform at the GPO that year were imprisoned for doing so by the then Fine Gael/

A VERY successful 1916 Commemoration Céilí was held in Ughtyneill Hall, Moynalty, Co. Meath on Sunday night, April 28, attended by over 100 people, some of whom travelled from the neighbouring counties of Cavan and Monaghan.

ON Easter Sunday in New York 350 people attended the 75th Anniversary Commemoration of the Easter Rising in Gaelic Park, 240th Street, Bronx, Des Long, Vice-President, Sinn Féin Poblachtach, travelled from Ireland for the ceremony and addressed the crowd as the guest speaker from Ireland.

MELBOURNE REMEMBERS

ON Easter Monday, April 1991, members of the Pádraig Pearse Cumann, Republican Sinn Féin, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia assembled at the Melbourne General Cemetery to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the Irish Uprising, Easter 1916.

Imeachtaí

ANNUAL
SEÁN MAC
DIARMADA
COMMEMORATION
SUNDAY, MAY 5

Assemble:
Straduffly Cross
3 pm.

Oration:
Michael Cunningham

75TH
ANNIVERSARY
OF 1916
COMMEMORATION
CONCERT
SUNDAY, MAY 5

8pm
Gaiety Theatre
Dublin

Organised by: *Fondúir-
eacht an Phlarsaigh*
Eolas: 771717

75TH
ANNIVERSARY
OF 1916
MUNSTER
COMMEMORATION
SUNDAY, MAY 12

Castlelyons, Co. Cork
Parade to grave of
Kent Brothers, killed
in 1916

Oration:
Ruairí Óg Ó Brádaigh



● Belfast banner at the Dublin parade on April 20.

Mála Phoist

Non-Political How Are Ye

A chara, What strange bedfellows the 75th Anniversary of 1916 has thrown together. Here in Cork a "non-political" committee was formed under the auspices of "Revive the Spirit" and in a recent published list of patrons we find a conglomeration of Fianna Fáil TDs, Fine Gael TDs, Sticky supporters, public-house ballad singers and two ex-Free State Army captains. Non-political, how are ye!

In a recent interview on local radio their spokesman, an ex-Free State Army captain, said that in recent years people could not commemorate 1916 because such events had been organised by subversives. I wonder how often did this ex-captain hound the subversives on the border.

On Easter Monday they organised a ceremony and to my mind it was just a mockery. The local sticky pipe band led the parade to Dún Laoi, a premises that has no connection whatsoever to 1916 and after the raising of the Tricolour they commemorated the glorious Rising of 1916 with a poetry reading session. Among the attendance were two of the most anti-Republican TDs from the Labour Party and Fine Gael.

Not one of the organising committee had attended the Republican Commemoration on Easter Sunday and they hadn't the decency nor the courage to even visit the Republican Plot, the resting place of MacSwiney and McCurtain. When asked why they had decided to boycott St. Francis Hall, the 1916 Headquarters of the Volunteers, they said that they were not commemorating the violence or the violent men of 1916.

As some of the organising committee are also involved with the organising of the Fianna Fáil-sponsored commemorations at Kilmichael and Crossbarry can it now be taken that these events will be just poetry reading sessions from now on?

In conclusion, may I respectfully suggest to those peace-loving latter-day Republicans that they crawl back into the woodwork and allow those who are prepared to do more than sing or recite poetry, carry on with the work. Is mise,

TOM MCCARTHY
Ballyphehane
Cork

Judith Ward Support Groups

A chara, I ask SAOIRSE readers who supported the Birmingham Six to support the Birmingham Six support groups around the country who now are to be the Judith Ward support groups.

As soon as they were released the six men called on their supporters and support groups to work for the release of Judith Ward and all other innocent people in prison in England.

JOHN HOULIHAN
Droumroe
Currow
Killarney



H-BLOCK Hunger Strike

10th Anniversary March in Galway on Sat. 4th May assemble at 2.30pm in The Cathedral Car-Park

RELATIVES WILL ATTEND Speaker: Joe O'Neill, Donegal

Organised by: Republican Sinn Féin

BÁS FAOI BHEALTAINE

Bhí saol gearr agat, a Hobby Sands. Níor shroich tú ach fiche is seacht D'aithin tú aingeal an bháis An chéad lá den stail.

Is treise an peann ná an cloaimh? B'fhéidir sin. Ach thóg tú peann in do lámh Agus scríobh tú dialann ar bhliúri pháipéir B'in do uacht agus do thiomna deireadh.

Thug tú dúinn a raibh agat D'fhág tú seoid riluachmhar againn An dialann féin Béidh sé againn agus ag ár slíocht go brách na breithe Thug tú saoirse dúinn chomh maith Ba faidh thú, a Hobby Sands, Chonaic tú í romhainn, Ach í a thapadh!

- Caoimhghín Mac Cathmhaoil



CONRADH PRESIDENT AN INTERNEE

50 YEARS AGO:

EASTER 1941 marked the Silver Jubilee of the 1916 Rising. The Duolin government issued a commemorative postage stamp depicting a Volunteer with rifle and fixed bayonet in an "on guard" pose in front of the GPO.

Rumour had it among the families and relatives of the Republican prisoners in the 26 Counties, who numbered 6 - 800, that members of the 26th Battalion of the LDF (now the FCA) were put on guard duty at Mountjoy Jail.

Into this unit de Valera had assigned many IRA veterans who were his supporters and it was ironic for the political prisoners inside, who included veterans of the 1920s, to be guarded from elevated sentry posts on the boundary walls by former comrades on the 25th Anniversary of 1916. Tomás O Dubhghaill, a newly-arrived prisoner in the jail, was later to confirm this.

On the world scene President Roosevelt stepped up aid to England again. On April 11, 1941 he proposed to the English in the name of the American government that the USA might extend its Security Zone out into the North Atlantic to a line up to West Longitude 26 degrees.

The British Admiralty might like to notify their convoy movements in order that US security ships and aircrafts might appear for their protection up to that line. The American administration was doing all that could be done for England without becoming directly involved in the war. Everything that helped the British was good in the eyes of the US public; if not with Irish-Americans.

DISASTROUS ERROR

In North Africa, following a massive Italian surrender in Libya to the British, Prime Minister Churchill made a disastrous error. He did not direct his forces to secure Tripoli, the last port in Axis hands, a neglect that was to prolong the desert war for two years with great losses to the Allies. British Commonwealth forces would be pinned down there leaving the Far East exposed to Japanese attack.

German Field Marshall Erwin Rommel, later nicknamed "the Desert Fox" landed at Tripoli with his officers in February. By April 11 he had forced the British back to Egypt and would in time with his Afrika Korps almost drive them out of North Africa.

Back in Ireland, Conradh na Gaeilge held its Ard-Fheis at Easter. The new President elected that year was an internee at the Curragh Concentration Camp, Seán Og O Tuama from Cork.

CENSORSHIP

The all-prevailing state censorship was at work, however, and the fact that he was a prisoner was disguised from the Irish people. His name was given on Radio Eireann and in the papers and an address as simply "Co. Kildare".

Only those who knew he was an internee realised the con-trick played on the Irish people when a magnificent and morally brave decision was made by Conradh delegates. Seán Og returned to Bolton Street College, Dublin, where he lectured in Chemistry, in the late 1940s. He was in charge of a weekly programme of Amhráin Gaeilge on Radio Eireann later, called "Claisceadal na n-Og".

RADIO CONTACT

Meanwhile the German Liaison Officer in Ireland, Goertz, had established radio contact with the Abwehr, German Intelligence. He had built up his own network of supporters and since the previous May did not rely on the Republican Movement for anything. They did provide him with

the means of radio contact, however.

Goertz wrote: "The only valuable help I received from the IRA was a radio operator. I only saw him personally on one occasion, but he worked with me loyally and efficiently. Out of nothing he built up a reliable radio station and operated it with great courage.

"On the occasion when we met and discussed collaboration, I gave him my word that I would never use the station for treacherous ends aimed against Eire (26 Counties). The operator trusted me. Like all IRA members he never accepted money although he was not exactly well off. He was firmly convinced he was working for his country."



BROKE SILENCE

Twenty years later the radio operator broke silence. He was Anthony Deery of Dundalk and he gave this account to Enno Stephan: "At the time I was a

member of the IRA and worked in the post office at Dundalk as a radio technician.

"One day the IRA invited me to work as a radio operator for Goertz, who was then known to strangers as 'Mr Robinson'. I replied that I had no wireless set and the IRA promised to arrange that. The transmitter subsequently arrived through the help of one Michael Kinsella from the same factory which produced sets for the Irish (Free State) Army.

"I saw Dr Goertz only once - as far as my memory goes in the early spring of 1941 - and this was in Miss Coffey's house in Dún Laoghaire. I was the only IRA man who ever visited Goertz in that house. In the following months, however, I had daily contact with him through the medium of a third party.

"I did not wish to know what was in his messages and I did not know the code. The radio schedule was extremely difficult, I was only allocated five minutes each day and in that short time could seldom transmit more than thirty code words."

MILITARY INFORMATION

Nothing much is known about the contents of Goertz's radio messages to Germany and the replies received. According to Stephan, Anthony Deery was of the firm opinion that what he signalled to Berlin was "military information about Northern Ireland collected by the IRA" there.

At the beginning of 1942 Deery was arrested by 26-County police and sentenced to seven years and three years by the Special Court, to run consecutively. By that time Captain Goertz was himself in prison and there was no further link with Germany.

What Harry White described as "probing by both sides for advantage" was at an end. (More next month. Refs. "Spies in Ireland" by Enno Stephan; "Harry" by Harry White).

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Brón ar an mBás

SEÁN SHEEHY

THE death of Seán Sheehy of Drimnagh in Dublin on April 15 last breaks one of the last links with the small group of Republicans who re-organised the Republican Movement in Dublin after the internment, executions and shoot-to-kill policies of the British and the Stormont and de Valera regimes in the 1940s had failed to destroy the freedom struggle in those dark days.

Seán Sheehy was born on the northside of Dublin 74 years ago and joined the Republican Movement at an early age. His father was from Dingle, Co. Kerry and his mother from Co. Meath. He was one of those arrested in June 1936 by the Fianna Fáil admin-

istration led by de Valera for attending the "banned" Wolfe Tone Commemoration in Bodensstown.

He suffered internment along with two of his brothers during the 1940s in the Curragh Concentration Camp, Co. Kildare. On his release in 1948 he,



• Seán Sheehy

along with Tony Ruane, Tony Magan, Tomás Mac Curtáin and others, set about re-organising the Movement. He travelled throughout the country doing this work which laid the foundation for the Resistance Campaign in the 1950s.

sympathy to Bertie Moran and family, Cahirlistrane, Co. Galway on the death of his mother on April 21 last. Solas na bhFlaitheas dá hanam.

O'CONNOR, The McCurtáin/MacSwiney Cumann, Sinn Féin Poblachtach, Cork passed a vote of sympathy on the recent death of Eileen O'Connor, Ballyvodock, Midleton, Co. Cork. Ar dheis Dé go raibh sí.

SHEEHY, Deepest sympathy is extended to Catherine, Lisín, Des and Frank on the recent death of

In 1951 he married Catherine Sealy from that staunchly Republican family in Rathfarnham, Co. Dublin. Their home was always open for Republicans on the run. When the present campaign began Seán Sheehy, the late Charlie McGlade and others organised assistance for refugees from the Six Counties in Dublin.

RALLIED

In November 1986 Seán took the Republican path for the fourth time in his life and rallied to Republican Sinn Féin. He helped to decorate the organisation's first premises in Shaw Street, Dublin and was always encouraging to those young people he came in contact with.

When he was approached

in 1989 to accept the honour of being the Leinster Veteran at that year's CABHAIR Testimonial Dinner he declined saying there were many "more worthy" than himself who deserved to be recognised.

At the removal on Tuesday evening, April 15 his comrades in Republican Sinn Féin provided the Guard of Honour around his coffin, draped in the National Flag, from the funeral home on the Crumlin Road to Mourne Road Church in Drimnagh. After the Funeral Mass the next day, a Guard of Honour escorted the remains to Bohernabreena Cemetery, where the prayers were led by Fr Kelly and an t-Athair Piaras O Dúill.

An oration was delivered at the graveside by Ruairí

Og Ó Brádaigh, Oifigeach Poiblíochta, Sinn Féin Poblachtach, who described Seán Sheehy as a quiet man, but a staunch Republican, who devoted his time and energy to putting the 1916 Proclamation into effect throughout the 32 Counties. "The best tribute that we can pay to Republicans like Seán Sheehy is to complete the work of the men and women of Easter 1916 and build a 32 County Republic free from foreign domination," he said.

SAOIRSE extends deepest sympathy to his wife Catherine, daughter Lisín, son-in-law Des, brothers Frank (Dublin), Colm and Kevin (Australia), grandchildren, relatives and friends. I measc laochra na nGael go raibh sé.

SHEEHY, Sincere sympathy is extended to Catherine Sheehy and family, Drimnagh, Dublin on the recent death of their husband and father, Seán. Bhí sí dlíis go h-éag. From the Ard Chomhairle, Sinn Féin Poblachtach.

BUÍOCHAS

SHEEHY, Catherine, Frank, Lisín, Des and grandchildren, Dublin, would like to thank all those who sympathised with them on the death

of Seán. To those who attended the funeral ceremonies and called to the house, sent Mass cards, telemessages and floral tributes a word of thanks. Grateful thanks also to the CABHAIR committee, Dublin and Republican Sinn Féin, who provided a Guard of Honour, to Fr Kelly of Our Lady of Good Counsel Church, Mourne Road, Drimnagh and an t-Ath Piaras O Duill OFM Cap. and the doctors and nurses of Baggot Street Hospital. Mass will be offered for all your intentions.

Comhbhrón

FLAVAN, Sincere sympathy is extended to the wife and family of Edward Flavan, New Street, Cahirlistrane and Waterloo city - a staunch, life-long Republican activist. From his comrades John Houlihan and Jim O'Shea, Cahirlistrane and Currow, Killarney, Co. Kerry. Ar dheis Dé go raibh sé.

HARTIGAN, Deepest sympathy is extended to my dear friend and comrade

Paddy Hartigan (London and Kerry) on the recent death of his daughter Susan. RIP. From Treasa and family, London. Go ndéana Dia trócaire ar a hanam.

McGOWAN, Deepest sympathy to Maura, Joe and Séamus McGowan, Urugh, Kinlough, Co. Leitrim on the recent death of their mother Mary McGowan. From the Leitrim Comhairle Ceantair, Sinn Féin Poblachtach. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a hanam.

MORAN, Comhairle Chonnacht, Sinn Féin Poblachtach extends sincere

RELATIVES FOR JUSTICE

SHOOT- TO- KILL victims' relatives attending the inaugural meeting in Dungannon, Co. Tyrone on April 20 last of Relatives for Justice, said they will campaign to have the British state stop its murder campaign in the Six Counties. As a first step they are calling for the public withdrawal of the SAS from Ireland.

Over 100 relatives of people killed by the British army and the RUC attended the meeting where they insisted that they have no recourse to justice through the courts in the Six Counties.

Niall Farrell, whose sister Máiréad was killed by the SAS in Gibraltar in 1988 stated that in shoot-to-kill cases "the British state uses all its power to obstruct us. The killer is frequently shielded from any questioning either by the RUC or in a court of law. Even the RUC investigation is devised to hide any proof of culpability."

Relatives of those killed in the Dublin and Monaghan bombings of May 17, 1974, in which 33 people died, also attended the meeting, and they stated that the Dublin government has done nothing to bring the perpetrators before the courts. Angela O'Neill, whose father Edward O'Neill, died in Parnell Street, told the meeting that a memorial Mass was held for the victims for the first time last year.

The relatives' group will also be taking a case to the European Court of Human Rights, probably involving some of the shoot-to-kill incidents in the North.

UDA SWITCHED ON/OFF

Fr Raymond Murray, author of *The SAS in Ireland* told the meeting that "collusion has gone on for 20 years. The UDA has been used, switched on and off as a third force and never proscribed. At political high points too, when indicat-

ions are given that Catholics might have a share in power, the loyalist gangs are switched on - as at the present time."

A permanent structure may have to be set up for the relatives to tell their stories to the world, to publish abroad the shoot-to-kill policy of the British government in the Six Counties, to seek the reform of law (in particular the sham inquests) and gain true redress for the families of the victims of state killing, he said.

Fr Murray added: "The SAS is an assassination squad, like the South American death squads and it is acting outside the law. They kill persons when they have opportunities of arresting them and they have been known to shoot wounded and incapacitated persons lying helpless on the ground. Such actions are contrary to the moral law, the law of the land and the rules of war."

Both Niall Farrell, and Eilish McCabe, sister of Aidan McAnespie, who was shot by a British soldier as he walked to a football match in Aghnacloy in February 1988, strongly criticised the Dublin government's inaction and collaboration with the British Crown Forces. "I find it really very difficult to see how the (Dublin) government can stand by us, while it helps the British government with its security forces," said Eilish McCabe.

IGNORED TOO LONG

"We have been ignored too long, in particular by the Irish government,"

EMIGRANTS & CITIZENS RIGHT TO VOTE

Le Ruairí Ó Conchúir

AT first glance the visit to Ireland of three members of Glór na Deoraí, the exiles group in Britain, had galvanised 26-county politicians into discussing emigration. Five of them, from FF, FG, Labour, WP and the PDs, turned out at a public meeting in Buswell's Hotel in Dublin on April 24.

ed to leave because of their policies and their inaction.

Well, not emigration exactly, but the thorny question of whether or not to allow Irish emigrants the right to vote, as is the case in the USA and seven out of twelve EEC countries. And votes of course explains the sudden interest by Leinster House politicians in the rights of those who have been forced to leave because of their policies and their inaction.

What about the right to vote of Irish citizens in the Six Counties, under British rule at present? They can hold an Irish passport but cannot vote in an Irish election. This even thornier question was avoided by the assembled politicians but it plainly looms

largely in their thinking and explains their evasive views on the question of extending the vote. Republican Sinn Féin's policy, following debate at the 1990 Ard-Fheis last October is that "Irish emigrants and citizens have the right to vote", thus linking the emigrants vote issue to All-Ireland democracy, as they cannot be meaningfully separated.

LAUNCH

Stephen Ryan of Glór an Deoraí told public meeting that they were launching the campaign for votes for emigrants in Dublin hoping it would become an issue in the forthcoming local elections in the 26 Counties. The only way to alter the Dublin administration's policy of ignoring emigration was to make votes hinge on it, he said. Which begs the question 'how do you get them to give the vote to emigrants when this would potentially threaten their own power?'



● Ignored too long . . . relatives of the three Irish people shot dead by the SAS in Gibraltar in 1988 hand petitions into the 26-county department of Foreign Affairs last year calling for an independent inquiry.

said Niall Farrell. "In the past, they have simply uttered words of concern and waited for the furore to die down and then they have returned to business as usual with their British counterparts."

One speaker thought that Irish emigrants in the USA would vote Republican (in the Irish sense), which view was compared by another contributor to saying "How will they use the vote if we give it to them?" This was patronising, he said.

SCALE

The reality and scale of emigration at a local and urban level was revealed when a young Dublin man told the meeting that in a youth scheme survey conducted in the summer of 1990 in Coolock on the northside of Dublin, 239 people had recently emigrated from one estate of 480 houses.

1 OUT OF 2

Raymond Crotty, the economist and author of 'Ireland in Crisis' said that one out of every two Irish people born in the last 160 years has died abroad. Emigrants would not be listened to, he said, until they have power and the

power that is in their hands at present is to place economic sanctions on Irish exports. The relationship between Irish exports and profits is greater than the ratio of exports to jobs, he argued, and this was the only way their right to vote would be conceded by Leinster House politicians.

The politicians present engaged largely in giving the audience the mushroom treatment - keeping them in the dark (literally, as a power cut coincided with the meeting, while Leinster House was bathed in light across the road) and feeding them plenty of 'manure'. But the occasion was useful in exposing their political bankruptcy and raising a vital issue that is avoided like the proverbial plague in Leinster House. Both it and, the other, related, taboo subject in that institution - unemployment - will doubtless surface in strength during June's local elections to discredit them all.

INNOCENT VICTIMS OF BRITISH INJUSTICE



JUDITH WARD

17 years and three months in jail

GUILDFORD FOUR AND MAGUIRE SEVEN

still seeking to have their names cleared. Giuseppe Conlon died in prison, in January 1980

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