

# SAOIRSE

N.Z. IRISH POST



Imleabhar 1      Uimhir 6      Meitheamh/Iúil.      50 cents  
Volume 1      Number 6      June/July 1983

## What they learn in Belfast— They use in Petone

"Police kill again" read the headlines. Paul Chase, a former member of a predominantly Maori gang, had been shot down by Wellington police when he found them breaking into his Petone flat. He was standing in a hallway holding an iron bar. In the bedroom behind him was his wife and small daughter.

Without a word of warning the Armed Offenders Squad shot Chase dead.

Understandably, alarm has been expressed at such free use of arms by the NZ police and considerable anger has been expressed by the Maori community at being targets of a "shoot-first" policy.

When the innocent driver of a car in central London was shot three times earlier this year by trigger-happy bobbies, a Liberal MP proclaimed indignantly in his Westminster Parliament. "This is London, not Belfast!"

A local MP might well have said the same in the Beehive: "This is Wellington, sir, not Londonderry! Or Newry! Or Armagh! Or..."

Throughout Northern Ireland's history from 1921, its police force, the Royal Ulster Constabulary, has been permanently armed. The result has been



The RUC

several hundred deaths and injuries sustained by the nationalist community, the "Maori" of Northern Ireland. Membership of the RUC is (according to figures in State Research Bulletin vol. 5 no. 26) 95% loyalist; its armed auxiliary, the Ulster Defence Regiment, is 98% loyalist — a (protestant) loyalist militia kept in reserve should the natives get out of hand.

The natives got thoroughly out of hand in 1968 when the RUC had to call upon the local militia to help it police

### INSIDE JAMES CONNOLLY

civil rights demonstrations. The violence used by state forces against the demonstrators was that intense it eventually sparked off four days of vicious rioting in the largely nationalist city of Derry. The police in Belfast were so enraged at these riots they went on the rampage and fired indiscriminately into catholic areas with Browning heavy machine guns, killing three people.

Since those days, the crude old bludgeoning RUC has been refined into one of the most highly sophisticated counter-insurgency police forces in the world, a model for many internal security planners.

Its experience is used directly by British forces and shared with New Zealand.

What they learn there, they use here.

*The shadow of Belfast's armoured car stretches to Otara  
The fragments from the Belfast protestor's skull  
Kick up from the pavements of Porirua.  
This is how it is:  
What the SAS learns in Ireland  
The SAS teaches in New Zealand;  
An army victorious there  
Is a cocky army here.*

**LISTEN! THINK! MAKE THE CONNECTIONS!**

*When unemployment, slums, oppression is at its worst  
The explosion will occur.*

**A DEFEAT FOR THE BRITISH IN NORTHERN IRELAND  
IS A VICTORY FOR THE OPPRESSED HERE.**

## SIS Jail Irish Visitor

The Royal Tour of Prince Charles and his wife began with the police killing of Paul Chase in Petone and ended with an extraordinary raid by Christchurch police seemingly convinced the IRA was in town.

Mr Daniel Butler, his wife Doreen and his 30-year-old son Tony had arrived in New Zealand from Belfast to attend the wedding of their daughter and sister Marnie.

Daniel Butler comes from a nationalist area of Belfast. He was to tell local Christchurch papers of constant interrogation by the Royal Ulster Constabulary, of sometimes being held overnight and questioned for up to 12 hours at a time. "Just being a Roman Catholic is a crime in Belfast," he would say.

When his daughter had returned home for a holiday three years ago,

she was picked up by the RUC within two days, strip-searched and interrogated for a day. On her way back, she was strip-searched and questioned for several hours at Heathrow Airport.

But what really shocked Daniel Butler was a raid by Christchurch police on his daughter's Merivale home. The police were seeking his son, Tony. They took his daughter to Christchurch Central police station for questioning.

(Continued on page 3)

## EAGARFHOCAL/EDITORIAL

This issue marks the end of our first year of publication and seems an appropriate time to restate SAOIRSES' aims and review its success.

One of Saoirses' major aims has been to redress the imbalance portrayed in the New Zealand media.

New Zealand with its roots as a British Colony has more than the Queen in common with England. In reporting events in Northern Ireland the N.Z. press almost totally relies on information supplied by the British media. It originates from British reporters working for the British media, even if it is dressed up as an international source such as Reuters (which by the way is largely British owned!). We receive "objective" reporting of events seen through the eyes of the British Press for the British public. The Press Barons ultimately decide what becomes news and a factory closure in Belfast is likely to be dropped in favour of "IRA Gunman Maims Cocker Spaniel!". A patently ridiculous example when in reality the control of media is a very powerful political weapon, but it illustrates the point!

What does get reported about Northern Ireland; the latest "IRA atrocity", rarely does the suppression of civil rights, unemployment and social conditions or the maiming and death by plastic bullets receive the same attention.

Ireland is a complex political and social entity. The armed confrontation of the Republican movement with the British Army and State is just the tip of an iceberg. By selectively focusing on the tip the British press deliberately simplifies the 'Irish Question'.

This historically has always been a tactic of British Colonialism.

We, therefore, make no apologies for focusing some of our news content on the Republican movements reporting of the conflict. The full tale needs to be told.

Our aim however is to go further than reporting on the latest phase of the armed conflict. By introducing items of a cultural, historical and political nature we are attempting to uncover the rest of the iceberg. In a bi-monthly of 12 pages or so we will do what we can and we need your support.

Subscriptions and sales in the first twelve months have been better than we imagined and Saoirse has a definite future. It does need the security of early subscriptions and increased sales, in order that it will not only continue but grow.

Saoirse needs not only your money but also participation by way of letters, articles, news or features and we thank those of you who have already contributed. We cannot end this first (of many) volumes without also recording our appreciation for our publishers the NZ H Block and Armagh Committees without who's hard work and support we could not continue.

### The Editors

## IS É D'FHOCAIL FEÍN É / YOUR OWN WORDS

### N.Z.'s POLICY ON THE IRISH QUESTION

The following correspondence reveals the Governments view.

Dear Sir,

re: N.Z. Foreign Policy on the Unification of Ireland.

We note that the leader of Ireland's opposition party Mr Charles Haughey has called for a conference involving all interested parties to discuss the eventual withdrawal of Britain from Northern Ireland and the transfer of power to Dublin.

We note further that the European Economic Community is to investigate the situation in the near future.

As there are many thousands of New Zealanders with Irish heritage and because of our close involvement with both the Common Market and The Republic of Ireland we consider New Zealand's official policy on the matter of unification a matter of considerable public interest. Therefore we would be most obliged if you could indicate formally what New Zealand's policy is.

Thank you in anticipation.

B. Casey,  
Chairperson  
Wellington H-Block/Armagh Committee

Published by the N.Z. H-Block and  
Armagh Committee. Printed by Thames  
Publications Limited, typeset by Salient.

Leathanach 2

Dear Mr/Ms Casey,

I have your letter of 29 April seeking on behalf of the New Zealand H-Block/Armagh Committee an indication of the Government's policy on the unification of Ireland.

As you quite rightly say, the links between New Zealand and the Republic of Ireland are indeed close, due in large measure to the historical and family ties between the two countries. Both countries greatly value this close and friendly relationship. At the same time, each Government respects the other's right to hold its own views on issues which are of interest and concern.

The Northern Ireland question is a case in point. New Zealand has adopted a strictly neutral and non-interventionist stance on this difficult and contentious issue. We regard the question as being one for the British Government and the people of Northern Ireland to resolve, while at the same time recognising that the Government of Ireland has certain legitimate interests. In these circumstances, we do not believe that it would be appropriate for New Zealand to express an opinion on the settlement of an issue in which we are not directly involved and on which there is unlikely to be agreement in New Zealand. Nevertheless, the Government watches with interest the developments in the negotiations towards a settlement as it is our sincere hope that an acceptable solution will soon be found to this painful problem. As you will know, the Government has voiced its deep regret at the continuing loss of life in the troubles in Northern Ireland.

Warren Cooper  
The Minister of Foreign Affairs,

### A Chara

Willie John McBride, Northern Irish manager of the touring Lions side, has been giving press conferences urging renewed sporting contacts with South Africa.

"I well know there are many things about South Africa which many people find hard to take," he is quoted in the N.Z. Times, May 15, "But I come from Northern Ireland. This is a country which has been torn apart by protest which started in a simple manner.

"Today, in my country, we have not even the right to live. The solution of that problem is ours, no one else's. Likewise the solution of the South African problem .... His words are transparently dishonest.

When he talks about his country being "torn apart by protest" he does not mean the thundering Tories, the shipyard owners, financiers, loyalist paramilitaries and British troops that wrenched six counties out of Ireland in 1921. He means the Northern Ireland civil Rights movement which campaigned during the 1960s for equal voting, housing and employment opportunities for the North's half million Catholics.

When he notes this protest "started in a simple manner", he implies the current war in the North is the logical consequence of the civil rights campaign. And he is quite right. The brutal treatment of those campaigners by Northern Ireland's sectarian police, the slaying of thirteen unarmed protestors by British paratroopers

in Derry on "Bloody Sunday" in 1972 has led inexorably to guerilla war. Does he mean this?

When he claims, "In my country we have not even the right to live," he is not referring to the working class Catholic families of West Belfast and Derry, victims of hopeless unemployment and slum housing. Or to the hunger strikers who died refusing to be classified as common criminals in Britain's propaganda war. Or even to the seven kids smacked to death by British Army standard-issue (for use in Northern Ireland only) plastic bullet. No, he's referring to the police, the soldiers, the judges, the politicians, the bankers (of which he is one), the whole apparatus of

Northern Ireland's sectarian state which is marked as a target in a centuries-old war against imperial rule.

And when he wags his finger and intones, "The solution of Northern Ireland's problems are ours, no one else's," he simply doesn't mean what he's saying. because what he's saying is that Britain should withdraw its 15,000 troops, its arms, helicopters and military advisers from its Irish colony. And what he means is that organisations like the H-Block/Armagh Committee in New Zealand should shut up. But we won't.

Because when the state forces in Northern Ireland report the usefulness of plastic bullets in controlling a desparate

community, Ministers of Police pop up in New Zealand saying, "Let's use them!" We don't want plastic bullets used against people here. So we say stop them there.

And we don't want people discriminated against because, one, they're our friends and, two, to ignore them is to encourage those who profit from bigotry — there and here.

All of which, Willie John, applies as much to South Africa as it does to your own country.

**Dean Parker, Secretary  
Auckland Branch, NZ H-Block/Armagh  
Committee**

## SIS Jail Irish Visitor

After eight hours of interro gation, Marnie Butler was told her brother had been picked up and charged with being a prohibited immigrant.

**Staggeringly, she was then told by detectives she and her brother would be released if she signed four sheets of blank paper on which the police would later type a statement for her.**

Her brother was not released until a judge granted him bail at a hearing the following day. The police said they did not oppose bail "so long as the defendant is held in custody till after

the royal couple have left the country."

Tony Butler had been arrested in Belfast in 1972. A bomb exploded and injured a number of people, including his father and uncle. The crowd who gathered after the bombing were suspicious of some nearby photographers. Tony Butler and his brother took three of the photographers to a nearby house and questioned them. One of them turned out to be an undercover member of the SAS.

Tony Butler and his brother were then grabbed by the RUC and charged with possession of a firearm and un-

lawfully detaining three men. (The irony of the latter charge was that at this time hundreds of nationalists were being picked off the streets in police-army swoops and interned indefinitely without trial.)

Tony Butler was sentenced to eight years jail and served four, being released in 1976. He entered New Zealand in April this year on his own passport and was never asked about his conviction.

**He forgot about the British Special Branch. He forgot about the New Zealand SIS. He never knew about signing blank sheets of paper.**

**He ended up in jail.**

# bid to ban 'joke' book

Joseph Small, the Irish Ambassador to Australia, has intervened in a bid to have a book of anti-Irish jokes withdrawn from sale in Australian bookshops.

The book, *The World's Best Irish Jokes*, is credited to an anonymous author and published by Angus & Robertson, a leading Australian publishing house.

"I have appealed to the company to put aside commercial considerations and profit in the wider interests of the community. I have made the point that they are peddling anti-Irish humour for profit and that, in a multi-cultural society, this is reprehensible," the Ambassador says.

A Melbourne school teacher, Patricia Gilhooley, who is third-generation Irish, is endeavouring to take legal

action against the publishers. She has described the book as "nasty, insidious and hate-mongering".

This is the second occasion recently on which Ambassador Small has intervened on anti-Irish racism. Based in Canberra, he is also Ambassador to New Zealand and last month had a resounding victory over the tabloid newspaper *New Zealand Truth*, which in an editorial condemning IRA violence linked the Irish with the Palestinians and said that both nationalities are "difficult to bear among civilised people".

The Ambassador flew to New Zealand and lodged a formal complaint with the country's Press Council and also under the New Zealand Race Relations Act. Last month both gave judgements in his favour.

## WE WELCOME ADVERTISEMENTS FOR SAOIRSE

Rates:

Full page .....	\$80.00
Half page .....	\$50.00
Quarter page .....	\$25.00
Eighth page .....	\$12.00

Classified ads and In Memoriam notices  
\$1.30 per column centimetre.

## WORK IN IRELAND

If you are a tertiary student and have considered undertaking a working holiday to Ireland, then Student Travel can help you achieve this. Student Travel, in co-operation with its Irish counterpart (USIT) operates a work exchange programme to Ireland each year. Under the programme, a tertiary student can travel to Ireland and take up temporary employment in that country for up to four months. The exchange operates on a year round basis, so you can enter Ireland anytime during the year.

Student Travel also operates in conjunction with USIT, the 'Encounter Ireland' Programme, which is a month long educational programme. Under this programme, students stay in Ireland on a home stay study and travel programme basis.

If you are interested in either 'Work in Ireland' or the 'Encounter Ireland' Programme, or any other travel arrangements, then contact Student Travel at telephone 399191 Auckland; or telephone 850561 wellington; or write to us at PO Box 9744, Courtenay Place, Wellington.

## NICKY KELLYS HUNGER STRIKE CONTINUES.

Since the first of May, Nicky Kelly, a prisoner in the Republic has been on hunger strike. Kelly was convicted and sentenced to 12 years prison for a 1976 train robbery in which he insists he was not involved. The Provisional IRA have infact claimed responsibility for the robbery, both in 1980 and in 1982. It is well known that Kelly is not a member of either the IRA or Sinn Fein.

His claims of innocence have, however, been rejected by the Irish Supreme court, although two Irish Republican Socialist Party colleagues arrested and tried with him were released when an earlier Appeal Court hearing accepted that confessions had been extracted from them under duress by Gardai. Nicky Kelly who is aged 31 and a native of Arklow, had jumped bail and fled to the United States during the trial. He later returned and surrendered to the authorities, but his conviction was upheld in a seperate Appeal Court hearing.

Calls for his release have come from many organisations such as Amnesty International, The Irish Commission for Justice and Peace, the Irish Council for Civil Liberties and many prominent individuals. Nicky Kelly is now dangerously ill and the Dublin based Release Nicky Kelly Committee is calling for individuals and organisations throughout the world to register their immediate protest to the Prime Minister, Garret Fitzgerald and Minster of Justice Michael Noonan, Leinster House, Kildare St. Dublin 1. Letters of protest have been sent by various H-Block and Armagh Committees in New Zealand.

Meanwhile, Nicky Kelly is being denied visits except from members of his family and he is said to be locked in his cell for 23 hours a day and is too weak to exercise. He has lost a great deal of weight and is suffering from pains in his chest and stomach, and from abscesses in his mouth.

## Nelson Mandela bust for Dublin

A bust of Nelson Mandela, the imprisoned South African nationalist leader, will be unveiled by the Lord Mayor of Dublin, Cllr. Dan Browne, in the public park in the city's Merrion Square, on June 26.

Dublin City Council agreed unanimously to a request from the Irish Anti-Apartheid Movement for the erecting of the bronze bust which has been sculpted by Elizabeth Frink.

Nelson Mandela, who is now 64, is the former leader of the banned African National Congress. He was sentenced to life imprisonment in 1964 and is in the isolation block of the top security Robben Island prison, off Cape Town.

Last year 2,200 mayors throughout the world signed a petition calling for his release.

Leathanach 4

## Union Jack no longer to fly over Derry public buildings

Derry city council has decided that the only flag to be flown over the guild hall in future will be a civic flag and that no flags at all will be flown from other council-owned properties.

Despite Unionist protests, the decision was taken by 17 votes to seven and means an end to the flying of the Union Jack over all public buildings in Derry.

The motion was proposed by Cllr. Fergus McAleer of the Irish Independence Party and supported by all of the non-Unionist members of the council, including the SDLP who previously abstained on a similar resolution.

### ACCUSATION

Cllr. Gregory Campbell (Unionist) said that the move, together with the decision to reinstate the Irish harp in the city's civic flag, would anger the entire Unionist tradition in Derry. He accused the SDLP of backing the resolution for electoral purposes.

Cllr. Pat Devine of the SDLP said that the Unionists had been guilty in the past of abusing national flags. A civic flag, he submitted, was something with which all the

people of the city could identify.

## Petition on prisoners rejected

The committee of procedures and petitions of the European Parliament has rejected, by six votes to one, a petition urging the parliament to adopt a resolution calling on the British Home Office to re-open the case of the six Irishmen serving life sentences for the 1974 Birmingham pub bombings.

The petition was lodged by Dublin journalist Seamus Brady. There is no Irish representation on the committee.

In its conclusion, the committee said that the European Court of Human Rights, and not the European Parliament, would be the proper body to consider the matter.

In his petition, Seamus Brady asked the committee to consider the circumstances surrounding the conviction of the six men at Lancaster Crown Court in 1975. He said that the men had been badly beaten by police officers during interrogation and subsequently by prison officers at Winson Green Prison. Later, he said, the British Home Office had prosecuted 14 prison officers on 96 charges arising out of assaults at the prison.

He also submitted that it has since been accepted that the forensic evidence on which the men were convicted was inconclusive and unreliable and that they were convicted during a period when public opinion in Britain was inflamed because of bombings. The six men have throughout proclaimed their innocence.



## NUPE issues new call for repeal of PTA

Britain's fourth largest trade union, the National Union of Public Employees (NUPE), has issued a new call for the repeal of the Prevention of Terrorism Act.

At its annual conference in Scarborough the union, which has more than 700,000 members, adopted a resolution calling for continued opposition to the Act and deploring its use against trade unionists.

The resolution, proposed by the north and west Belfast health district branch and seconded by the officers' branch in Hackney, north London, said: "Conference instructs the Executive Council to continue to exert pressure for the repeal of the Prevention of Terrorism Act and in particular to highlight the deplorable use of the Act on NUPE and other trade unionists in the course of their union duties".

### OTHER MOTIONS

Three other motions tabled for the conference, which was attended by more than 850 delegates, referred to the conflict in the North of Ireland. One called for the repeal of the Payment of Debts Act and another asked the union to send a fact-finding group to the North; while a third, tabled by the Prestwick nurses' branch, called for total British withdrawal from Ireland and for the repeal of the PTA and an end to the use of plastic bullets. These motions were not debated and they were remitted to the union's Executive Council.

# 'Innocent intimidated by PTA'

Fresh evidence that the Prevention of Terrorism Act intimidates large numbers of innocent Irish people in Britain while being used for quite different purposes in the North of Ireland is contained in a new analysis published in London, writes RAY BURKE.

Of the 5,555 people arrested in Britain under the Act up to the end of last year fewer than one in ten was charged with any offence, while over the same period in the North charges were brought against almost one in every two of the 2,278 people detained, the analysis shows.

## PREVIOUSLY UNAVAILABLE

Prepared by the Irish Information Partnership and published at a House of Commons press conference on Monday, the analysis draws on previously unavailable information, elicited for the IIP through a series of parliamentary questions asked by Labour MP Kevin McNamara, who chaired the press conference.

It is the first comprehensive statistical analysis of the controversial Act published by a body independent of the British government, apart from a brief section of a National Council for Civil Liberties booklet published two years ago and co-written by Patricia Hewitt, the NCCL general secretary and prospective parliamentary candidate for Leicester East, who also attended the press conference.

Charts and graph contained in the thirty-six page document trace developments in the use of detention, exclusion, house searching and prosecution since the PTA was introduced in November 1974. The graphs also show separate trends in the use of the Acts in Britain and the North, exposing anomalies which raise disturbing questions in a democracy, according to the IIP.

Comparing the numbers detained and charged in the North with similar figures for Britain up to the end of last year — the IIP concludes: "Although total arrests under the Act in Britain have declined sharply, the rate of arrests of totally innocent people shows no trend of decline". It adds: "The conclusion must be that either the police in Britain are less competent in effecting arrests under the Act than in Northern Ireland; or, more disturbingly, the Act is being used to intimidate in Britain".

Only one other possible explanation can exist for the anomalies, according to the IIP. That is that "there may be a greater readiness to charge suspects in Northern Ireland due to the existence of the 'Diplomat' court system — a thesis which might be supported by the declining acquittal ratio in such courts".

## 'Stop printing for racists' says Amnesty

Amnesty International has urged the Dublin government to take the necessary steps to prevent the continued use of Ireland as a base for the printing of racist and anti-Semitic material. There are no laws in the Republic which make racial discrimination illegal.

In latter years much of the racial material distributed in Britain by fascist groups is printed in the Republic.

Amnesty wants the Dublin government to sign the

international convention on the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination and back that up with Dail legislation.

Over the years, the Republic has refrained from signing the convention because of Article 40 of the Irish Constitution which deals with personal rights.

But Amnesty argues that, whereas the Republic itself does not have a race problem, it has a duty to other European countries to pass the necessary legislation to prevent various fascist groups on the Continent and in Britain having their material printed in Ireland.

Amnesty says that in a letter to it dated May 9, the Irish Minister for Justice, Michael Noonan, admitted that his department and the Department of Foreign Affairs differ on the need for such legislation.

## ANOTHER EXPLANATION

On the controversial exclusion clauses of the PTA, the analysis notes that only forty-nine of the 230 people excluded from Britain to the North since 1974 have been charged with an offence. It asks: "Is Northern Ireland being used as a terrorist dustbin? Or are people being, or should they be, excluded, when insufficient evidence exists to charge or convict?"

The analysis is available from the Irish Information Partnership, No. 1 Morval, 7831 Gondregnies, Belgium.

## HOME OFFICE STATISTICS

Meanwhile, many of the IIP's conclusions are borne out by the latest Home Office statistics on the operation of the Act in Britain during the first three months of this year. These show that forty-four people were detained under the Act in this country during the period — a decline on the two previous quarters, but broadly similar to the numbers arrested during each of the first two quarters of 1982. However, only two of the forty-four were charged with offences under the Act, while two others were excluded to the North and three were charged with offences under other legislation. The two charged under the Act were found guilty of refusing to produce documentation or providing false information at examination at a port. Both were fined.

## Supreme Court orders extradition to Britain

The Supreme Court in Dublin has ordered the extradition to Britain of a man who claimed he was a member of the Irish National Liberation Army.

Sydney Reid, with an address in Ranelagh, Dublin, was sought by London police on a charge of falsely pretending that a cheque valued at IRE7,295 was valid. The offence is alleged to have been committed in October 1980.

## SUCCESSFUL APPEAL

In April 1982, the Dublin District Court granted an extradition. But Sydney Reid successfully appealed in the High Court. The state then appealed to the Supreme Court.

Sydney Reid claimed before the Supreme Court that, at the time of the alleged offence, he was a member of the INLA whose objective is the overthrow of British rule in Northern Ireland and the reunification of Ireland. He claimed that, to enable the INLA to sustain an armed campaign in the North, it had formed a number of limited liability companies to obtain goods and monies by fraud, so as to buy arms.

## NO EVIDENCE

In an affidavit, Det. Const. Christopher Robinson said that at no time was there any evidence to indicate that the defendant was a member of the INLA, nor was there any evidence to suggest that monies obtained by fraud in Britain had been transferred to the INLA or used to buy firearms.

If extradited, he pledged, Sydney Reid would not be prosecuted for any political offence. He would be prosecuted only for offences under the 1968 Theft Act.

Patrick MacEntee SC, who represented Sydney Reid in the High Court, told the Supreme Court that the defendant had failed to keep appointments with him and that he had received no instructions to provide a defence.

## BOOKS FROM IRELAND

"ONE DAY IN MY LIFE"

by BOBBY SANDS M.P.

Introduction by Sean MacBride

118 moving, sad, pages: \$6.95 plus catalogue of Irish books.

THE ARMCHAIR BOOKSHOP

P.O. Box 2051

Palmerston North

# Carron's invitation to Irish in Britain

Irish community organisations in Britain have been invited to form a delegation to go to Belfast to see the realities of the situation for themselves, writes RAY BURKE.

The invitation was issued in London by Owen Carron, the outgoing abstentionist MP for Fermanagh-South Tyrone, when he addressed a packed Irish National Council forum at the Irish Club, Eaton Square.

"I would welcome Irish people to come to Belfast, particularly since some of our elected representatives cannot come to this country to talk to you and because news from the North is censored," he said. "It would be beneficial if representatives of the Irish community in Britain went to West Belfast and saw, for example, places where people have been killed by rubber and plastic bullets and see the repression that is visible daily to anyone's eyes."

The visit to Belfast, which is unlikely to take place until after the general election, will be co-ordinated by

the Irish National Council, which will invite other community organisations to be represented in the delegation.

Owen Carron was dismissive of John Hume's claim that, following the general election, Ireland will be "at the centre of the stage in the next Westminster parliament" as a result of SDLP representation. Recalling the failures at Westminster of Parnell and John Redmond, each of whom was backed by large Irish parliamentary parties, comprising scores of MPs, Owen Carron said: "Who does John Hume think he's kidding?"

Asked how Irish people in Britain should vote in the general election, Owen Carron said that, whereas he couldn't urge anybody to vote for the Labour Party of Roy Mason and Don Concannon, there was still a noticeable change in the Labour movement, if not in the Labour leadership. "In the British Labour movement, I think there is the bones of a withdrawal movement," he said.



# 'Forum of vital importance'

The New Ireland Forum opened in St. Patrick's Hall, Dublin Castle, before an invited audience, including members of the diplomatic corps. The public session involved major speeches by the Taoiseach, as well as the leaders of Fianna Fail, the Labour Party and the SDLP.

In their speeches, Dr. FitzGerald and Charles Haughey both conceded that a new constitution will be required for an all-Ireland structure.

In his speech, the Taoiseach emphasised that the Forum was of vital importance not alone to all Irish people but also to the people of Britain and their government. "They too must find the courage to face reality. Britain's failures hitherto have been our calamities. Our success now would be their opportunity to help us to bring peace and stability to their neighbouring island, and enduring brotherhood to the relations between our two countries," he said.

Charles Haughey saw the Forum's objective as being to construct a basic position which would then be put to an all-Ireland constitutional conference, convened by the Irish and British governments, as a prelude to British withdrawal.

A new constitution would be needed, he said, but in the context of a new Ireland. In that context it might be necessary to consider some degree of autonomy for the North. He said that his party would advocate that, in a new relationship between Ireland and Britain, a treaty should be arranged to ensure that

Ireland never allowed her territory to be used as a base for an attack on Britain.

The Forum will meet again, in private, on June 23 to begin its discussion on economic affairs.



WEST BELFAST'S Ivoagh district has seen the appearance of a new wall mural entitled 'Solidarity between women in armed struggle' and depicting women from Palestine, Africa and Ireland.

# IN REMEMBRANCE

Over the months of July and August two years ago, six young men held in one of Britain's Irish jails gave their lives on a hunger strike which had already claimed the lives of Bobby Sands, Francis Hughes, Ray McCreesh and Patsy O'Hara. They were seeking restoration of political status to Irish republican POWs.

Joe McDonnell died on July 8, 1981, after 61 days hunger strike. Martin Hurson died on Jul 13 after 45 days. Kevin Lynch died on August 1 after 71 days. Kieran Doherty, who had just been elected to the Southern Irish Parliament, died on August 3 after 73 days. Thomas McElwee die on August 8 after 62 days. Michael Devine die on August 21 after 66 days.



JOE McDONNELL



MARTIN HURSON



KEVIN LYNCH



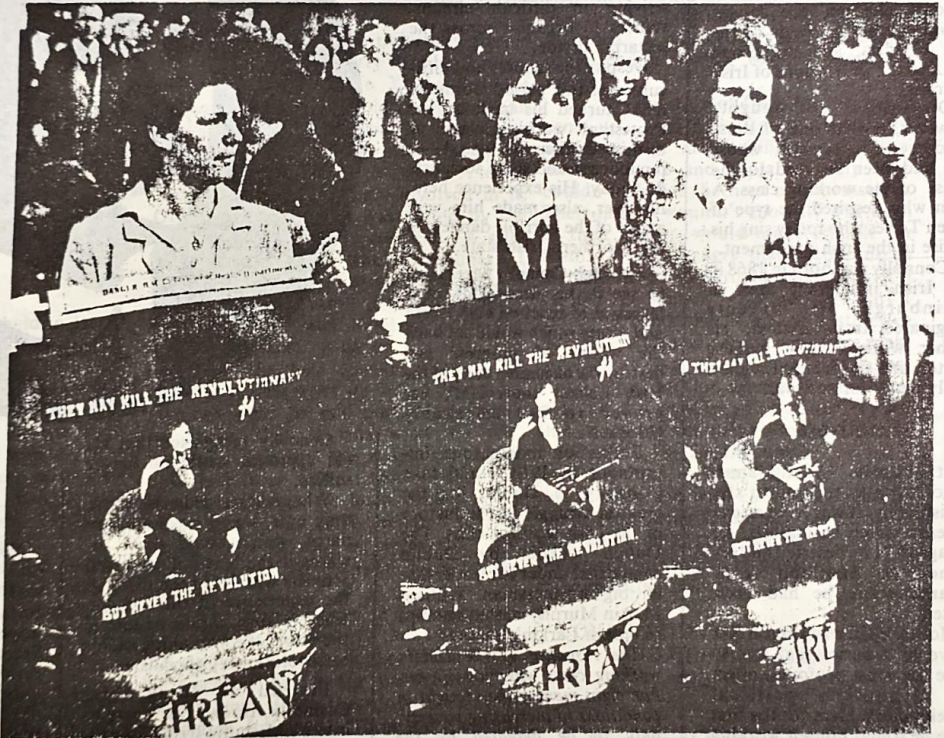
KIERAN DOHERTY



THOMAS McELWEE



MICHAEL DEVINE



Before the hunger strike, New Zealand sympathisers with the Irish struggle for self-determination were scattered and passive. During that hunger strike they were drawn together and into activity. An organisation was developed; support was sought and won amongst the trade union movement, the churches, the local Irish community, among women's organisations and among Maori activists. That organisation remains; the support grows. This is New Zealand's memorial to the H-Block hunger strikers.

# James Connolly

## What they 'forget'

IN DUBLIN CITY in 1916 a small force of rebels took over strategic buildings in what became known as the Easter Rising. The rising lasted but a few days. The rebels were isolated, the leaders were reviled in the streets, and within days were executed by the British.

Today these leaders are treated as heroes in Ireland, not just by republicans, but also by the Southern state. In the schools children are taught about the heroic deeds of the 1916 leaders, and the proud tradition of generations of Irish patriots.

One thing not taught, however, is that one of those leaders was a socialist whose life had been devoted to the cause of the working class. A man who despised the type of green Tories who today sing his praise in the Irish parliament.

Connolly was born in 1868 in an Irish immigrant area of Edinburgh. His parents originated from Ireland, his father worked as a manure carter, and the family fought a daily battle for survival.

### Loathed

At the age of 14 young James forgot his age and joined the British army. It was to be an experience which he loathed. At the age of 21 he deserted and returned to Scotland from Ireland, where he had been posted.

However, it was the further move to America that was to have the most profound effect on Connolly's political development. Here for the first time he found himself working alongside a major theoretician in the person of Daniel De Leon.

De Leon was the leader of the syndicalist Socialist Labour Party. He believed in one big union based on political principle, rather than the craft or trade unions which he described as the bulwark of capitalism. In other words the union would be rather like a political party.

The second major point that Connolly would take from De Leon was, whilst a revolutionary struggle would be needed by workers to gain control of industry, the state machine and its institutions could be taken simply by winning a parliamentary majority.

### Agitator

In 1910 Connolly returned to Ireland. He worked as the Belfast organiser of Jim Larkin's Transport Workers' Union, a new militant union founded by this great agitator, striving in difficult circumstances to organise across the sectarian divide.

Despite the failures and difficulties of this period Connolly never turned his back on the Protestant working class, or dismissed their potential—as republicans and some socialists do today. His experience here, however, also made him very aware of the horrible dangers of any Northern Irish state.

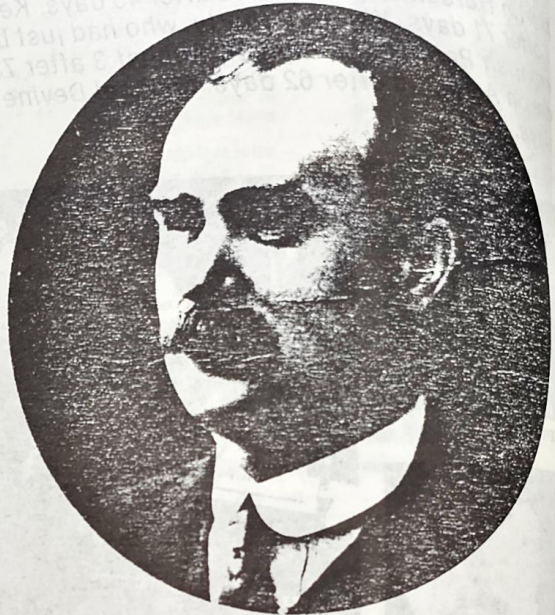
Although Connolly never lived to see it, his description of a 'carnival of reaction both North and South which would set back the wheels of progress and destroy the oncoming unity of the Irish Labour movement', has proved to be remarkably prophetic.

Events of momentous importance in 1913 would take Connolly to Dublin for the greatest struggle in the history of the Irish working class. The Dublin lockout by Dublin capitalists, under the leadership of big businessman William Martin Murphy was an attempt to smash Larkin's union.

*The response of the Dublin working class was magnificent. For eight months they fought in conditions of increasing poverty, only to be defeated by the treachery of the British TUC, which refused to put out calls for solidarity strikes or backing, and spent most of their time trying to crush Connolly and Larkin.*

One major lesson was learned during the dispute—the role of the state and all its forces, direct and indirect, against the workers.

Strike leaders were arrested, meetings banned, scabs armed and protected by police. The press lied, the church condemned, as did the newly formed Sinn Fein. The notion that somehow all this could be swept aside with a parliamentary vote was obviously nonsense.



Connolly recognised that his old approach would no longer suffice.

What was needed now, more than ever, was a revolutionary party, which could draw towards it the best militants and activists who had been through the experience of the lockout. They in turn would agitate in the workplaces, winning others to revolutionary socialism.

Instead of doing this, Connolly threw his energies into building the Irish Citizens' Army, an armed organisation. The problem with such a strategy was that a class which had just suffered defeat was not going to flock to an armed organisation, so the best militants became isolated.

*Within little more than two years Connolly, who had led thousands, would lead out a force of little over 200 for the Easter rising.*

Due to this final act of Connolly many republicans claim him today for themselves, dropping his socialism. Some socialists try to do the exact opposite and proclaim Connolly's socialism, whilst refusing to support the national struggle.

### Socialism

Connolly's unique contribution on the national question was threefold. First that Britain's role in Ireland was an imperialist and reactionary one. Secondly that Irish society was divided into classes, and that only the working class could liberate Ireland. And thirdly that there could be no national liberation without socialism.

James Connolly had been badly wounded during the rising, and was executed strapped to a chair. With no party left behind, it was easy for those hostile to him to adopt him and distort his beliefs.

Connolly's background, life, his political activity and beliefs could not have been more different from the succession of 'Irish patriots' who have held power in the Southern Irish state since 1921.

It is hardly surprising that this side of James Connolly is forgotten, for many of his writings are as revolutionary today as they were when he wrote them.

# BERNADETTE McALISKEY

## "Why I became a revolutionist"



### PART 3

Continued from April/May issue

The next march was held in Derry City on October 5. I had a male friend, English by birth and Irish by parentage. He was a strong republican and wanted to go. I was determined to go myself. So, the two of us went there on our own. Many of the same people were there—students from Belfast. There were also the young Derry activists, people like Johnnie White and Eamon McCann, whom I didn't know at the time.

I remember that there had been a running argument in the papers about whether the Derry march was going ahead or was going to be banned. It was banned. But that made me even more determined to go.

Even after all the things that have happened in the last ten years, the memory of that march still stands out in my mind. I can still see it clearly when I close my eyes—the police wading into the marchers and beating them, the water cannon coming down. It was terrifying. I was terrified, and I think everyone was terrified. But terrified as you were, something made you know that you were going to come back for more. And from that day on, people kept doing that. They kept being beaten off the streets and coming back on again, then being beaten off again and coming back. It seems like a kind of madness when you look back on it. You ask yourself in

hindsight why you kept coming back for more. Well, you just did. You knew that you had to. You knew that if you let them beat you down, you would never be able to lift yourself again. You would have to accept that having discovered your place in society that it was good enough for you. So, everytime they tried to drive us off the streets, we became more angry and determined, and that anger and determination started to put Northern Ireland into the headlines of the world press.

The new term at university started the week after the Derry march. A meeting was called by the Young Socialist Alliance, the Liberals, and the Republican Clubs. Its purpose was to organize a march 'o city hall to protest against the brutality of the police in Derry. A lot of students became strongly involved in it. Of course, the march was halted by the police before it got to city hall. A rally was held in front of the police lines. I remember Michael Farrell speaking. I did not know Farrell personally, but I knew that he was involved with the Young Socialist Alliance. He was obviously the best speaker there. He could articulate what we felt. I do not remember what he said particularly but I remember that it was what we felt. Someone said that we would stay there until hell froze over. I think that it was Farrell, although he later denied it. I know that I was quite prepared to stay sitting there as long as necessary. But after a while we marched back to the university.

The crowd moved in a spontaneous way. We filed in orderly ranks back into the student union building, which had a big assembly hall in the basement. The leaders went down there, so the rest of the march followed. There were several thousand students. The hall was packed. A very impromptu meeting started. People got up to speak. A chair was elected. We discussed the whole question of the march, why we had been stopped, and police brutality. The only ones with any clear idea of why it was all happening was the group of people around Michael Farrell.

Yet, I remember thinking at the time that these people were the Young Socialist Alliance. My Catholic training told me that these people were subversives. They were going to jump on

this bandwagon and lead us all down the dreaded road to Communism, rape all the nuns, and burn all the chapels. So, I sat there listening to Farrell and thinking that what he was saying was right and that it was what I felt but also being very suspicious because it was Farrell who was saying it.

It was at that meeting that People's Democracy was constituted. It began as a very loose organization. It was decided that there would be another march. This was the first political meeting that I ever attended. I was sitting there like all the other people feeling excited about the march.

The question of filing for the march came up. And one after the other, the students who had organized the initial march got up and explained why they couldn't file for the next one themselves. Their fathers wouldn't allow it. The dean of their faculty would make trouble for them. I got so angry that I stood up in the middle of the crowd and said: 'I'll file for the march.' I'm not sure why I did it. I think that it was an instinctive reaction. All these people who were making excuses were middle class kids to me. I had a gut reaction against them. They were all too nice to go any further now that the going was getting tough. And so I said: "I'll file for the march." I don't have anything to lose. And, of course, that was greeted with cheers and sighs of relief, that some idiot had been found who would do it. (The person "filing" for the march was legally responsible for anything resulting from it.)

### COMBINATION OF NATIONALIST AND WORKING CLASS TRADITIONS

My personal background put me at the crossroads of the tendencies that were developing. I had absorbed the Irish revolutionary tradition as a child, but I grew up outside the world of the republican movement. Along with this, I gained a strong consciousness of being part of the working class and of the social and economic problems faced by working people in Northern Ireland.

I was the middle child of a family of six. My father died when I was about nine years old. What I remember most about him is that when he was home he





# Kelly's Eye

Yes, it's quiz time! A two-part question: a recent visitor to New Zealand was last month described (in loud conversation) as being "surlly" and "grasping" and "swooping down on every gift going". Now then -

- Part 1: was this visitor:
- a) The Archbishop of Canterbury?
  - b) The Premier of China?
  - c) The Princess of Wales?
- And Part 2: was the speaker:
- a) Dun Mihaka?
  - b) John Minto?
  - c) A prominent Labour MP?
- Winner will receive a Royal Walkabout (and a framed picture of suburban Wellington if you can pick the MP).

Front page of the Auckland Star ran a couple of paragraphs on a British soldier who had just been tossed out of his regiment for "a reign of terror over fellow privates". In nine months he assaulted and threatened eight other soldiers, burning them with cigarettes, forcing them to do his chores and in one case partially nanging a soldier because he thought the man was a communist. The delightful chap was described in the Star as "an Ulster veteran".

A recent copy of Sinn Fein's *Republican News* claimed the paper was postponing the "sensational publication of the diaries of Oliver Cromwell" which it had lately been offered "for a sum in excess of two figures". "A slight doubt still exists over the authenticity of the documents," *Republican News* notes, even though they had been described by "an eminent historian" as "typed in a hard-nosed puritanical style". Meanwhile the diaries of one of Wellington's most notorious poteen drinkers has come my way and I would gladly publish them but the handwriting is totally indecipherable.

Quote from a *Listener* article about the English playwright David Hare: "Critics talk about his striking theatrical inventiveness and sheer uninhibited cleverness. But they don't always like the results: his *England's Ireland* was effectively banned. 'It was the style,' he says. 'It was not compassionate. Theatre producers want plays about "this hating has to stop". That's the only sort of play the English can understand about Ireland.'"

Dear, dear, dear! Our mole in the British High Commission, Wellington, informs us an office assistant employed there has recently been subjected to a severe grilling. Seems she had been to a local firm of tax consultants about her IR5 and they proceeded to mail information to her c/o the High Commission. All pretty innocent — except for the fact that the envelope had printed on it the tax consultants' title: *H & R Block*. Caused a terrible flap!

Maori actor *Wi Kuki Kaa* (*Wiremu* in the movie *Tutu*) in a recent interview attacked TVNZ for not using Maori writers on projects like the series *The Governor* and thus "putting pakeha thoughts into Maori mouths". He commented: "The broadcasting people have a *Sinn Fein* mentality — we know best." Now that's a novel use of the term, and a rather ironic one — *Wi Kuki Kaa* and *Sinn Fein* probably share exactly the same feelings on the protection and nourishing of a native culture in the teeth of a British imperial heritage.

I have just been reading Irish author Eamonn McCann's dreadful anecdote on *Royal Babies*. McCann, stunned at the BBC devoting the evening's main news to an item from New Zealand that Prince William was crawling the floors of Government House, writes in an English left-wing paper of a friend in Derry who had one political creed: Drown the Royal Babies! No matter the occasion, McCann writes, whether it was a Ban-The-Bomb march or a protest over slum housing, this character could be relied upon to chant out his cry: "Drown the Royal Babies!" McCann claims he suggested to his friend that such a slogan may not be the best one for uniting the masses, only to be told that until the British were prepared to drown their royal babies they would never be free. Honestly, I don't know what to think...

— Kelly

## NEW LODGE CHILD ASSAULTED BY RUC

AROUND 8:25pm on Monday, May 30th, 11-year-old Sharon Harmon, from Sheridan Street in the New Lodge area of Belfast, was standing chatting to a friend close to her home when, without reason, an RUC mobile patrol pulled to a halt beside them and one RUC man demanded to know why Sharon was "standing about the streets."

Sharon tried to explain that it was early and she was in fact in her own street but the RUC man yelled at her: "You're a cheeky bastard!"

He then jumped out of the jeep, roughly grabbed Sharon by the hair and dragged her into the back of the landrover, ripping her cardigan off. Sharon's mother, who demanded to know why her daughter was in the landrover, was told that they were going to "teach her a lesson."

Sharon was taken, bewildered and shaken, to North Queen Street Barracks where

she was illegally questioned in the absence of her parents for over an hour about the family background and was verbally abused, being called a 'Fenian slut'.

Mr and Mrs Harmon were reunited with their terrified daughter at 9.30pm with no apology from the RUC for either the anguish they had deliberately caused them nor for the brutal treatment to which they subjected Sharon. The Harmons are now taking legal advice on the matter.



● SHARON HARMON

### '40,000 more on dole' forecast

By this time next year, the Republic will have 220,000 people on the unemployment register — according to the influential Economic and Social Research Institute in Dublin.

The forecast envisages 40,000 people being added to the dole queues between now and next spring — the additional unemployed coming from a combination of continuing redundancies and a growth in the national workforce.

Meanwhile, the Irish Press newspaper group in Dublin proposes shedding 157 jobs.

AUCKLAND'S

# THEATRE CORPORATE

NEW PLAY SEASON.

PH 774 307



THE WORST HOUSING IN EUROPE

AND THE MOST MODERN PRISONS

## A STREET



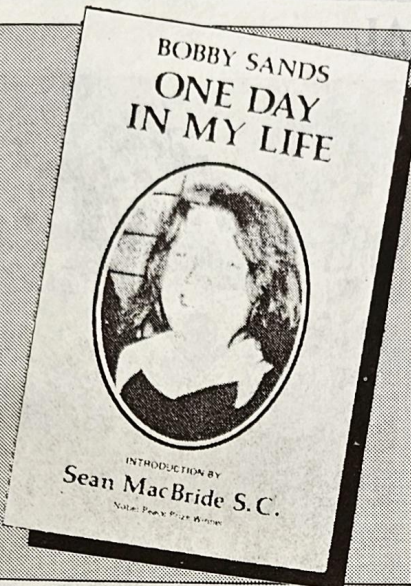
**THEATRE CORPORATE**  
14 GALATOS ST, NEWTON.  
Bookings Ph 774-307

# CALLED STRAIGHT

## BY SEAMUS QUINN.

### OPENING 9<sup>th</sup> JUNE, 8.15pm

# Our day will come



## REVIEW BY MARTIN McGUINNESS

THIS harrowing account by Bobby Sands of one day in the life of a blanket man in the H-Blocks of Long Kesh is a story of suffering and cruelty sanctioned by the British government against naked, hungry, cold and lonely Irish prisoners who dared oppose British efforts to criminalise the republican freedom struggle.

It was to be a day, like other days, full of tension, terror, depression, hunger and cold, which began with yet another savage wing shift which, when completed, left Bobby beaten, bloodied and sore.

Bobby introduces us to "three perfect bastards", labelled simply 'A', 'B' and 'C', screws of the worst kind who make the remainder of the prisoner's day a purgatory:

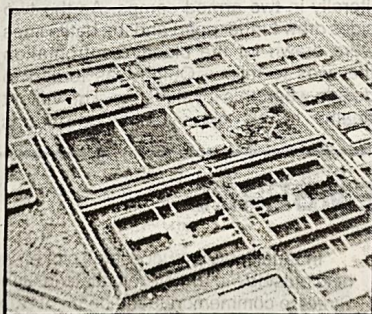
Look around you in the tomb you survive in, and you are engulfed in Hell, with little black devils in the forms of 'A', 'B' and 'C' ready to pounce on you each minute of each stinking nightmare-ridden day.

These three screws are the embodiment of British repression in Ireland. Their sole function is to systematically destroy republican prisoners using a combination of downright brutality and refined psychological torture.

Bobby's description of the beaten blood-stained bodies of his comrades being dragged by their feet along the concrete floor covered by pools of urine makes horrifying reading, as does his account of the searching of Pee Wee O'Donnell's anal passage by screws 'B' and 'C', who then proceed to beat him



● (Above) Martin McGuinness and (below) the H-Blocks of Long Kesh



severely before removing him to the punishment blocks.

Tension hung like a guillotine; no one dared breathe aloud, fearing it would fall upon them; it was soul-destroying and seemingly endless. A scream came shrieking and hurtling down the wing.

### TORMENTS

Then there is the psychological pres-

sure — the pin-pricking accumulative torments designed to drive men insane.

Bobby quietly anticipates fish for dinner, only to find that a screw had eaten the fish.

He describes a visit from his family, prematurely ended by the harassing screws while the tears rolled down his mother's cheeks.

He tells of the drone of the high-powered cleaning machine, maggots in the dinners, the degradation of the prisoners at body searches with black-uniformed screws giggling and smirking while the prisoners stand before them, naked and humiliated.

Refuge from all this was found in thoughts of birds, the Rosary, green fields, Irish lessons; a song and a smoke — which gave him the greatest pleasure because of having to smuggle the tobacco from a visit, which he regarded as a triumph over his gaolers. Pitiful little respites from endless suffering and gloom.

And then, at the end of his day, as he lies down on his filthy soaking mattress comes a remarkable, chillingly powerful thought: **That's another day nearer to victory.**

More than any other sentiment in the book this one surely explains what drove him and his comrades on in the face of tyranny:

I was proud to be resisting, to be fighting back. They couldn't defeat us outside, they are torturing us unmercifully inside their hell holes, and have failed to defeat us. I was frightened but I knew I would never give up. I would face the imperial might of their entire, torturous arsenal rather than succumb.

### SHAME

This book should be compulsory reading for all the thousands of Irish people who supported the demands of the republican prisoners in Long Kesh and Armagh.

It should be read by all those respectable and privileged people who to their eternal shame acquiesced in Britain's murderous treatment of Irish men and women.

This is indeed a shocking and a disturbing book. It tells graphically of one man's day in prison, one day out of 4½ years that Bobby Sands spent in the H-Blocks of Long Kesh. It explains the reasons why Bobby and his nine comrades went on hunger-strike to their deaths, not just for the five demands, but also I believe against the illegal British occupation of Ireland — the reason why they were in Long Kesh in the first place.

By their suffering and deaths on hunger-strike they ensured that things will never be the same again.

Tiocfaidh ár lá, Bobby, our day will come. ■

## SAÍOCHTA/CULTURAL

### 'OURSELVES ALONE' A NEW VOICE FOR THE NEW ZEALAND IRISH

For a brief history of Ireland one could sit down for a couple of hours and listen to some of the great number of Irish rebel songs which have come out of this land. They are songs which have come from the centuries of oppression of Ireland. Oppression which still exists in the six counties of Ulster called "Northern Ireland" today. It is a history coming from the very hearts of the people themselves.

With the dispersion of the Irish people around the world so too has this music. And here in Wellington, New Zealand this can be seen in a group called "Ourselves Alone". A band formed among some people who have a common interest in Irish music and, as importantly, in the present struggle of the Irish against British rule and repression in Northern Ireland.

"Ourselves Alone" was formed late last year, adopted this name (the English translation of "Sinn Féin") and has received enthusiastic receptions from quite a wide ranging audience. They have performed at two Ceilís run by the Wellington H-Block/Armagh Committee at a labour Party function held early last month, and more recently at Cosgroves (in the Cambridge Hotel) on May 19th, an event which will be a regular monthly occurrence.

The line-up of the band is at present; Therese O'Connell (vocals), Nick Swan (guitar/vocals), Vince Burke (guitar/harmonica/tin whistle/vocals), Catherine Campbell (guitar/vocals), Kevin Molloy (violin/vocals), and Phil O'Connell (bodhran/vocals).

The group play a mixture of old and new songs dating from as far back as the sixteenth century through to songs written in the last few years. Theirs is a unique type of music for the Wellington audience with a clear message being conveyed.

Their next performance will be at Cosgrove's on June 30th at 8 pm.



Members of 'Ourselves Alone'

### A Street Called Straight

Joy, Sorrow, Anguish, Pain, and Death, the long bloody stream of Irish passion bursts onto Auckland's Theatre Corporate stage in the premiere production of **A Street Called Straight** by Seamus Quinn on Thursday, June 9th at 8.15 pm.

Seamus Quinn's background is Belfast protestant working-class. His mother, in Belfast parlance, was a 'turncoat' — a Catholic who changes her religion on marrying. In Belfast, the children of a marriage across the religious divide are regarded as being of mixed blood.

By 1970 Quinn found himself with a foot literally in two armed camps. As the two sides drew further apart and the battle lines were drawn for the bloody confrontation that was to follow, Quinn was forced to decide where his loyalties lay. The violent deaths of his close childhood friends

resolved his own personal conflict. The play, through the eyes of these friends, traces the Ulster conflict, in direct human terms, from their childhood to adolescence and finally their deaths at the age of twenty-four.

**A Street Called Straight** is directed by Roger McGill with the Company (Michael Hurst, Chris White, Ross Duncan, Hester Joyce, Miles Taylor, Alison Bruce and Jenny Ward-Lealand).

**A Street Called Straight**, plays Monday and Tuesday at 6.15 and Wednesday to Saturday at 8.15 after its premiere on Thursday, June 9th at 8.15 pm.

For further information contact Roger McGill, Phone 774.307

## BOBBY SANDS REMEMBERED

On Thursday May 5th, the second anniversary of the death of Bobby Sands, there was a brief wreath laying ceremony to mark the death of Sands and the other nine hunger strikers of 1981.

A group assembled at the Wellington Cenotaph War Memorial with an Irish tricolour and a coffin bearing the names of each of the hunger strikers. Brian Casey, chairperson of the Wellington H-Block/Armagh Committee, gave a short speech in which he said the real cause of the deaths of these young men was the arrogant intransigence of the British Government.

After this the green, white and gold wreath was laid followed by a brief silence. **Leathanach 14**

In Auckland a successful picket was held outside the British consulate in Queen Street to commemorate the death of Bobby Sands, and hundreds of leaflets were distributed to lunchtime shoppers.

### More on dole

Unemployment in Northern Ireland increased by 2,704 during the month of April. There are now 116,000 out of work — 20.9% of the employable population.

Male unemployment is now at 27% — more than one man in four — while female unemployment is at 12.8%. Unemployment in the Strabane area has reached 50.3%. In Cookstown it's 40.5% and in Newry 40%.

Greater Belfast has an unemployment rate of 20.8%, but in Catholic West Belfast the figure is believed to be about 50%.

### An apology to the Wellington Irish Society

The editorial committee wishes to apologise to the Wellington Irish Society for incorrect information printed in the news item, More Bite in St Patrick's Day, in the April/May issue of Saoirse.

In that article we incorrectly stated that a well known judge was stopped from singing 'Kevin Barry' at the Wellington Irish Societies St Patrick's day celebrations held at the Chinese Cultural Centre on March 19. It was, in fact, on St Patrick's day and at the Irish Societies rooms where Judge Kearney was so rudely interrupted.

Furthermore, according to our sources it would appear that Judge Kearney is well known for his renditions of the song 'Kevin Barry'. What is not so common, however, is that way in which it is received — but we wonder who should apologise for that?

## ANOTHER SIDE TO THE ROYAL TOUR

Although largely ignored by the media in New Zealand, there were many people here who had what they felt was an important message to pass on to the representatives of the English monarch on their recent visit to this country.

Nothing was heard, for example, of the box containing paper cups and plates etc. (fit for a banquet) removed from the path of the royal motorcade in Dunedin, the soup kitchen in Auckland or the banner that suddenly appeared from an upper story window in Wellington during the walk-about which requested that England "Get out of Ireland". It is not surprising then that neither did we hear about the harassment of members of the H-Block and Armagh Committee during the visit which included an early morning police search of a private home and the confiscation of a legally held hunting gun, a banner and posters.



## Voting rights of Irish 'should not be disturbed'

As was expected, the House of Commons Home Affairs select committee, which for some months was reviewing the Representation of the People Act, has concluded that the voting rights of Irish citizens in Britain "should not be disturbed".

In its report, the committee says that it "supports the Home Secretary" in resisting calls to disfranchise the Irish. The committee adds that it hopes the present Dublin government will speedily fulfil its promise to grant parliamentary voting rights to British citizens resident in the Republic.

Meanwhile, Reading and Stevenage councils have become the last of many local authorities to endorse resolutions supporting Irish voting rights. Both resolutions were adopted unanimously.

## New Zealand H-Block/Armagh Committee Diary

### INFORMATION AVAILABLE FROM NZ H-BLOCK/ ARMAGH COMMITTEE:

**THE PATRIOT GAME** 90 min film on the Irish struggle, concentrating on the last decade in the north.

**HOME SOLDIER HOME** 30 min film on the role played by the British Army in Northern Ireland, Aden, strike-breaking.

**BRITAIN IN IRELAND** 40 min tape-slide show presenting a history of Britain conquest and rule in Ireland.

**NO BRITISH SOLUTION** Well illustrated booklet on the history of British rule in Ireland, the role of British troops, the case for withdrawal. \$1.50 plus 30c postage.

**THEY KILL CHILDREN** Booklet documenting the use of plastic bullets by state forces in Northern Ireland. \$2.00 plus 30c postage.

### AUCKLAND BRANCH MEETINGS:

Regular meetings take place on the **last Wednesday of the month** at 7 pm. at the Trades Union Centre, corner of Great North Rd and Sussex St. (Just down from the Irish Society hall). Important items for discussion at the next meetings will include preparations for the anniversary of internment (August 12).\*

\*For further information on activities and meetings ring Dean 769 103.

### HAMILTON BRANCH

For information concerning activities and meeting dates phone 255-861.

### DUNEDIN BRANCH

**MEETINGS:** Meetings are held regularly. For times and dates phone 771-614.

### CHRISTCHURCH BRANCH:

For information concerning activities and meetings, phone 438-96.

### WELLINGTON BRANCH MEETINGS:

Regular meetings are held in the branch office, 25A Marrion Street, 4th floor, every Thursday (with the exception of June 30 and August 4) at 7.30 pm. All welcome.

A special meeting has been called for Thursday the 23rd of June to discuss the outcome of the Australian H-Block and Armagh Committee conference. Items to be discussed will include; a possible name change, relations with our Australian counterparts, Saoirse, and the future direction of the local committee. Please attend.

**IRISH LANGUAGE CLASSES:** Language classes are being held on Tuesday nights at the committee rooms, 25A Marrion Street, at 7.30pm. All welcome.

### An Evening of Rebel Music

"Ourselves Alone" will be playing a selection of republican songs old and new at Cosgroves, Cambridge Hotel, Wellington, on the 30th June and the 4th of August, starting at 8pm. Come and join in the fun. (See review this issue)

**SUPPORT THE REPUBLICAN POLITICAL PRISONERS IN  
THE GAOLS OF IRELAND AND ENGLAND. JOIN THE NZ  
H-BLOCK AND ARMAGH COMMITTEE.  
SEND YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS TO YOUR LOCAL  
COMMITTEE:**

**NZ H-BLOCK AND ARMAGH COMMITTEE**

**AUCKLAND, P.O. BOX 39132**

**WELLINGTON, P.O. BOX 50466.**

**CHRISTCHURCH, P.O. BOX 6028**

**DUNEDIN, P.O. BOX 779**

**Hamilton, C/- C. Marron,  
Okete Rd, R.D.1, Raglan.**

### SUBSCRIPTIONS DUE!

Annual Subs for volume 2 now due. Saoirse is published bi-monthly at an annual subscription of \$3.75 (including postage). Make sure you continue to receive your copy by sending your sub. today to—

**SAOIRSE  
P.O. Box 50466  
PORIRUA**

# Sealadaigh ABÚ!



**IN A SUCCESSFUL commercial bombing blitz in the Great Victoria Street area of Belfast the IRA's Belfast Brigade planted five fire-bombs which completely destroyed three shops and damaged several others.**

A warning was phoned to newspaper offices and there were no injuries.

## BELFAST BLITZ

Four out of five IRA bombs exploded in Belfast city centre

Monday night, May 9th, causing extensive damage to three shops and an estate agents.

All of the explosions took place shortly after 10pm, with the first, a small bomb, going off at Smith's Irish Linen shop in Wellington Street, close to Belfast City Hall.

A second grille bomb went off at an estate agents at the junction of Wellington Street and Upper Queen Street, with a third explosion occurring at Conlon's furniture store in Donegal Street.

The fourth bomb exploded at John Patrick's clothes shop in William Street.

Warnings had been given by the Belfast Brigade and no civilians were injured.

## DRAMATIC DERRY ATTACK

An IRA active service unit in Derry dramatically evaded capture on Sunday night when they were blocked by a British army patrol in the Drumahoe area of the city.

The IRA Volunteers, dressed as RUC men, were returning from an aborted operation in a commandeered car when halted by the

Brits.

The Volunteers jumped out of their vehicle and one threw a hand grenade while three others opened fire with automatic weapons, putting the radio in the British Military Police car out of action and damaging the vehicle.

The unit then drove into Gobnascale where they abandoned their car, which was burnt by local youths as the IRA Volunteers commandeered another vehicle and successfully completed their escape.

FOUR RUC men were injured in IRA landmine attacks in Tyrone and South Armagh.

The first attack took place on Monday night when an active service unit of the IRA's Tyrone Brigade detonated a mine under an RUC armoured patrol car on the Limehill Road near Pomeroy. Its two occupants were injured.

In a silly attempt at counter-propaganda, the RUC afterwards claimed that they had 'reason to believe' that such a bomb had been set up in the area and that they had been searching for it.

If that was so, they found it on Monday night.

## CAMLOUGH AMBUSH

The following night, Volunteers of the IRA's South Armagh Brigade ambushed an RUC patrol car on the Crossmaglen Road at Camlough.

A mine was detonated under the armoured Cortina car and both RUC men inside were injured.

## MAGHERA GUN ATTACK

On Tuesday morning, an IRA unit of the South Derry Brigade carried out a gun attack in Maghera on a UDR part-time soldier who is also a DUP election worker.

The man was attacked as he arrived for work at a furniture store in the town. One IRA Volunteer fired at him, but missed, and the UDR man pulled out his gun and fired back.

The unit involved in the operation withdrew and, in spite of the area being immediately cordoned-off and numerous British army/UDR checkpoints being set up, returned safely to base.

## RUC ATTACKED

In County Tyrone on Thursday, May 26th, just one hour after an RUC Reservist was shot dead at a checkpoint in Cookstown, IRA Volunteers in Dungannon fired shots into an RUC sangar which marks the permanent checkpoint in the middle of the town. There were no hits claimed in this last attack.

On Friday morning, an active service unit of the North Armagh Brigade's 1st Battalion ambushed a member of the RUC Reserve as he drove to work in Waringstown, County Down. A bomb, planted by the side of the road, was detonated, injuring the RUC man in the explosion.

The same man had been ambushed previously by the IRA as recently as last January when he was fired on whilst driving along the Tandragee Road.