

CONCERNED

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF FERMANAGH CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE COMMITTEE

"IRELAND UNFREE SHALL NEVER BE AT PEACE"

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RATES

No. 174

Saturday, 1st March (De Sathairn, 1 Márta), 1975

The New Alliance

FOLLOWING the announcement of the bilateral truce between the Provisional IRA and the forces of the Crown a new alliance came into existence. It is the alliance of all the political parties in Ireland, North and South, an alliance born mostly through fear—fear that the television cameras would be turned away from them and in a new direction—fear that their well paid positions might be threatened as a result of a new situation developing in Ireland—fear that the day might dawn which would leave them in the role of plain John Citizens.

One would have expected that all those who had become professional condemners of violence would have jumped for joy at the news of the truce and would have endeavoured to do all in their power to aid the establishment of a just and lasting peace.

The outcry from the so-called "Loyalist" politicians was predictable as everybody knows they would like a peace built on suppression, a peace which would lead to a more unjust and oppressive Stormont than ever before.

But what of the SDLP, Alliance and the Dublin Government, who have posed as the parties of moderation and peace with justice? (the SDLP and Dublin claiming they stood for national reunification). The reaction of these parties shows them in their true colours. They are now aligned with the ultra right-wing Unionists in their demands for the suppression of the Republican truce supervisory centres. Only last week the Foreign Affairs Department in Dublin (at the request of the SDLP) were complaining and moaning to the British Government about the existence of the centres.

What is becoming very clear as time moves on is that in spite of words to the contrary the SDLP and Dublin were very happy with their lot. They mouthed support for a free Ireland, but secretly prayed "Not yet, Lord".

Time and past deeds are, however, catching up on the self-seekers. The night

has been indeed a long one, but now the dawn is breaking to herald in a new day, a day which will bring peace and prosperity to all the people of this land, a day that will end the reign of the parasitic politician. His passing will bring many blessings.

FREE STATE WON'T LET FATHER SEE CHILDREN

MR. Thomas Holden, who although not a political prisoner, is at the moment on hunger strike in the Curragh detention centre. He began his protest on 22nd Jan. to demand his right to have his five children visit him or, alternatively, to be allowed an escorted visit to them. Because he is separated from his wife, his children are being housed in a children's home in Cork. It is necessary, then, that special arrangements be made to enable Mr. Holden to see his family. Although he has spent the last four years in prison these arrangements have not been made.

This is the second time that Tommy Holden has been forced to take such action. The first was nearly 19 months ago in Mountjoy Prison when he began a hunger strike for the same reason. He was then transferred to Limerick Prison "to facilitate a visit", but in fact never once received one from his children or was permitted to make one. Subsequently he demanded to be returned to Mountjoy. Though not a political prisoner, Mr. Holden was then transferred to The Curragh.

In pursuit of his demands Mr. Holden has, to date, seen 13 welfare officers, five governors, one commandant, and three visiting committees. As well he wrote to the Minister for Justice seven months ago. He has as yet received no reply. Mr. Holden ended his hunger strike on 29th January. We trust this is a sign that his case is being looked after.

SINN FEIN IN FERMANAGH

AN upsurge of interest in Sinn Fein is reported from different areas of this county, with the formation of a number of new cumanns. This is welcome but not unexpected news, as one realises that all people who really care about the future of our country and are anxious to play their part in the shaping of a new and better Ireland, based on justice for all and completely free from foreign interference, naturally join Sinn Fein.

Sinn Fein is an all Ireland political party and is organised in every county and indeed in almost every parish in Ireland. Within its ranks are found the idealists, the men and women ready and anxious to give to their land rather than take from it, the tireless and unselfish workers in the cause of truth and justice.

On the other hand Sinn Fein does not cater for the professional politician whose aim it is to retain a seat in the partitionist assemblies of Stormont or Dublin for the sole purpose of drawing an easy and fat salary, while all the time living a lie at the expense of many sincere but mistaken people, who are led to imagine that somehow or other the unification of our country will be achieved by the mouthings of these people. Their present attitude to the truce ought sufficiently show to all what they are and where their interests lie.

To get back, however, to the role of a Sinn Fein cumann a few suggestions may be helpful here. Of first and major priority is the study of Sinn Fein policy. The booklet *Eire Nua* should be thoroughly studied until every member has a perfect grasp of its contents. The proposals for regionalisation in governmental structure for Ireland is something every member should understand, so that he or she can explain and promote this idea. It should be the aim of every cumann to promote our native language, dances and culture. Lectures on our history and such matters should be organised; excursions and visits to places of historic interest such as Kilmainham Jail and patriots' graves could be arranged in co-operation with other cumanns.

The sale of Republican papers and books should also be part of a cumann activity, as should the organisation of functions and fund-raising for the dependants and internees and political prisoners. Sinn Fein members should be always ready to help in and support all worthy and charitable causes.

News and Views Fro

THOUGH held in dungeons dark, where every effort has been made, every foul trick tried to break them, the Republican soldiers held in Long Kesh, Crumlin, Magilligan and Armagh are in mind and spirit free and defiant as their letters and statements convey, bearing living witness to the truth of McSwiney's axiom: "It's not they who inflict the most, but they who can endure the most, will emerge the victors."

The following statements have reached us from Long Kesh in spite of the vigilant censor:

AND SO THE FARCE CONTINUES

Long Kesh
7/2/1975

ABOVE the Belfast City Commissions on the Crumlin Road there stands a statue similar to that which graces the Old Bailey Courthouse in London and many other such-like British institutions. You will see it referred to as the Statue of Justice in many of our tourist brochures. It portrays a serene, austere looking lady holding a sword in one hand and balancing a set of scales in the other. Its theme—"The impartiality of British law". For those of us who have had the distinction of spending many months across the road, so to speak, under Her Majesty's auspices, and awaiting the same lady's pleasure, these "scales of justice" had a special significance. You see the "lady's scales" have never quite balanced right for these past few years. First they leaned too much to the right—then they would lean too much to the left. In fact the whole thing became so ridiculous that one day a wee man in a white coat climbed up on the courthouse rooftop and removed "the scales" from about the lonely lady. And, despite the many attempts to have the situation rectified, to this day the lonely lady with the heart of stone is still as inept as ever at performing her seemingly simple role.

But perhaps the lady is doing her best. Could it be that she is being asked to perform an impossible task? Yesterday, at the Belfast City Commissions, the reason for the lady's plight was painfully obvious.

At the end of a "trial" in that seat of "British justice" three Republicans were each sentenced to 12 years' imprisonment for the possession of a "detonator, five sticks of gelignite and a battery."

And for their part in "being accessories after murder, intimidation, causing actual bodily harm and detaining a person against his will, two Loyalists were jailed for a total of three years.

I am, of course, referring to one of the most horrific murder cases ever to come to light in these islands—that of Miss Ann Ogilby, savagely beaten to death by members of the Ulster Defence Association. Her "crime"—a supposed association with a married UDA member serving a prison sentence here in Long Kesh.

Before passing sentence on the eleven UDA members involved in the callous slaying, the trial judge, Mr. "Justice" McGonigle delivered one of the hardest hitting and most scathing attacks ever heard from the "bench". He described the UDA as a "vicious and brutalising association of persons and said of one of those on trial — the Women's UDA Commander, Elizabeth Douglas — "You organised and directed the punishment of this girl. You chose and chose well those who were to carry out your directions. When you heard what happened you organised the cover up and disposal of the body. Your concern was to ensure these terrible happenings should not come to light. You were the commander of these women. Your responsibility was great. You are no stranger to crime. You have a record, smuggling, forgery, assault and actual bodily harm, aiding

and abetting the keeping of a brothel."

And yet despite this hard-hitting address, despite the fact that this woman organised Ann Ogilby's murder from start to finish, Mr. "Justice" McGonigle accepted her plea of "manslaughter" instead of murder, and jailed her for a mere ten years.

This, then, we must assume, is "justice" — three Republicans, for the possession of a detonator, 5 sticks of gelignite and a BATTERY, receive 12 years' jail each. An officer in the UDA gets 10 years' jail for organising an unmarried mother's brutal murder.

Is this to be the "peace with justice" we hear so many of our churchmen and politicians clamour for? Will they still ask of the Republican Movement that it surrender its principles, its obligations and seek the "justice of British institutions"? Is there not one among them who possesses the honesty and integrity to stand up and condemn the evil and the suffering symbolic of the British presence in Ireland?

For far, far too long their pitiful cries to accept "British justice" and the "fair deal for all" policies of Merlyn Rees have captured the headlines of the daily newspapers. The time for the voice of the Irish people to reject these monotonous and selfish mutterings has come. Display your solidarity, your trust, your unequivocal support for the policies being pursued by the Republican Movement, and peace with justice will ensue.

Only then will the Irish people experience what freedom really means.

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WELFARE GROUP SCHEME

Sentenced Republican Prisoners,
Long Kesh
3/2/1975

SOME time ago a scheme was launched to form a Welfare Group which would relieve the hardship of the men returning to their homes after long periods in the prison camps of Northern Ireland. Initially the idea was very promising and from it emerged the Resettlement Association of Northern Ireland. All groups, including the Provisional Republican prisoners, whose members form the majority of political prisoners in Ireland, worked in conjunction with the Northern Ireland Office to make this scheme a success. To date the activities of this Association have been very commendable and the relationship between all involved groups extremely cordial. However, all hopes for our continued participation in the Association have been dashed due to the recommendations recently published in the Gardiner Report. These recom-

mendations have included the ending of political status and the setting up of a Resettlement Board once this status has been removed. For us to further participate in the Resettlement Association would only serve to give credibility to sections of the Gardiner Report which we have rejected in its entirety. Our position on any attempt to remove political status has already been made known, but we will take this opportunity to reiterate that position. Our intentions now are to reinstate a Welfare Scheme for the men under our command which was operational prior to the Resettlement Association. This scheme has proved very successful in the past and we feel that once it has been updated with a few of our new ideas it will function perfectly. We wish to make it known, however, that we have nothing but the highest regard for the Association and wish to thank all who worked hard to make it a success.

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THE PUPPET STATE

Long Kesh.
7/2/1975

SINCE the end of the Civil War the attitude of successive "Free State" Governments towards the question of "Irish unity" has been a national scandal. Prior to 1969 all the misery and degradation suffered by the "Nationalist" people of the North over the years was studiously ignored.

When, in 1969, genocide was attempted in Belfast and Derry City against a defenceless people, the "Free State" government shed crocodile tears and Lynch made his famous speech of "not standing idly by" fame.

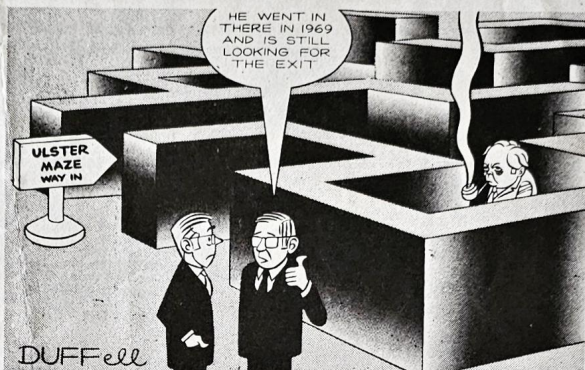
We are all too familiar with his implementation of that promise.

The infamous amendment to the "Offences Against the State Act" and the consequent hounding, persecution and conviction of dozens of people, whose only crime was to defend their homes and families against the armed thugs of the RUC, the "B" Specials, the British Army and the sectarian hordes of burning and looting "Loyalists".

But the record of the Lynch Government, shameful though it is, has been totally eclipsed by that of the present Cosgrave Coalition. They can rightly take their place in history alongside the "Vichy" government of wartime France and the Quisling junta of Norway.

In their eagerness to please they have even surpassed their Westminster masters in their treatment of political prisoners. Portlaoise has now become more notorious than Long Kesh and the inmates of that establishment are now reminiscent of the residents of Belsen.

Only the gas-chambers are missing.



m Behind The Wire

CHURCH LEADERS

Long Kesh.
17/2/1975

HAVE you ever noticed how remarkably little comment has emanated from the leaders of the Christian churches about certain aspects of the "troubles" over these past few years? It's not that they give the impression of being bashful or withdrawn or anything like that. Quite the opposite, in fact, since it is almost impossible to watch a newsreel or read a paper without being subjected to ceaseless condemnations by those worthy church dignitaries on some latest triviality or never ending lectures on Christian morality. Bishops Philbin and Daly, Peacock and Simms are household names these days, whereas a few years ago few people outside their respective flocks would have known the difference between the name of Philbin or Simms and cared far less. I might be wrong, but somehow I have a sneaking suspicion that the aforementioned gentlemen have acquired a distinct partiality to unabated publicity.

Christianity, as I knew it, is to say the least an admirable philosophy with which few people would have any fundamental objection, and it is equally true to say that if we lived in a genuine Christian society we would be spared the ugly spectacle which has bedevilled the country of late.

But to get back to the lectures on Christian morality from Philbin and Co., did anyone hear them utter a word of muted protest against Paddy

Cooney in relation to the Portlaoise Hunger Strike? Was there even one prominent member of the Hierarchy who dissented when the same Paddy Cooney asserted that prisoners had no rights because they were prisoners? Did the churches' condemnations include the medieval penal system in both North and South which is reminiscent of the Dark Ages? Or the torture centres in Northern police stations, or the scandalous situation in the Catholic South where children are languishing in jail because the age of "criminal responsibility" is a mature seven years old?

The answer is "No" to all these questions and a lot more besides. The violence, unemployment, poverty, housing unfit for human habitation and inferior educational and health facilities can be added to the repressive laws (which our Christian and civilised society demands for its protection) which have somehow eluded the ever watchful eye of our religious dignitaries. Then there is the North and the question of internment. Quite recently a few "religious heavies" came out strongly against internment, not, mind you, that they objected to it in principle because it is morally wrong, but rather because it didn't work and created more problems than it solved. Christian morality how are you! In fact in the four years that Long Kesh is in existence only one bishop managed to find time to visit one single cage and that was after the place had erupted in violence and was burned to the ground.

When Cardinal Conway was asked by one priest why he couldn't make the trip (12 miles) he answered that the journey was too dangerous and promptly packed the "prying Father" to an-

other "Continent". However, we are lucky in that we have a small courageous band of clerics who speak out against injustice and refuse to be silenced, but they are the exception rather than the rule.

What then of Christian philosophy in a predominantly Christian country? My personal analysis is that these people who are the accepted spiritual leaders in contemporary Irish society are in fact the anti-thesis to everything they pertain to represent. They use their authority and undoubted influence to maintain the "status quo" and as part and parcel of the Establishment with all its corruptness and inbuilt discrepancies. They are silent when silence is to condone, and to condone is to connive. That, we were always taught, was one of the "Cardinal sins", though bishops and above are apparently dispensensed.

In your own county, Fermanagh, a leading clerical crawls under the pseudonym of Erne Sense and carries on a vicious anti-Republican/anti-people vendetta through the pages of the Fermanagh Herald, using distortion and even blatant lies and urging the Free State to crush any resistance to them or their imperialist masters in Britain, with, it would appear, the full consent of his superiors. Let the prisoners die, is his message, because they refuse to lie down.

The utter hypocrisy of it all. The famous American philosopher Marcuse remarked about the Communist Party: "The aim is nothing. The Movement is everything." He was commenting on how the "Party" had deviated from an idealistic movement to the bureaucratic administration. Could the same be said about Christianity?

DISQUIET AMONG PRISON OFFICERS

MR. Patrick Cooney states that conditions in the Southern prisons are more than good. But the trouble is that even his employees, never mind his "guests", don't agree with him.

Three young prison officers recently resigned from the service and emigrated to Australia, even though their ability was generally recognised.

One of them, Turlough Connolly, former secretary of St. Patrick's Institution branch of the Prison Officers' Association, said they were "utterly frustrated" and claimed that since the protest by prison officers last July a "campaign of gross intimidation" had been directed at them.

Another of them, Gerry Walsh, who had surprised the Interview Board that he was not applying for a higher post in the civil service, claimed that he had been victimised ever since he proved he could answer all but one of a series of questions to him from a Chief Officer.

He had also had the temerity to refuse an order to "quieten" a prisoner from another superior who told him that he was "big enough and strong enough . . . When I was your age I'd put him through the wall".

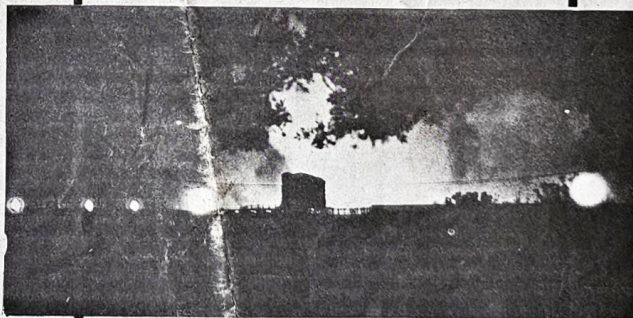
The farewell function for the three men was well attended by their colleagues, but ignored by the authorities in St. Patrick's, where they had all served, and by the leadership of the Prison Officers' Association. The P.O.A.'s Executive has recently decided that the Association should represent ranks as high as Deputy Governors, so clearly they can't condone insubordination

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The Flames of Long Kesh

15-16 October, 1974



By Fr. Denis Faul, Dungannon
Fr. Raymond Murray, Armagh

The Murder of Hugh Gerard Coney, Internee

6 November, 1974

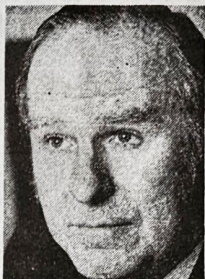
Price 50p



Francis Dodds, aged 31. Died in Compound 18, on 9th September, 1973, of a circulatory disease. Shortly after his interment in Long Kesh he was beaten badly by soldiers during a riot. His feet became swollen and blotted. Complained of pains in feet and legs until his death, at which time he was being treated for "Ablet's Foot" at the Royal Victoria Hospital.



James Moyne. Died January 13th, 1975, in Long Kesh, aged 28. It is Moyne's death that has provoked the recent demand for an inquiry from the Northern doctors. They have circulated a letter stating their demands, a copy of which is now with Mr. Rees.



Stan Orme, who wrote to Frank Judd, M.P., on 6th Jan., 1975 that: "All the arrangements ensure that any prisoner in need of medical care receives it as quickly and as efficiently as does the population at large and this both as regards quality and range of services."

A ROYAL INCREASE

THERE is much public disquiet in England at the moment over the cost of maintaining the Royal Family.

The announcement that the Queen is to get an increase of a staggering £420,000 per year on top of her already colossal salary has shook many a worker into the realisation of the force of royalty, and this increase coming as it does at a time when ordinary workers are being asked to accept wage restraint has added to their anger.

Then last week news of undisclosed share holdings by the Queen has brought a demand from 50 Labour MPs for an inquiry into Royal finances.

Loyalty to the Crown can be an expensive thing these days, and the signs are that many an Englishman would gladly part company with the cant, humbug and cost of it all.

Death In Long Kesh

Doctors Demand Inquiry

THE RECENT DEMAND by a group of 12 Northern doctors for an inquiry into the death on January 13th of Long Kesh internee James Moyne, has highlighted the continuing indifference of the Irish Medical Association to such issues. Dr. McAteer, one of the chief organisers of this demand, points out that it is only now, after nearly four years that the IMA has finally drafted an agreed resolution prohibiting Irish doctors from taking part in forced-feeding or "in-depth" interrogation of prisoners. This resolution, which was prepared jointly with the BMA, is to be put to the World Medical Association conference in Tokyo this October.

During those four years we have seen a number of urgent ethical problems confronting Irish and British doctors; there has been the torture revelations and the Compton Report; there has been the forced feeding of Irish prisoners jailed in England. There have also been seven deaths in Long Kesh, three of which can be attributed directly to the appalling lack of medical facilities provided for the prisoners. This last alone should have led to a call from the IMA for a medical inquiry. But it has not. Instead concerned doctors have had to work outside of such Authorities.

James Moyne was an asthmatic. In July 1973 he spent two days in an oxygen tent in the Royal Victoria Hospital, after which he was returned to Long Kesh. His fellow inmates say that for weeks before his death he could be seen moving around the compound, face and lips blue, and always breathless. The Northern doctors have demanded to know the nature of the medical report received by the prison authorities on the occasion when Moyne was returned from the Royal Victoria Hospital in July 1973. Did it recommend that he should not be kept in the conditions that exist in Long Kesh? If so, why was this recommendation ignored? If such a recommendation was not made, then why not?

James Moyne's death has been the latest in Long Kesh. But unless medical facilities are improved there immediately, it will not be the last. Three days after Moyne's death, internee Joseph Valley (aged 20) blacked out in Cage 7. He turned blue and temporarily lost the power of his legs. He is a diabetic and since he was interned on 2nd July, 1973 he has had six black-outs. His regular insulin dosage has gone up from 16 units a day to 20. He is not receiving the diet necessary for his condition. Only ten days ago, Brendan Valley (no relation) was transferred to an oxygen tent in Mountgrave Park Hospital suffering from chronic bronchitis, aggravated by the smoke from the fires of October last. This is his second transfer to hospital since October, and his parents are desperately anxious after Moyne's death that he should not be sent back to the Kesh. Should he be returned there and take seriously ill after lock-up as Moyne did, his chances of survival are very low.

To begin with, there is no resident doctor at Long Kesh, in spite of the fact that it has a population of 2,000 prisoners.

There is merely a staff of orderlies, numbering five. Their medical qualifications are dubious, to say the least. In a night-time emergency, a doctor has to be got from outside the camp. To achieve this takes—at the most generous estimate—at least one hour. The procedure is this:

- One of the prisoners pulls the switch in the hut to turn on the warning light outside signifying an emergency, in the hope that it will be seen by a warder. (It is also supposed to ring a bell in the hospital, but in Moyne's case, seemingly, it did not work. James Moyne had to wait ten minutes, and their attention was gained only when the prisoners broke down the hilly door).

- When the warder sees the red light he goes to the hut to check.

- He then reports to the hospital and rings the Governor.

- The Governor must authorise the transfer of the sick man to the Medical Cage.

- To do this, the warder must arrange for an armed escort to return to the Cage with him.

- Meanwhile, the Governor contacts a doctor. (The doctor who visited Moyne came from Moira, several miles away).

- The sick man is brought to the Medical Cage.

- The doctor arrives at the Kesh. He then has to go through six security checks.

If the sick man is an internee he is taken to a Nissen hut with six beds. Like the other huts, it is cold and damp. At the end of the room there are two lavatories, a bath and shower. Before its conversion to a hospital, it was a storeroom. Very few prisoners are prepared to report sick to this place, far apart from anything else, if they are committed to hospital they are locked up for 21 hours out of 24.

On Thursday, 23rd January, a young man called Paddy O'Hare took an epileptic fit, or so, at least, his fellow inmates thought. It was 1.20 a.m. The others raised the alarm. At 1.40 a.m. a warder arrived, who then went to the hospital. At 1.45 a.m. a medical orderly arrived—a full 25 minutes after the alarm was first given. Mr. O'Hare was taken to the Medical Cage but cannot recall when the doctor got there. In other words, there are no facilities for handling emergencies in Long Kesh after lock-up.

But as Dr. McAteer has pointed out, the Northern doctors' concern is not only with the physical suffering inflicted on the Long Kesh prisoners by the general conditions and inadequate medical facilities; they are anxious as well to draw attention to what Dr. McAteer has called the "Patrick-Crawford Syndrome".

Patrick Crawford was interned in April, 1973, and committed suicide on 3rd June of that year. They believe he was driven to it by the acute psychological strain under which all prisoners live. This strain often manifests itself in fits of depression, withdrawal, loss of memory and confusion over identity, etc. One prisoner to whom Dr. McAteer spoke couldn't remember the

name of his wife, or that he had a family. To keep the prisoners going the Long Kesh authorities dose them regularly with "happy pills." Dr. McAteer, who is appearing at Strasbourg as a witness for the Irish Government in the Torture Trials, claims that an internee ages five years for every one he spends under such conditions. The psychological distress which results from internment is permanent, he says.

These and related issues have not received the attention they deserve from the IMA or the BMA. Dr. McAteer worked within the latter organisation from 1972-1974 with a campaign to demand that they prohibit doctors from taking part in the forced feeding or torture of prisoners, demands that are similar to those now agreed upon by the IMA. He won the support of the Junior Doctors in England,

PATRICK TEER died in Compound 3, Long Kesh, on July 2nd, 1974, of an ear virus. Though in obvious and constant pain from June 26th until his death, he was not committed to hospital by the visiting doctor (Dr. Hall Heart stopped on July 1st and was revived. He died one day later in Royal Victoria Hospital).

which led to his demands being adopted at the AGM of the BMA in Easter 1974.

But perhaps some of the indifference of the IMA can be explained by its relationship to its sister organisation in England. Shortly after the Compton Report in November 1971, a group of 50 doctors in the IMA signed a petition that the IMA should discuss a resolution put down by a Dr. Meade.

This resolution called on the meeting to demand that the BMA publicly disassociate itself from one of its members, Dr. Gibson, who sat on the Compton Committee. The Executive of the IMA postponed discussion of the resolution until nearly four months later, at their AGM in Killarney. Then the motion had to be withdrawn, mainly because other members protested that it would affect the 'good relations' pertaining between the BMA/IMA. One member pointed out that if such a motion was carried it would affect the 'fund of goodwill in England towards Irish medical graduates'. The attitude of the IMA was that the most important thing was their relationship with the BMA, which had to be preserved at all costs.

As well as moving its belated resolution on force-feeding and torture at this year's conference in Tokyo, the I.M.A. should be publicly concerned about the following questions:

Why do 2,000 prisoners in Long Kesh have no resident doctor?

Why is there no adequate hospital facilities for those prisoners?

Why is Joseph Valley not receiving hospital treatment for his deteriorating condition?

Why has there been no medical enquiry into the deaths of Francis Dodds, Patrick Teer, Patrick Crawford and James Moyne?