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OFFICIAL ORGAN OF FERMANAGH CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE COMMITTEE

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"IRELAND UNFREE SHALL NEVER BE AT PEACE"

No. 170

Saturday, 18th January (De Sathairn, 18 Eanáir), 1975

Does Britain Want Peace?

DOES Britain really want peace? The release of 25 internees does not look like it. In fact it is an insult to every Irish person who believes in justice. Every internee has a just right to freedom, and we must never forget that internment is cruel, immoral and a serious act of violence against the person interned and his family. And yet arrogant Britain expects that we should be pleased with 25 released out of over 500.

The IRA truce is now almost one month old without one violation. This proves the sincerity of the Republican leadership. An equal demonstration of sincerity from Britain would have been the release of all internees.

The truce is due to end at midnight on 16th January. It is hoped the IRA leaders will see fit to extend it again, but it is now fully realised that the Wilson Government must make a major move quickly if they wish to end this war. It would be tragic for them if they are guided by the bleatings of the Dublin Government or the career politicians of the SDLP. The people of Ireland are not fools. They see through the self seekers, they realise that the SDLP and the Cosgrave Government want the British Army here. They also know why, and more important still they know England must withdraw completely before there can be a just peace established in Ireland.

BA LEAVE CROSSMAGLEN

THE recent ceasefire has provided an opportunity for the British Army to withdraw from their observation post at Drumuckaval Hill, a mile and a half south east of Crossmaglen, Co. Armagh.

As readers will recall, Drumuckaval was the most frequently attacked border post since its establishment in August, 1974. Weekly it came under machine gun, rifle and mortar bomb attacks. The evacuation is seen as a clear cut victory for the Provisional IRA unit in Crossmaglen. Mr. Paddy Shortt, Chairman of the local Civil Rights Association, commented: "We are delighted they have realised the futility of a lookout post there. We would also welcome a complete withdrawal of troops to barracks in this area."

You can never break the Irish will for freedom



South Prefers Truce to be Broken

A BRITISH Sunday newspaper has stated that the Dublin Government would prefer if the truce were broken or that it should not be extended. The reason given is that they do not want any reduction in the British Army in the North or any reduction of their activities there. They, too, want Irish Republican philosophy defeated once and for all. Dr. Garrett Fitzgerald, Southern Minister for Foreign Affairs, was in Washington this week and was quoted as breaking the government's self imposed vow of silence on the truce by saying that it was merely due to the IRA's weakening and the "drying up of financial resources". This pronouncement would seem to indicate that the IRA can be crushed.

So also there is ample evidence that the British Army are interfering in the matter, bluntly dictating policy with advice that is not in the interests of peace. Their advice during the Loyalist strike was to stand aside, to give way. Now their advice seems to be to finish off the IRA for ever, keep Long Kesh concentration camp and impose a military solution. If such is their advice it is wrong and diabolical. Militarily the Provisionals are at their peak and at the ready to convince Britain further, if needs be, that their imperialistic days in Ireland are over. Be that as it may, never-

theless the prejudices of Southern politicians, more than any others, may yet prove to be a greater stumbling block to lasting peace with justice in Ireland.

PRIEST REFUSED ENTRY TO PRISON

REV. Fr. Denis Faul, the anti-internment campaigner from Dungannon, Co. Tyrone, has said that he intended to contact the United Nations Committee for the Protection of Minorities to protest against the Irish Government's treatment of visitors to Portlaoise Prison. Fr. Faul said he had visited the jail at the request of relatives of Republican prisoners there and had been refused admission. The mother of one prisoner, Gerald Herron, of Coalisland, Co. Tyrone, had written to the Governor requesting permission for Fr. Faul to visit her son—he had received a one line refusal.

Fr. Faul telephoned the prison to ask for a reason, but none was given. "The official put the phone down", he said. Prisoners' relatives, who had travelled to Portlaoise twice last week to be told they could not have visits, were "threatened by the Free State army and police", he alleged. He called on all decent public representatives in the South with respect for human rights to press the Government to give information to relatives of men who may have been injured or who are on hunger strike.

PROVISIONALS' DIRECTIVE TO MEMBERS ON PEACE INITIATIVES—

PLAY FULL PART IN EFFORTS TOWARDS SOLUTION

PROVISIONAL Sinn Fein, which is the political wing of the IRA, and has thriving branches in every county of Ireland, North and South, issued a directive to all its members to try to make the peace negotiations work while the ceasefire lasts. The following is the text of the directive:

"The ceasefire is to continue until 16th January and, unless a positive response is forthcoming from the British Government within that period, the resistance movement has stated that hostilities are to be resumed. The great importance of what happens between now and then is therefore clear to all. Sinn Fein, as the political wing of the Republican Movement, must play a full part in the effort to find a real solution, both before and after 16th January.

"The first and most important thing to be done is to publicise the Republican position with the utmost vigour. Many points central to our position and immediately relevant here are:

- 1 The type of solution proposed, i.e. regional and provincial government (including the historic Province of Ulster—9 counties).
- 2 A declaration of intent by Britain to withdraw at a future date, in a phased manner if necessary.
- 3 The fact that Republicans have proved themselves willing to negotiate constructively despite the great difficulties involved. The fact that the 26-County Government does not want a peaceful solution is relevant here. They did their best to wreck the Feakle talks. Dr. Garrett Fitzgerald went to London on the day following the talks to beg the British Government not to talk to Republicans. Since then the "Free" Staters have done all in their power to kill the peace effort. The brutal and vindictive treatment meted out to the Portlaoise prisoners was another attempt on their behalf to wreck the peace initiative. They have now ended remission of sentences for Republicans as a final effort to provoke and exasperate the resistance movement.
- (Since this directive was written IRA leader Kevin Mallon, one of the initiators of the peace talks, has been captured and imprisoned by the Southern Government.)
- 4 Approaches should be made by Sinn Fein Cumann to all those in their area who may be in a position to exercise influence, either directly or indirectly, on the British Government. Among those who must be approached are bishops and clergy of all denominations, trade union leaders and officers, professional people who may have important contacts and can help in bringing pressure to bear. The Republican peace effort, and the constructive proposals, should be explained in full to these people.
- 5 The peace initiative will not fail because of lack of effort on the part of the Republicans. If it does fail, the position must be explained clearly and fully to the public. Sinn Fein Cumann (branches) and members must be ready to do this, conscious that the resistance movement has achieved a position of new strength and influence.

"Now is the time for real work."

TOP VARIETY CONCERT

in
ST. MARY'S HALL, MAGUIRESBRIDGE
on

SUNDAY, 26th JANUARY, 1975

In aid of Internees' and Political Prisoners' Dependants Fund

THE POLITICIANS OF VIOLENCE

IN a statement issued on Friday, 10th January, Mr. Daithi O Connail, Vice-President, Provisional Sinn Fein, said:

It has clearly emerged during the last three weeks as to who really desires peace with justice in our land and who oppose it. We have witnessed a demonstration of responsibility, control and discipline on the part of the Republican Movement which some people did not think possible.

Many have been excited by the unprecedented action of leaders of different denominations working in unison for the common goal of a lasting peace. Spokesmen from the business, trades' union and academic world have added their voices in public and private to the universal demand for justice for all our people. Unfortunately, the politicians of violence, North and South, have done their utmost to sabotage the peace initiative. The sullen silence of the Dublin Government backed up with a campaign of brutality against political prisoners in Portlaoise exposed those people in their true colours.

The politicians do not want peace; they glory in the violence against defenceless prisoners, in stifling the media and increasing the violence of unemployment, now reaching the 100,000 mark. One Minister, in particular, has reached a stage of pathological hysteria in his obsession to smash the peace initiative.

The arrest of Kevin Mallon was indicative of the attitude of the Dublin Government. There is not one member of the Dublin administration who could rise to the level of Mallon's shoe laces as regards political acumen and military prowess.

It is ironic that this Ulsterman should have been arrested during a period in which he did so much to bring peace and justice to his native province: The feeling of revulsion felt against the Dublin Government throughout Co. Tyrone tonight can only be shared by all responsible Irish people.

The politicians of Ulster, "the elected representatives" to a non-existing parliament, have demonstrated their vested interest in perpetuating violence. The Fitts and Humes enhance their ill-gotten lucrative salaries by well-paid television performances as authorities on the so-called weaknesses of the IRA, while their colleagues, Faulkner, Craig and Paisley scream loudest for the crushing of the undefeatable.

If Faulkner and Paisley are serious about defeating the IRA, then let them don the uniform of the British Crown, take up arms and go into combat against their fellow countrymen. One can have more respect for an English soldier from Yorkshire who risks his life on the streets of Belfast for a cause he can never understand than for the politicians who grow fat, lazy and wealthy on the backs of a suffering people. When Brian Faulkner wears the uniform of the British Army, the sun will truly rise on the well forgotten British Empire.

Let the Republican position be quite clear. The Republican Movement recognise no authority in Ireland but the Sovereign Irish people. No partitionist body has the right to decide the future of our country. The Republican Movement has made three basic demands to the British Government, embodying the fundamental rights of all our people as an island community, to determine our own destiny.

These rights are not negotiable with any English politician, direct or indirect. The manner in which they are conceded is negotiable and a tremendous responsibility now rests with the British Government as to whether it has the statesmanship to face the reality of 1975.

Time is running out on the Wilson Government; it would be a tragedy if Her Majesty's Government underestimated the capacity and determination of the people of Ireland to establish what is lawfully, legitimately and by right of birth their dignity as members of the human race.

The politicians of violence may disagree with our analysis. They are fools to underestimate our determination. Along with our people we have

known suffering and hardship. We can have peace: of the ghetto, the prison cell, and the graveyard. Such is not peace, but subjection.

Our generation will not accept subjection; we are determined to establish peace and justice so that all Irish people can live free citizens in a free country. Towards that task we are dedicated; we will achieve it.

DR. O'BRIEN TO RESIGN?

DR. Conor Cruise O'Brien, the "mad dictator" as he is known in Southern political circles, was on the verge of resigning this week. Reports indicate that the government Minister has been contemplating this action as a protest against the present Provisional IRA truce.

Dr. O'Brien believes the British Government must not hold any sort of talks with Republicans under any circumstances, but that the British Army should be used to crush the Provisional IRA.

He also feels the Protestant churchmen who organised and attended the Feakle talks acted foolishly. By resigning he would regain his freedom to speak publicly without regard to the Government's overall policy.

Attempts have been made in the past week to bring pressure to bear upon the Wilson Government to end the truce. These pressures have come both from elements in the Southern Government and prominent Loyalists in Ulster. The Wilson Government view now is that it is free to act in the best interests of the British people and that it owes nothing to Mr. Cosgrave, Dr. Fitzgerald or Dr. O'Brien or to any of the Loyalist leaders.

Dr. O'Brien is reported to believe that the British Government is already in touch with the IRA Army Council. It is directly because of this belief that he is considering resigning.

Dr. O'Brien has publicly stated that it would be wrong of the British Army to end its occupation of the North on the grounds that its departure would be followed by civil war. This has until recently also been the official British view. The change in British attitude is what has driven Dr. O'Brien to his present position.

Reports that Dr. Fitzgerald, Minister for Foreign Affairs, and Dr. O'Brien's closest associate in the Southern Government, might also resign in protest against the peace moves are discounted. He is so involved in his work as President of the European Economic Council that nothing is likely to tempt him away from it.

TWO IRELANDS—SOUTHERN GOVERNMENT

How "partition" minded can Irish politicians become? Listen to this interesting information coming from Ritchie Ryan in his capacity as Minister for Finance in the Southern Ireland Government, and published in a 38-page prospectus issued by the Government for overseas readers:

"Ireland is to be distinguished from Northern Ireland, which in recent years has suffered a considerable degree of civil disorder.

"Northern Ireland is part of the United Kingdom and Ireland is a member of the United Nations and the EEC," the prospectus adds.

"Although Ireland has never been a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, Irish leaders have expressed their agreement with NATO's broad objectives."

Apparently anything is good enough for foreign consumption!

BIRDS OF A FEATHER

ALL agree! There should be no talks with the IRA —Paisley, Craig, Currie, Hume, Fitt, Faulkner, Cosgrave Government, Cardinal Conway, Oliver Napier. All say they seek peace. Do they?

O'CONNAILL ESCAPES

THE most wanted man in Ireland, Daithi O'Connell, was in the hands of the Special Branch less than a month ago, was not recognised by them, outwitted them and made his escape. At the same time a prominent Provisional officer who was in his company was captured.

O'Connell was driving in the Whitehall-Griffith Avenue area shortly after 1.00 p.m. accompanied by the other man when his car was flagged down by a Special Branch car carrying two officers. He was driving a car which he had been using for almost a year and about which he had been warned that the security forces might be suspicious.

Apparently dissatisfied with his answers, the Special Branch men told O'Connell that he must get with them to the station. He protested, saying that he had an appointment at 2.00 p.m.

The detectives were adamant, to the station he must go, and finally he agreed. One of the officers got into his car, taking a back seat and leaving O'Connell and his companion in the front. They drove in the direction of Malahide Road, with the Garda car preceding them.

STALLED ENGINE

It was then that what was a plan for all occasions was put into operation. O'Connell, who was driving, proceeded to stall his engine, giving the impression that it was not pulling well, and so managed to get two or three other cars between him and the escort car.

Then instead of following it straight down Malahide Road, he drove into one of the side streets and finally pulled up outside a home for old people, the Nazareth Home.

When the detective in the back of the car asked him what he thought he was doing, O'Connell replied that he had told him already that he had a 2.00 p.m. appointment and that it was in the home. He then left the car, went into the home, dashed straight through and out into some open spaces at the back, making his escape.

In the meantime the Special Branch man left in the car began to get restive and made to get out and follow O'Connell. The Provisional in front tackled him, the detective drew his gun and in the struggle the Provo was injured. He was afterwards arrested.

IRA OFFICER MURDERED

THE murder of Staff Captain John Green at a lonely farmhouse near Castleblayney, Co. Monaghan, has shocked the whole community. This foul and cowardly deed was carried out at a time when O'Leigh na hEireann are maintaining the truce called by them to give the British Government an opportunity to show they desire peace. The perpetrators of this evil are clearly opposed to a just peace and anxious to provoke a violation of the truce. They are, no doubt, agents of British imperialism.

Mr. Green escaped from Long Kesh over 15 months ago, and it seems British policy is to murder those who escape or try to escape (remember Hugh Coney). He was a native of Lurgan, was married with three children and was one of a family of twelve.

More than 3,000 people attended his funeral, an IRA guard of honour flanked the hearse and three volleys were fired over his grave.

Another brave Irishman has paid with his life for loving his native land. May God rest his noble soul and comfort his family.

SOUTH HAS NO "POLITICALS"

MR. Frank Maguire, M.P., was informed by Mr. Cooney's secretary that "there is no such thing as a political prisoner in this country". Mr. Maguire's request, like that of Fr. Faul, to visit prisoners in Portlaoise was refused.

LETTER FROM LONG KESH

3rd January, 1975

WELL over two months has now elapsed since that night on 15th October, 1974, when the Republican prisoners incarcerated here in Long Kesh took the only action left to them and razed the place to the ground. Faced against overwhelming odds but with the knowledge that the Irish people were fully behind us in our struggle for humane treatment at the hands of a ruthless and callous jailer, our action began. All over the province the flame that was lit in Long Kesh grew. Daily, as we lay on open ground without shelter, many suffering from injuries received at the hands of marauding British troops, news reached us of demonstrations and protest actions on our behalf by you, the people, throughout the country. Weary from our struggle, cold from lack of clothing, hungry from lack of food, your unselfish support in those critical few days was alone sufficient to see us through and reassure us. In the weeks that followed the articles of clothing, cigarettes, etc., that eventually were allowed through the censor's eager hands will forever linger in our minds and hearts and will be a perpetual reminder of the debt we all owe you.

We are just into a New Year and, despite the generous action taken by the leadership of the Republican Movement in offering the British Government the opportunity to grasp an honourable and peaceful mode of exit from this island, "living conditions" within this vile place remain as intolerable as ever. We are now "housed" in cages which the International Red Cross described as overcrowded when only half the present number "lived" there. If it rains during the night it is impossible to enjoy a full night's sleep without first having to place the bed at various angles so as to avoid the many spaces in the roof through which the rain drips. Morning after morning we have awoken to find the concrete floor covered in pools of water. The only food eaten is that which is supplied by our family and friends, and to cook it we have to rely on an upturned gas-heated, originally supplied to heat the draughty huts. (A "hot-plate" we had pieced together ourselves was taken from us by the authorities during one of their numerous degrading searches.) The prison prepared "food" would not be served to pigs. Dental facilities are practically non-existent, with the dentist only appearing once a week for a couple of hours.

The medical picture is equally bleak, with recommendations from both the camp doctors and outside specialists that men be transferred to outside hospitals for various operations being merely filed and then ignored and forgotten about. It is notable, however, that blood samples were taken from all the men here a number of weeks after the fire, not as the prison authorities stated as was normal practice, but to ascertain the full effects of the use of the universally condemned CR gas, which was rained down upon us from helicopters as we lay helpless on the football pitch on 16th October. The long-term effects of this gas are not yet known, but their immediate effect will always be in the memory of those who lay stunned and hopelessly overcome as Rees' "peace keepers" relentlessly pumped round after round onto the pile of helpless men.

Parcels, letters, etc., are subjected to their usual ruthless censorship. All tools and wood for handicraft work, etc., are still on the banned list of items—this, of course, is an effort to break our unflinching spirit. But despite all their petty-minded actions, we know, you know, they will never succeed. As long as you, the people, continue to give us your support we will, together, break once and for all the English stranglehold on this island.

May we take this opportunity to wish you a true and lasting peace, with the right to self-

determination, and to thank you once more for all you have done for us throughout 1974.

Footnote: An excellent account of the burning of Long Kesh and the murder of Hugh Coney is now available in booklet form. It was compiled by Fr. Denis Faul and Fr. Raymond Murray and the proceeds are in aid of the Internees' Dependents Fund.

ANOTHER MURDER FOR THE CROWN

THE British concentration camp at Long Kesh claimed the life of its seventh victim on Sunday last. For more than 18 months James Hoyne from Derry suffered from asthmatic attacks in the damp, foggy, swamp conditions in which that dreadful camp is situated. The fact that this disease was at an advanced stage in this man was well known to the Camp Governor and his staff and Mr. Hoyne had to be removed to an outside hospital more than once. The authorities at Long Kesh also knew death was certain for this man if he was held in such conditions. Yet he was not released, nor was he or others like him considered when the nerve gas was pumped down on the inmates by the British Army.

His death is murder wilfully committed by Crown forces and the Camp Governor.

McGILL DESCRIBES INTERNMENT

ONE cheek still paralysed because of the impact of a rubber bullet, his hair greyer than it was last spring, veteran Leitrim Republican, John Joe McGill (53) has been enjoying his freedom since he was released from Long Kesh.

McGill, a publican from the Border town of Ballinamore, is one of the Republicans from the South to have been interned in the North during the current campaign.

"Internment as a tactic is a failure", he said, as neighbours called to congratulate him on his release. "There is a minority, a small minority, who might be tamed by it. The majority, the great majority, come out more hardened, more ruthless, more bitter, more seasoned, if you like."

Mr. McGill, who was interned when he travelled to Belfast last Easter to address a commemoration meeting, was overwhelmingly elected to Leitrim Co. Council last June. This, coupled with his time in Long Kesh, made him the most photographed local politician in the country today. "The British must have thousands of photographs of me", he said. "It was the practice to photograph internees many times during each of the numerous 5 a.m. raids. At Castlereagh, after I was picked up, I was photographed at least 70 or 80 times from every angle."

Mr. McGill, who has now spent eight years of his life behind bars, North and South, claimed that the British Army and Loyalists attempted a "poison plot" for last Twelfth of July. Selected prisoners on the Republican side were to be given cyanide in their food in Crumlin Road, at Long Kesh, he alleged, but he would not say exactly how the "plot" was foiled at the last minute.

His 8½ months stay in Long Kesh spanned some of the most bitter violence in the camp's history. During one of the disturbances, he himself was badly wounded in the face by a rubber bullet, and he claims that he was left without medical aid or proper shelter for a number of weeks.

Mr. McGill was in bed on New Year's Eve when a fellow internee told him his release had just been announced on the radio. Inside 30 minutes he had his release papers from Governor Truesdale ("not the best governor I have known by any means").

Maurice O'Neill

It rings through the mountains of Kerry,
From Tarbert to Cahirciveen;
And awakens proud memories of valour,
In the fights of the days that have been;
And out o'er the green fields of Ireland
It sweeps with a loud-swalling peal -
That cry full of anger and sorrow:
'They've murdered young Maurice O'Neill!'

And a prayer rises up from the faithful-
The faithful in woe and in weal:
"This night, 'mong the martyrs of Ireland,
God rest you, brave Maurice O'Neill!"

He sprang from a long line of freemen,
Who never bent knee to the foe,
And his heart gave unfaltering allegiance
To the Cause that was trampled and low.
He came to the red gap of danger,
Where thousands had fallen before;
He died like a Gael and a soldier,
And his memory is green evermore.

His name, through the darkness of thraldom,
Shines out like the flashing of steel;
And the true heart of Ireland is calling:
"God bless you, brave Maurice O'Neill!"

"Let no voice plead for me with the traitors!"
He cried, when the death-hour was nigh.
"May the young men be faithful forever
To the Cause that has called me to die.
When the deathless Republic of Ireland
Is rescued from thraldom and shame,
I ask but a place in her memory,
And her soldiers' salute to my name."

And the young men of Ireland make answer:
"When the foemen in front of us reel,
And we march to the dawnlight of freedom,
You will march with us, Maurice O'Neill."

- BRIAN NA BANBAN □



Bravo Tom Williams

DEDICATED to the memory of
Stormont on September 2, 194
Oh time may pass as years roll on-
wards

Still in my memory I will keep,
Of a night in Belfast prison.
Unshamefully I saw men weep.
For the hour was fast approaching
A lad lay sentenced unto die,
And on the second of September
He goes to meet his God on high.

As he marches to the scaffold,
Head erect, he shows no fear,
And when standing on that scaffold,
Ireland's cause he holds most dear,
Now the cruel blow has fallen,
To Ireland he has given all,

Tom Williams, who was executed by
2.
He who at the flower of manhood,
Proudly answered to her call.

Brave Tom Williams we salute you,
And we never shall forget.
Those who planned your brutal
murder,

We vow we'll make them all regret.
Here's a word you Irish Soldiers,
If from this path you chance to stray,
Keep in memory of that morn
When Ireland's Cross was proudly
borne

By a lad who lies within a prison
grave.

To James Connolly

You do not hear the May winds sigh,
Through the gloom of a tenement
street,

You do not hear the orphans cry,
Nor the pit-pat of bare-foot feet,
Or the reeking cant of the gibbering
set.

Of fools who profess we're free,
And dare with coward's tears to wet,
Your withering Red Rose Tree.

You do not sense the wanton woe
Of each desolate vacant mind,
We race for the honours the rich
forgo,

Visionless, blundering, blind,
Far from the Easter aim we've fled
Like gulls from an angry sea,
Each flower in the garden of hope is
dead
And withered is your red rose tree.

Many have followed a wayward light
Lured by illusion's gleam,
But maybe you hear a prayer to-night
From the few who think and dream,
The candle of hope is a sickly flame
And youthful its guardians be,
Yet youth will challenge the sham
and the shame,
That withered your red rose tree.



"Wake up, Bobby, there's good times a coming."

Challenge by teachers to Cooney

Teachers Union of Ireland
(Mayo Branch) members last
night "bitterly resented" a
recent allegation by the Minister
of Justice, Mr. Cooney, in
Castlebar that a small number
of teachers, "here and there
throughout the country" intro-
duced IRA philosophy into the
classroom, deliberately to indo-
ctrinate their pupils.

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