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"IRELAND UNFREE SHALL NEVER BE AT PEACE"

No. 153

Saturday, 31st August (De Sathairn, 31 Mean Fomhair), 1974

ASSASSINATIONS AND TORTURE

SAMUEL DEVENNEY was the first victim of the present struggle. He died as a result of a fierce beating by savage RUC men when they went on a mad rampage through the Catholic slums of Derry's Bogside. A few days after the British attack Mr. Devenney died. That is now over five years ago and how many victims have since fallen to the murder gangs in the so-called security forces? The names of Sean Gallagher, Betty



SAMUEL DEVENNEY—first victim of RUC violence.

Cusack, Harry Thornton, the Maguire sisters, the 14 slaughtered on Bloody Sunday in Derry, Patrick McElhone and Paul McCorrian are but a few of the hundreds murdered by the uniformed men in the Queen's pay.

Here in Fermanagh we have had our own victims: Michael Naan, Andrew Murray, Louis Leonard, Jim Murphy and Patsy Kelly. Of the last three there is no doubt that they were murdered by members of the "security forces" and indeed there is strong evidence that members of the sectarian UDR were responsible for their brutal murders. It is also believed that firm information is in RUC hands as to the identity of the murderers, but for reasons of fear of, or personal relationships with, the murderers they remain silent and inactive.

THE CASE OF THE LETTER

A full report of British Army activity before and after the murders of Louis Leonard and Jim Murphy has already been given in this paper, but

in the case of Jim Murphy a further incident occurred which has remained unreported up until now.

A few days after his death a letter arrived addressed to him at his garage. This letter was posted after Jim was murdered.

Inside the envelope was an "Eire Nua" calendar and a recruiting form for the UDR. The envelope was large and official (On Her Majesty's Service) and bore, as such envelopes do, a particular code. The address on the envelope was slightly incorrect. Only once before was a letter received at the garage with the same incorrect address, and it was sent to Jim by the BRITISH ARMY, conveying a copy of a photograph taken by them of him some time before. The "Eire Nua" calendar or one like it was seized from Jim Murphy by the security forces a few weeks before he was murdered.

This may not point to the murderers of Jim Murphy, but it does point to some morbid minded uniformed thug skulking in shadowy confines of Kinawley RUC station perhaps, which houses British terrorists, RUC and UDR.

If the RUC men in charge of the case wished they could quickly trace the source of this letter.

UDR AND PATSY KELLY

A particular group of UDR have become notorious in the Trillick-Dromore-Fintona area for their animalistic acts of terror against defenceless Catholic men and boys whom they have held up at road checks. Fr. Faul of Dungannon has already lodged many complaints against this group. It is widely known that at least two of them have a record of mental illness and also that many of them are drunk while on duty.

The actions of the UDR, and in particular this group, during the search for Patsy Kelly throws much suspicion on them.

Why did a large group of UDR, approximately 200, gather in the Brookborough area and prevent searchers from entering that locality?

Why did members of the Trillick group concern themselves so much with the funeral of Patsy Kelly? They hid themselves in cars and at other vantage points to spy on the funeral cortege. On the night that his remains rested in his parish church, why did the Trillick UDR hover around the church in plain clothes and in their own cars as late as 2.30 a.m.?

Why, indeed? Many locals have their own theory on this.

YOUNG PATRIOTS CONDEMNED BY POLITICIANS

THE "Alliance" Party is a middle-class grouping with little support in the North. Nevertheless, it is being put forward by the British and Southern Irish Governments as "the voice of reason and moderation" and is being given every support. The party believes in union with Britain and in bringing both Protestants and Catholics together under the British Government. The carrot being dangled by the party in people's faces is "economic welfare" and in order to bring this about all principles are to be regarded as extremism and fanaticism.

SECURITY CONFERENCE TO HELP BRITISH

During the past few months the party's leader, Mr. Oliver Napier, has repeatedly been calling for support for the British forces. To this end he has been calling for an "all-party conference on security as a matter of extreme urgency". He wants the British Army and the Royal Ulster Constabulary to be present at this conference and that each political party commit themselves to fully support them. He also envisages the British forces taking part "in an advisory capacity". It is therefore plain to see what type of "Alliance" the party title refers to.

ATTACK ON IRA

In an all-out attack on the IRA on 9th August Mr. Napier called for more "law and order" and termed Republicans "the enemies of society".

"They have no respect for any values or for any person", said Mr. Napier. The only way to defeat "thuggery", he added, was for people in every community to stop treating such people as heroes and start treating them as selfish and aimless criminals.

"A community in which respect for law and order has broken down amongst many of the young people is half way on the road to total anarchy", said Mr. Napier. "It is high time that all responsible people realised what is actually happening and took some steps to combat it."

The type of "steps" proposed by Mr. Napier are left open to speculation, but must definitely include joining the new B-Special force proposed for the North. Mr. Napier was himself in charge of legal affairs in the abortive Sunningdale Executive.

"APPRENTICE GANGSTERS"

The age-old smear of "hooliganism" and "gangsterism" was not left unused by Napier. Calling young patriots "apprentice gangsters and hooligans", he accused them of "intimidation, vandalism, robbery and violence".

Mr. Napier said that something must now be done about "the breakdown of the rule of law".

Mr. Brian Faulkner was saying the same thing three years ago when he and his British masters introduced internment.

Can Paddy Devlin (SDLP) Recall A Fortnight In October, 1972?

"In amazement, the minority watched a segment of the Southern Government, in the aftermath of the downfall of the Northern Executive, make frantic attempts to disengage from Northern affairs . . . they heard their own elected representatives being told repeatedly by certain members of the (Dublin) Cabinet that the Irish dimension should be dropped as a political goal . . . that they are not to talk of Irish unity . . ."

15/8/74—Paddy Devlin (Irish Times article)

Was the downfall of the Northern Executive such a blow to Mr. Devlin that he has suffered amnesia for all that went before?

BLACKPOOL DEBATE

Does he forget the Blackpool Debate (6th Oct., 1972) when Cruise O'Brien (now Cabinet Minister) launched an attack on the Social and Democratic Labour Party and their policy document "Toward a New Ireland", which sought a solution within the context of a United Ireland—O'Brien stated that any talk of unity was "divisive, dangerous and futile" and that the Labour Parliamentary Party to which he belonged refused to endorse the SDLP document.

Does Paddy Devlin forget his own "Open Letter" to Mr. Corish (now Deputy Leader of the Dublin Cabinet) criticising the latter for submitting to O'Brien's "arrogant, biased, ill-balanced" views on unity?

Does he forget Cruise O'Brien's book "States of Ireland", published just at that same time and of which John Hume said (9/10/72): "The general impression created in one's mind by the whole book is that the author is opposed to Irish unity . . . Cruise O'Brien's case is a more subtle and effective defence of Unionism than any that has come from any Unionist quarter."

KINSALE SEMINAR

And can he have forgotten the Kinsale Seminar a few days later (14/10/72) when Cruise O'Brien made "a major public statement on the North" by stating that "a declaration by Britain on Irish unity such as that sought by the SDLP would stick in his throat"—after that meeting O'Brien declared "I am the party spokesman on the North, and as long as Mr. Corish, who appointed me spokesman, has confidence in me I shall remain as spokesman". Mr. Corish asserted that "Dr. O'Brien's stand is not inconsistent with the convictions of the Labour Party".

The "confidence" remains and is now extended from the whole of the Coalition Government in which the Labour Party is partner and O'Brien remains "the spokesman on the North".

FINE GAELE CONTRIBUTION

Fine Gael (the other partner now in Government) were at that time busily engaged in weaving the web of Coalition, but found time to send Garrett Fitzgerald (now Cabinet Minister) to Benburb, Co. Tyrone, to tell the people there of "the growing distaste of many in the Republic for the whole Northern scene" (Irish Times, 3/10/72), emphasising this later by stating that "none of the political parties in the South had endorsed the SDLP call for a declaration on unity" (Irish Press, 21/10/72).

FIANNA FAIL CONTRIBUTION

Meanwhile, Fianna Fail (then in Government, now in Opposition) at its most syrupy self in the person of Mr. Collins (Minister for Posts and Telegraphs in the last Government), was pouring out pious platitudes to the North about "understanding, kindness, selflessness, sincerity, self-control, patience and forgiveness" (Irish Press, 20/10/72), and, like some spiritual Dr. Barnard, advising the long-suffering people there "to change their hearts".

No, Paddy Devlin's "amazement" is not credible. The "disengagement" is not the aftermath of the downfall of the Northern Executive — there never was engagement. The "Irish dimension" was not dropped as a political goal—it was never aimed at. And talk of Irish unity "still sticks in the throat".

The Dublin Cabinet has been most inconsistent in its lack of confidence, expressed as cold contempt, in the matter of Irish unity and in their rejection of the 6-County minority, and Paddy Devlin cannot be forgiven this—but then selective forgetfulness would appear to have become a divine right of politicians.

IN JAIL FOR IRELAND



Susan Loughran

WE have chosen Susan Loughran to represent the gallant women and girls in jail for Ireland—Susan's face tells the story—it also shows the type of Irish girls who have dedicated their lives to Irish freedom — The Price sisters showed the world the courage of Republican prisoners — The girls in Armagh Jail are an inspiration to the men of Ireland — Recently published were the names of 93 women and girls serving sentences of 12 years, 10 years, 9 years, 7 years, 6 years and so on down to sentences of 9 months and remand cases — Why not write a letter to Rosemary Fisher, age 15 years, on remand in Armagh Jail? — Rosemary is from Derry City.

Why not pick a name from the list and send her a card, a letter, a book? Take a Belfast girl, Marie Dillon (9 years), or a Portadown girl, Margaret Cullen (2 years), or another Derry girl as well as Rosemary. Pick a name like Sally Quinn, on remand, or a Strabane girl aged 17 years like Ann Casey—or drop a line to Mrs. Bernadette O'Hagan, Lurgan—on remand. Better still why not go down the list each week and keep the girls going with letters and books.

ANOTHER BRITISH UNIT IN ACTION IN SOUTH

A BRITISH Army unit in full battle gear crossed the Border on Thursday night last and searched a house in Co. Louth. The house was occupied by Mr. Patrick Quinn, a married man who farms at Cortail, Kilkenny, Co. Louth.

Mr. Quinn was lucky that he and his wife were not at home when the midnight knock came. Otherwise he might have suffered the fate of many others in the Border area.

The patrol was spotted on the roadway near Mr. Quinn's home. A neighbour, Mr. James Brogan, Corgreagh, Carrickmacross, said that the soldiers, who were in a Landrover, stopped him on the road and enquired the way to Mr. Quinn's residence. The soldiers were fully armed.

A KIDNAPPING OR WORSE

Commenting on the episode, Mr. Quinn said: "I am very worried over the incident because I feel that they may have come to carry out a kidnapping or worse." Mr. Quinn formerly lived in Co. Armagh, on the north side of the Border. He said that over the past year or so British troops had been harassing his father, uncle and brothers, who were still living at Cullyhanna, Co. Armagh. On some occasions the soldiers had inquired about his whereabouts, he said.

As usual, the Southern army and police made no effort to halt the British unit.

SOUTHERN GOVT.'S SECRET STATEMENT

THE Southern Government Information Service has begun issuing secret statements on the Six County crisis. On Thursday, 15th August a circular was sent to the news media who, through fear or favour, support the government. The circular was designed to help the government extricate itself from its extremely awkward situation arising from the latest murderous rampage of the British Army, North and South of the Border. The "Free" State politicians are aware of rising public opinion against the British Army in the South, but also realise that the British Army is essential to their own survival in places of power. Their secret statement was, therefore, designed to shore themselves up by balancing both these points. In order to try and abate public anger at the murders and terrorisation of the British Army, the Government had to pretend to condemn them. But at the same time the statement was issued secretly so as not to anger the British. The situation is quite unparalleled—a "Government" fearing to issue its own statements publicly.

At the foot of the statement was the following note:

"The above statement is from the Government Information Service, but IT IS NOT to be attributed to them in any way."

The following is the statement:

Concern about recent events in the Six Counties has been expressed by Ireland's Ambassador in London, Dr. Donal O'Sullivan.

"The Ambassador has been in contact with the British authorities over the past few days."

Of course, due to the secrecy of the statement, it cannot be ascertained whether or not this is true. The purpose of the statement is that the media would say: "It is believed that . . .". In the case of the British getting angry, then all could be denied by the Government. Yet the people would get the impression that the Government was, after all, "doing something".

"The Ambassador has expressed the Government's concern about the role of the British Army; the question of withdrawal and disengagement, arising from Mr. Rees' remarks on television; and the proposals from Loyalists for setting up a Home Guard."

On the question of the "Home Guard", the British told the Ambassador that they would not ban such a force. The "Free" State Government, of course, promised not to protest any further. After all, how could they? They are setting up their own Home Guard in the South.

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The case of EAMON LOUGHREY

Eamon Loughrey is a young Belfast Catholic who is convinced that a united Ireland at present is an unrealistic proposition. He is opposed to violence and the I.R.A. But the 26-year-old machinist, who lives at Pacific Avenue, in the Antrim Road area, has just completed 20 months as an internee in Long Kesh on the allegation that he is O.C. of a Provisional I.R.A. company.

The recent history of Eamon Loughrey—a married man with one child—is a depressing dossier of threats, abuse, serious injury, bribes and personal tragedy.

In the growing clamour from all sides for the ending of detention without trial in Northern Ireland, it is interesting—and alarming—to study in-depth the case of Eamon Loughrey, and there is no reason to believe that he is an exception.

On 28th September, 1971, Eamon Loughrey was arrested by the security forces at his mother-in-law's home in Unity Flats, where he had lived with his wife since their wedding in January, 1970. He was released on 26th April the following year—and yet even under the notorious Special Powers Act he was able to prove that part of his detention had been illegal and was awarded £420 compensation.

Job difficulty

Mr. Loughrey was to discover that his troubles were only beginning when he was released. He was now an ex-internee and soon learned the drawbacks of such a stigma in Northern Ireland at the present time. He found it difficult to get a job, but eventually found employment laying kerbstones in Carrickfergus, although when at home he was continually stopped and questioned about his every movement by military patrols.

On 14th August, 1972, he was arrested at his home and taken to Castlereagh R.U.C. station, where he was charged in connection with a Catholic-Protestant riot at Unity Flats earlier in the day. Mr. Loughrey strenuously denied the charge, which was subsequently "forgotten" until the following January, when he received a suspended prison sentence.

The following day he was stopped by troops of 40th Marine Commandos and threatened that he would be shot. He reported this incident immediately to Glenravel Street R.U.C. station.

Less than a fortnight later—on Sunday, 27th August—he was shot at the front door of his mother-in-law's home and was seriously injured. Army versions of the shooting were wildly varied, but two soldiers claimed they had spotted a young denim-clad youth hand him a carbine rifle. Another army report said Loughrey was shot after he fired six shots from a Thompson sub-machinegun at troops.

Despite the inconsistencies, the Army insisted that Loughrey had been holding a gun when he was shot and on 2nd October, 1972, he was charged at a special court in Musgrave Park Hospital with possession of a rifle with intent to endanger life.

Charge withdrawn

Later that month he was transferred to Long Kesh as a remand prisoner, but he was subsequently released on bail—unusual in such a case—and on 27th November the charge was withdrawn by the Crown.

"Even if he was a Provo, do you think he would go out in a bright orange shirt in broad daylight and with his wife to shoot soldiers?" his wife, Eileen, asked recently.

For Mr. Loughrey 1973 began with a four months suspended prison sentence in relation to a disorderly behaviour charge alleged to have been committed the previous August. Near the end of February he was questioned at Glenravel Street in connection with another disorderly behaviour charge. His recollection of the incident in question was that he asked a soldier not to use foul language when Mrs. Loughrey was present. In this instance no charge was preferred.

One of the strange twists of the Eamon Loughrey-security forces saga developed in May last year when he was arrested and taken to the R.U.C.'s interrogation centre at Castlereagh. During the 65 hours he was held, Mr. Loughrey was asked if he would be prepared to join the IRA and become a paid police informer.

This was a remarkable statement for any police officer to make, since Mr. Loughrey had been interned on the assumption that he was already a Provo officer.

Before being taken to Castlereagh, Mr. Loughrey was interrogated by a military intelligence officer. "He accused me of being in the I.R.A. and the fact that I hadn't been seen much about meant that I was being very clever. I denied any involvement and pointed out to him that when I did walk about the area I was constantly being harassed and abused and that now I have been avoiding the soldiers by staying in most of the time," Mr. Loughrey said in a statement on 8th May, 1973.

"He rejected this and said I was the training officer of Unity Flats. He said he could have me beaten up and dropped off in Tigers Bay (a U.D.A. area) for being awkward with him," Mr. Loughrey added.

Asked to spy

Eventually he was moved to Castlereagh, where he was interrogated four times by the Special Branch. "Two Special Branch men asked me questions about the time I was released from Long Kesh in April, 1972, until I was shot in August, 1972. They said that on the day I was released I took the job of O.C. of United Flats and they had seven signed statements to prove it. No statements were shown to me. Two names of people alleged to have made the statements were named to me, but I did not know them.

"They asked me how I was off financially and said they could arrange something for me. One said 'for the want of a better word you could become a paid informant.' They also asked me if I would join the I.R.A. and work for them getting them some information and then get myself out of it after a couple of months. If I was caught with anything they would arrange for me to get off," Mr. Loughrey's statement added.

Later a Special Branch officer asked him if he was prepared to do "a deal." He was warned that a refusal would lead to his internment.

Immediately after his release from Castlereagh Mr. Loughrey wrote to Labour M.P. Mr. Kevin McNamara with a detailed outline of what had happened during his periods of interrogation. Mr. McNamara then raised the matter with Lord Carrington, the then British Defence Minister, but on 28th June Eamon Loughrey was again arrested and interned. He is still being held in Long Kesh.

On 9th July Mr. McNamara wrote to the Secretary of State, Mr. William Whitelaw, about the second internment of Eamon Loughrey and in a reply the British Minister said the decision had only been taken "after the most careful consideration had been given to the evidence put forward by the security forces."

Threats denied

Mr. Whitelaw also denied that Mr. Loughrey was threatened or pressurised and went on to say that since his arrest on 27th June he had refused to co-operate with the police in relation to his allegations against the Army. "You will appreciate," the Secretary of State told Mr. McNamara, "without such co-operation investigations into the allegations cannot proceed."

In a subsequent letter to Mr. McNamara the internee explained that shortly after he was taken back to Long Kesh he was visited by two police officers who showed him a statement outlining complaints against the security forces. "They asked me if I wished to add anything to it. I did not. My reason for not adding anything to it was because it was a full and complete statement of fact about the events which happened to me at Castlereagh. I do not wish to change one word of it," Mr. Loughrey said.

Mr. Loughrey also pointed out that before the investigating officers left him he asked them to keep him up to date on their enquiries—hardly, as he remarked, the attitude of someone who had decided not to co-operate.

"The case," he told Mr. McNamara, "must be proving embarrassing to someone in Mr. Whitelaw's administration and they would like it swept under the carpet. The fear of continued detention will not deter me from pursuing this matter as far as I can."

The Director of Public Prosecutions, however, hammered that determination on the head by finding that there was "no corroborative evidence to support your allegations against Special Branch officers."

One hundred and sixty four days after his detention on 28th June the Commissioners at Long Kesh sat to consider the allegations which had led to his second internment. But a commissioner decided that Mr. Loughrey should continue to be detained and four days later a notice of appeal was served.

Mr. Loughrey's appeal was not heard until 22nd March this year—and was rejected despite his offer to sign an undertaking to be of good behaviour and if necessary report daily to the R.U.C.

During the hearing of his appeal Mr. Loughrey said things like: "I don't hold with the I.R.A.—or violence. I am not in favour of people making a living out giving falsehoods to police."

Eamon Loughrey is still in Long Kesh on the allegations of informers who have claimed that he is a Provisional I.R.A. officer. But by the very laws of the movement he is said to command he would automatically have expelled himself by recognising courts, by appearing before the Commissioners and by lodging an appeal.

The Commissioners, however, in rejecting his appeal, told Mr. Loughrey that the detention order "would rapidly come to an end if the activities of the I.R.A. against the soldiers were to come to an end." As a spokesman for the Belfast-based Association for Legal Justice pointed out, Eamon Loughrey is being held hostage for the activities of an organisation and members over which he has no control.

Centuries Of British Exploitation Must Be Ended

IF freedom means anything it is the power to realise one's potentialities, the power to develop, to grow, to become oneself, not to be forced to drift into something else, not to be forced to be less than a man, less than oneself. This is the real basis of our claim to freedom in Ireland. This is the key-stone to the separatist tradition in Ireland which began the revolution against the greatest empire the world had ever known in this century. On this understanding rests the traditional designs of Irish Republicanism and the aspirations of anti-imperialistic peoples everywhere.

For centuries the ordinary people of Ireland have invoked tradition, answering the call to arms that might throw themselves into the final struggle against their one enemy, England. On every occasion when it seemed the people's struggle had reached the critical point the ruling politicians always found the means to deceive the people and distract them by offering false formulas of peace that always add up to the same thing—ignoring the fundamental injustice of British imperialism and the consequent prolongation of the Irish struggle for freedom.

IRELAND A NATION FOR 1,500 YEARS

England, by an act of the British Parliament in December, 1920, imposed the division of Ireland into two states. This was done despite the fact that the nationhood of all Ireland has been a reality for more than 1,500 years and is recognised internationally without question. There was national kingship in Ireland under the High King for more than five centuries and even before the foundation of the English or French monarchy. It was under the leadership of the High Kings that the Viking invasions of the eighth, ninth and tenth centuries were repulsed. When the Norman invasion of Ireland began in 1169 the Irish strongly resisted, but it was not until 1601 (in the reign of Elizabeth I of England) that the Gaelic system of law and organisation was broken. After being under attack for more than four centuries, Ireland was now under English control.

In 1609 the lands of the Irish chieftains were confiscated and planted with settlers from England and Scotland. Many of these were English soldiers. The Scots settlers had the same language, culture and literature as the Irish (as Scotland had been colonised by the Irish some 1,000 years before) but differed from them in religion. The native Irish were Roman Catholic mainly, the settlers Presbyterian and Protestant. By 1641, the Irish had revolted, established a National Parliament in Kilkenny City which stood for full liberty of religion and conscience. This national revolt was brutally crushed by Oliver Cromwell in 1649.

DIVIDE AND CONQUER

In the eighteenth century, both Catholics and Presbyterians became interested in the Democratic Republican ideas that inspired the American and French revolutions. Both had suffered under the Penal Laws which had created the Protestant ascendancy. In 1791, the Society of the United Irishmen was formed with the objective of breaking the connection with England and establishing an Irish Republic. "Break the connection" was Wolfe Tone's famous dictum—he is commemorated each June in Bodinstown graveyard by Republicans. He too was a Protestant. The Society was declared illegal in 1794. From this time on the movement for Irish independence became democratic and republican in character. The republican insurrection of 1798, in which Ulster Presbyterians, led by Henry Joy McCracken and Henry Munroe, joined by Irishmen of all denominations who took up arms for an Irish Republic, was opposed and crushed with great severity by the

English. But despite the non-sectarian character of the revolt, English propaganda was able to represent the insurrection as a civil war, an attack by Roman Catholics on Protestants.

BRITISH PROMOTION OF SECTARIANISM

The British Government had promoted the establishment of the Orange Order in Ireland in 1795. This was their most effective ruse of all, the imperial policy of "divide and conquer" along sectarian lines. The Orange Order was a sectarian and exclusively Protestant secret society which instituted widespread terror and persecution. The following quotations may be history, but British policy in Ireland remains the same:

"If I am permitted, as I am inclined, to encourage the Orangemen, I think I shall be able to put down the United Irishmen." (General Knox, Commander of the British Army in Ulster.)

"Increase animosity between the Orangemen and the United Irishmen." (English Chief Secretary, Thomas Pelham.)

"I hope they may always be disunited. The great art is to keep them so, and yet at peace rather than at war with each other." (Pelham's successor, Sir Robert Peel.)

The Orangemen were encouraged and British propaganda spread the lie that if the mass of the Irish people attained their freedom they would persecute the Presbyterians.

PROTESTANT MINORITY VETO

This great lie is still being used by Britain to cover up her misdeeds in Ireland. The partition of Ireland, the great gerrymander and manipulation of electoral boundaries was made possible by this lie, thereby giving a minority of the whole of Ireland a veto on the majority's right to decide policy for the nation.

The Northern Ireland Unionist Parliament in Belfast was established in 1922 with a British threat of terrible war if not accepted. The new state was based on violence and kept in power by a sectarian military force recruited from the Orange lodges. Its leaders up to the time of its fall in 1972 were without exception of Protestant ascendancy class. To the end these held power by an almost perpetual instilling into their subjects of bitter hatred of their Catholic fellow countrymen.

PROVISIONAL IRA END PARLIAMENT AND CONTINUE THE FIGHT FOR FREEDOM

The Provisional IRA have always campaigned to end the Stormont Parliament. As a direct result of this campaign, Stormont was prorogued by Westminster on 24th March, 1972. However, the Provisionals' reason for ending the "Protestant parliament for the Protestant people" was not for sectarian reasons, much less to have direct rule from London over occupied Ireland. The Stormont ascendancy parliament was as much to the detriment of the ordinary Protestant population as to the Catholic. As was anticipated the "moderate" politicians came forward in full voice demanding that the IRA cease all military operations now that Stormont was gone. But on that momentous day when Stormont fell the leadership of the Republican Movement stated its rejection of British proposals as a solution to the Irish problem. And the statement is as authentic of IRA policy today as then. Nothing has happened to change that policy. By continuing direct rule from London the British government fails to recognise that only Irishmen, acting without interference, can solve the problem of our country.

The Republican Movement has paved the way forward for the making of a New Ireland. The proposal to establish a new government structure for the whole of Ireland is more relevant than ever.

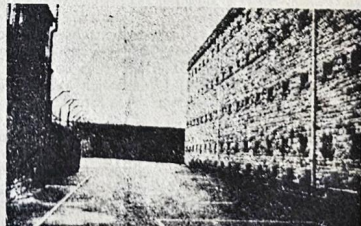
The structure of government we propose is a federal system based on the four historic provinces of our country. We think that Ireland has long ago proven to the world that Irish people are quite capable of determining their own future without interference from a foreign power. Centuries of British exploitation must now be ended so that by acknowledging the common heritage we share as inhabitants of one island, Irishmen can create a form of society which will bring peace and prosperity to their country.

PORTLAOISE MEN STILL FREE

STILL FREE are the 19 IRA men who escaped from Portlaoise. Despite the most massive manhunt in the history of the 26 County State aided by tracker dogs, helicopters and spotter planes, none of the men have been captured.



Armed soldiers on the roof of Portlaoise Prison after the escape by 19 Provisional I.R.A. prisoners.



The recreation centre in the grounds of Portlaoise prison

Thousands of acres of forest land have been combed. Thousands of homes have been searched and county after county has seen galloping troops and Gardaí tearing from wood to glen in desperation, and despite statements of sound information as to the whereabouts of the escaped freedom fighters from Garda Superintendents no sign of them has been found.

To the vast majority of Irish people this is great news and the credit for the failure of the great manhunt must go to the faithful people who have helped and sheltered the soldiers of freedom, and many an unborn child will get grow to manhood proud to claim he is of a family who helped or sheltered one of the Portlaoise heroes.