



● Bobby Sands



● Francis Hughes



● Ray McCreech



● Patsy O'Hara



● Joe McDonnell



● Martin Hurson



● Kevin Lynch



● Kieran Doherty



● Thomas McElwee



● Micky Devine

sinn féin

Ard-Fheis'81

deireadh fómhair 31, samhain 1

CLÁR agus RÚIN

Price: 20 p.

Rules governing the procedure of An Ard-Fheis

ORDUITHE SEASTA — STANDING ORDERS

1. The proposer of a motion shall be allowed to speak for five minutes when proposing a motion. The proposer or seconder of a motion or an amendment shall be given three minutes to reply before the proposal has been put for a decision.
2. All other speakers to a motion or an amendment, shall be allowed to speak for three minutes each.
3. The policy spokesman introducing each section shall be allowed five minutes and three minutes to conclude the section.
4. On the motion being moved and seconded "that the question be now put", the Chair, after allowing those who have expressed their wish to speak to do so, shall have no option, but to put the motion to a vote of delegates. In the event of the motion being carried, the Chair, after allowing the proposer or seconder of the resolution (and amendment if any) under discussion, three minutes as provided for in (1) above, shall have no option but to put the resolution or amendment to a vote.
5. Visitors shall be admitted at the discretion of An Ard-Fheis. One visitor, representing an accredited organisation, shall be allowed to speak on behalf of the organisation for three minutes on any proposal or amendment under discussion, but shall not be allowed to vote. Sinn Féin Local Councillors shall be given the same facilities as accredited organisations.
6. Persons nominated for officership or membership of An Ard-Chomhairle shall not be eligible to act as tellers.
7. Delegates when speaking, must give their names and the name of the cumann and area represented.
8. All amendments must be handed in, in writing.
9. Once adopted by this Ard-Fheis it shall require a two-thirds majority vote of the delegates present to suspend Standing Orders.
10. The Clár shall be agreed at the commencement of An Ard-Fheis and shall be strictly adhered to.
11. Points of order will be allowed at the discretion of the Chairman and shall be limited to 30 seconds.
12. Delegates requiring information on matters under discussion must do so in writing.
13. Resolutions seeking suspension of Standing Orders must be submitted to the Chairman in writing giving reasons for same.
14. A Steering Committee will be approved by An Ard-Fheis.

POLICY

(A) Political

1. That Sinn Fein retains the federal system as outlined in Eire Nua.
Mid-Down Comhairle Ceantair

2. We feel that the present federal structure has served its original purpose and that it should be abolished.

Joe Clarke, B.A.C.

Cathal Brugha, Waterford

McAdorey B.A.C.

Carty/Crowley/Loughnane, Co. Tyrone

Terence O Neill, Dublin

3. That this Ard Fheis recommends to the incoming Ard Chomhairle that they reconsider Sinn Fein policy on federalism.

South Tyrone Comhairle Ceantair

4. That the decision to enter into a broad front agreement in future be taken by the delegates at An Ard Fheis.

Henry Heaney, B.A.C.

5. That Sinn Fein reaffirms that it is an anti-imperialist and anti-colonial movement and not simply a movement to get the Brits out of Ireland.

Comhairle Atha Cliath

5A. Changes in policy should be withheld until there is a more stable atmosphere.

Patrick Carty, Bundoran, Co. Donegal.

(B) Social and Economic

6. That the Economic Resistance Dept. be re-vitalised.

Robert Emmet, Inchicore, Dublin

7. We propose in the section under Basic Principles of the Social, Economic and Political Dimension, No. 4, the word "key" should be deleted. In the second sentence of the same number the word "principle" should be replaced by "sole" and the word "major" should be deleted. Number 4 would then read: "Finance, insurance and all industries must be brought under public control. The sole agent of development in industry, agriculture and fisheries must be the democratic institutions of the people".
James Connolly, Belfast
8. We propose that in Basic Principles No. 7(b) the words "such as a large farm or a large factory" should be deleted.
James Connolly, Belfast
9. We propose in Basic Principles No. 9 be rewritten to read: "Private enterprise will have no place in industry. Small local businesses will be permissible provided no exploitation occurs. There will be an upper limit to the size of such businesses"
James Connolly, Belfast
10. That An Ard Chomhairle encourage the setting up of unemployed action groups, and that these groups be seen to be led by Sinn Fein members.
Ard Chomhairle
11. That Sinn Fein, on every level, as the most progressive political organisation in Ireland become more actively involved in the issues that affect the lives and well-being of the people, i.e. housing, jobs, education, health.
Ard Chomhairle
12. Sinn Fein should play a more active part in support of workers faced with factory closures, or workers involved in official or unofficial strikes. Cumainn should actively support with help on picket lines, by organising meetings and demonstrations, by supporting the strike fund and helping to defend workers from attack by police. This should be Sinn Fein policy for all members irrespective of whether they be trade union members or not.
Frank Stagg, B.A.C.
13. That all members of Sinn Fein become actively involved in local unemployment committees, and where none exist, take the initiative in setting up such committees.
Frank Carroll, B.A.C.

14. It is proposed that guidance and information be made available by An Ard Chomhairle to every cumann to set up a co-op or self help scheme in every cumann area. Also that the working and setting up of any proposed scheme be left to the local cumann concerned.

Jim Bryson, B.A.C.

15. When the present H-Block hunger-strike is over an immediate campaign be organised by the Economic Resistance Department be initiated to centre around land agitation, unemployment, housing.

Martin Forsythe, B.A.C.

16. That a campaign to highlight the injustices of the 26 county social welfare system (particularly disability benefit) be initiated by Sinn Fein.

Padraig O Pearaill, Wexford

17. That Sinn Fein oppose the destruction and deliberate run-down of state enterprises.

McCaughey/Smith/Harvey, Portlaoise Prison.

18. We propose that a sixteenth Basic Principle be added to those we already have: "Having ourselves fought so long and hard against British imperialism and recognising the great difficulties liberation movements around the world must face in opposing colonialism, repression and exploitation, we declare our unequivocal support for nationalist wars of liberation." The independent Irish Republic will provide all possible assistance to such movements engaged in such struggles.

James Connolly, Belfast.

- 18A. That Sinn Fein cumainn should endeavour to establish Community Councils where it would be feasible.

McDaid/Gaughan, Buncrana, Co. Donegal

(C) Internal

19. Regular meetings should be held to discuss and formulate plans for putting into action the economic and social document.

Cathal Hughes, B.A.C.

20. That cumainn should promote the social and economic policies of Sinn Fein by holding public seminars in their local areas.

Robert Emmet, Dublin

21. That Sinn Fein take a more active part in local affairs, e.g. trade unions, tenant associations and sporting bodies.

Monaghan Comhairle Ceantair.

22. That all departments, Education, Women's, Youth, Trade Union, Prisoners etc., be given 10 minutes each to account for their activities in the past year to this Ard Fheis and to all future Ard Fheiseanna.
Joe Clarke, B.A.C.
23. That an up-to-date internal bulletin prepared jointly by the various Depts. in conjunction with Ard Oifig, be prepared and sent out at least once a month to every cumann and Comhairle Ceantair
Eamonn Lafferty, Derry.
24. That a report of all resolutions passed at this Ard Fheis be sent to all cumainn and Comhairli Ceantair within three months of this Ard Fheis and that those resolutions referred to the incoming Ard Chomhairle for decision be discussed and a report sent out to all cumainn and Comhairli Ceantair within six months of resolutions passed or not.
Joe Clarke, B.A.C.
25. That extraordinary decisions be decided by secret ballot.
Feargal O'Hanlon, Monaghan
26. That the following be added to Rule 21 "Comhairle Chuige representatives shall continue to sit on the Ard Chomhairle until such time as the annual general meeting of the Comhairle Chuige is held.
Comhairle Chuige na Mumhan. Capt. Danford, Limerick.
27. That all new members of Sinn Fein complete an education programme within the first six weeks of membership, and before being granted full membership of Sinn Fein, and that the onus of providing such education rests with the Comhairle Ceantair or cumann concerned, using materials available from Ard Oifig Education Dept.
Eamonn Lafferty, Derry
28. This Ard Fheis instructs (a) all unemployed Republicans to give leadership to their comrades of the dole queues and form unemployed action groups to fight unemployment and the degrading conditions that exist in most social welfare offices; (b) the incoming Ard Chomhairle to appoint suitable persons to co-ordinate our members in this work so that a National Unemployed Action Committee can be formed.
Comhairle Chuige Laighean.

29. That a Special Delegate Conference on H-Block, similar to the one held last January be convened as soon as possible. The purpose of the conference will be to review Republican strategy within the broad H-Block campaign and to clarify and develop it where necessary.

Limerick Comhairle Ceantair

30. That all Sinn Fein meetings be cancelled on the day of major H-Block demos, marches, vigils etc.

Joe Clarke, B.A.C.

31. That Sinn Fein in Dublin be given permission by this Ard Fheis to organise (on behalf of the prisoners) regular marches, vigils and a Boycott British goods campaign on a regular basis in the city centre of Dublin. That this Ard Fheis understands that this activity would not interfere or take place when there are organised demos etc. by the National H-Block Committee.

Joe Clarke, B.A.C.

32. That resolutions to all future Ard Fheiseanna be put in the Clar on a rota basis, i.e. one motion for and one against and dealt with by the chairperson on a rota basis.

Joe Clarke, B.A.C.

33. That full-time workers with Sinn Fein be paid a realistic wage.
Clarke/McVerry Dun Laoghaire

34. That at future Ard Fheiseanna all nominees for the Ard Chomhairle have a space after their name for a statement of support from the cumann of which they are from.

Bernard Fox, B.A.C.

35. That at least one member (well-known) of An Ard Chomhairle be available to speak at all future Sinn Fein demos in Dublin.

Joe Clarke, B.A.C.

36. That organised National Collections be held six times a year by all cumainn for An Cumann Cabhrach and Green Cross in their respective areas.

Joe Clarke, B.A.C.

37. That all monies left over from the Sinn Fein hunger-strike and election funds be handed over to An Cumann Cabhrach/Green Cross, when the hunger-strikers are victorious.

Joe Clarke, B.A.C.

38. That Sinn Fein councillors in the 26 co. area should immediately withdraw from councils until political status has been won.
Molloy/Devlin, Strabane
39. That Sinn Fein enforces the policy that a political clinic is opened in all Comhairli Ceantair and cumainn areas, to deal with local problems.
Traolach MacSuibhne, Corcaigh
40. That Sinn Fein set up public speaking training
McKearney/Martin, Tyrone
41. That the proposers of motions at An Ard Fheis must be members of affiliated cumainn.
Traolach MacSuibhne, Corcaigh
42. That the members of the Ard Chomhairle be seen to take a more active participation in their local cumainn.
McKenna, B.A.C.
43. A levy of £1.00 to £3.00 per member to be levied on each cumann. This amount to be decided by Comhairle Cuige Laighean.
Comhairle Cuige Laighean.
44. That the Sinn Fein membership fee be raised from £2.00 to £5.00 per year.
Comhairle Cuige Laighean.
45. That the incoming Ard Chomhairle pay more attention to the grass roots of the organisation.
Cavan Comhairle Ceantair.
46. That all decisions taken at this Ard Fheis be implemented straight away.
Traolach Mac Suibhne, Corcaigh
47. That all motions passed at this Ard Fheis be put into action immediately.
Monaghan Comhairle Ceantair

(D) General

48. That this Ard Fheis passes a vote of confidence in the Foreign Affairs office for its continued support of foreign nationalists in their struggle against oppression.
Dorothy Maguire, B.A.C.

49. That international solidarity work be given the highest possible importance in the future, including the allocation of realistic financial resources to the Foreign Affairs Bureau.
Frank Carroll, B.A.C.
50. That An Ard Chomhairle consider the feasibility of setting up a study group to formulate a policy document on the disabled and itinerant groups within our society.
Casement/Nolan, Dun Laoghaire
51. That it be the policy of this organisation, when Sinn Fein becomes the ruling party on this island that unemployment will then cease.
Clanmhor, Co. Offaly.
52. That we believe Sinn Fein should be allowed to fight the political war with the same freedom the military fight a war, e.g. to fight when it is to our advantage, and to withdraw when that be to our advantage.
Eamonn Lafferty, Derry
53. That all Sinn Fein members boycott Brit made products.
Frank Carroll, B.A.C.
54. That the Republican Movement set up a disciplinary force to combat drug pushers, thuggery and vandalism.
McKenna, B.A.C.
55. That the incoming Ard Chomhairle make it a priority to disclose to all members their rights under the anti-Republican Offences Against the State Act.
Dorothy Maguire, B.A.C.

WOMEN'S AFFAIRS

56. That the position of women within Sinn Fein be given more consideration by all members and that at meetings subsequent to this Ard-Fheis women be given due consideration when elections to positions of leadership take place, rather than assigning them to traditional roles.
Ard Chomhairle
57. That Sinn Fein women members be sponsored more regularly to speak at public rallies.
Robert Emmet, Inchicore, Dublin

PRISONERS

58. That Sinn Fein condemns the inadequate and unrealistic Family Planning Law brought in by Fianna Fail govt., and calls for agitation for its replacement.

Casement/Nolan, Dun Laoghaire

59. That the section on Family Law (Contraception) be amended to read "Sinn Fein recognises that the use of contraception is a matter of conscience for the couple involved and that safe contraception should be available from Family Planning Clinics, under community control, with adequate education on contraception for the young."

Clarke/McVerry, DunLaoghaire

60. That An Ard Fheis salute the political prisoners in jails in Britain, the Free State and the six counties, especially the protesting prisoners in Armagh and in the H-Blocks of Long Kesh. We extend continuing solidarity to the prisoners' families and specifically to the families of the men who have died on hunger-strike. We commit ourselves to ensuring that the conditions created as a direct result of the prisoners' heroism, be properly utilised as part of the ongoing struggle for Irish independence.

Ard Chomhairle

61. That the incoming Ard Chomhairle organise a national demonstration to the Dublin Airport in support of the hunger-strikers, on the anniversary of the first hunger-strike.

McKenna, B.A.C.

62. That Sinn Fein give consideration at the earliest possible opportunity to organise a campaign of non-payment of motor tax and other state/semi-state revenues to force a decipherable solution to the H-Block situation.

Frank Carroll, B.A.C.

63. That An Ard Fheis be asked to put pressure on the Central Council of the GAA to support the prisoners five demands.

McNulty/Magorrian, Down

64. That this Ard Fheis salutes the selfless heroism of the H-Block hunger-strikers and, we Sinn Fein members pledge ourselves to build a Democratic Socialist Republic which will be a fitting memorial to their courageous sacrifice.

McCabe /Quigley, B.A.C.

65. That we salute the courage of the men in H-Block, particularly the heroic hunger-strikers, and exhort all members of the Movement to re-double their efforts on their behalf.
Casement/Nolan, Dun Laoghaire
66. That we salute the hunger-strikers and their five demands and give our total support to the National H-Block/Armagh Committee, and urge everyone to continue and intensify their efforts on the prisoners' behalf.
McCaughey/Harvey/Smith, Portlaoise Prison
67. That this Ard Fheis expresses solidarity with the Republican prisoners in English prisons, who have resolutely resisted Britain's attempts to break their Republican spirit.
**Comhairle Ceantair Corcaigh
McCabe/Quigley, B.A.C.**
68. That Sinn Fein, once political status has been won, commence upon a campaign for the repatriation of Irish political prisoners held in English jails.
**Molloy/Devlin, Strabane
Pearse/McDaid, Birmingham, England.**
69. That we express our admiration for the relatives of the hunger-strikers, in particular the women, recognising that most of the pressure from the church and the Brits to intervene has been directed at them.
Clarke/McVerry, Dun Laoghaire
70. That we send solidarity greetings to the women in Armagh and salute their continuing fight for political status.
Clarke/McVerry, Dun Laoghaire
71. That this Ard Fheis calls on all the elected representatives of Sinn Fein to withdraw from their councils until the five demands of the prisoners are won.
Sean Dolan/Joe McGinley, Doire

CONSTITUTION/RULES

72. That the term 'federal' be deleted from the Sinn Fein Constitution.
**Wolfe Tone, B.A.C.
Belfast Comhairle Ceantair
Clonard Martyrs, Belfast.
Ard Chomhairle
Comhairle Atha Cliath**

73. Sinn Fein reaffirms that its objective is not only to end British rule in Ireland but to establish a Democratic Irish Socialist Republic, based on the Proclamation of 1916 and the Declaration of 1919.
Comhairle Cuige Laighean.

74. That the major objective of Sinn Fein be the establishment of a Socialist Republic.
Comhairle Atha Cliath

75. We move that in section (a) page 1 of the Constitution that the word "English" be replaced by "British".
Belfast Comhairle Ceantair

76. That the position of President should be limited to a three year term.
South Tyrone Comhairle Ceantair.

Amendment to Rule 21

77. An Ard Chomhairle shall have the power to co-opt five members for specific posts, two of which must be for the positions of Director of Finance and National Organiser.
Ard Chomhairle

78. That Rule 1 section B. of the Constitution be reaffirmed both in letter and spirit and the incoming Ard Chomhairle draw it to the attention of all sections of the organisation.
Robert Emmet, Inchicore, Dublin

79. That only those elected at An Ard-Fheis be entitled to sit on An Ard Chomhairle.
Pdraig O Pearaill, Wexford

80. That equal representation to An Ard Fheis be according to the number in each cumann.
Mid-Down Comhairle Ceantair

81. That the constitution and rules be amended to rule that any Sinn Fein member who is a landlord or speculator be expelled forthwith and that such persons will not be accepted as members henceforth.
Casement/Nolan, Dun Laoghaire
82. That the Ard-Chomhairle member for Britain be elected by all cumainn delegates from Britain, as per Rule 21, Sinn Fein Constitution.
Pearse/McDaid, Birmingham, England
83. In view of cash crisis, that Sinn Fein seek permits to hold church gate collections and that these be seen before public to our advantage.
Cashel, Tipperary

ELECTORAL

84. That Sinn Fein adopt a positive approach to future electoral contests. The decision to contest a specific election be left to An Ard Chomhairle following consultation with the membership.
Ard Chomhairle
Sean Dolan/Joe McGinley, Doire.
Patrick Carty, Bundoran.
Donegal Comhairle Ceantair
Comhairle Cuige na Mumhan
85. That Sinn Fein contest all Local government elections both North and South.
Goss & Gaughan, Louth
Worthington/Watters, Co. Louth.
Eamonn Lafferty, Derry.
South Tyrone Comhairle Ceantair.
Billy Reid, Omagh.
West Tyrone Comhairle Ceantair.
McCaughey/Harvey/Smith, Portlaoise Prison.
Robert Emmet, B.A.C.
86. That Sinn Fein contest six county local government elections with the view of taking seats if successful.
Comhairle Cuige Uladh
McKearney/Martin, Tyrone
Carty/Crowley/Loughnane, Tyrone
Patsy Quinn, Tyrone.
Maura Drumm, Tyrone

87. That Sinn Fein contest all elections for tactical reasons with candidates who subscribe to the Sinn Fein Constitution and who are endorsed by the Ard Chomhairle and by local Republicans.
Comhairle Cuige Uladh
Patsy Quinn, Tyrone.
Carty/Crowley/Loughnane, Tyrone
West Tyrone Comhairle Ceantair.
Frank Carroll, B.A.C.
88. That the leadership of the Republican Movement considers the feasibility of contesting forthcoming E.E.C. elections for the primary purpose of building the opposition to Ireland's continued membership of the E.E.C. advancing the aims of the movement and in particular exposing the contradictions of Section 31 of the Broadcasting Act.
Comhairle Cuige na Mumhan.
89. That future European elections be contested to advance the movement and expose Section 31 throughout Europe.
Cashel, Co. Tipperary.
90. That Sinn Fein policy on elections including local elections in the six occupied counties remain.
Williams/Harte, Co. Armagh.
Hughes/O Rahilly, Co. Cork.
O'Carroll/Tierney, Belfast.
91. That Sinn Fein do not enter any British election, Westminster or local until British declaration of intent to withdraw immediately is given.
Molloy/Devlin, Strabane
92. That this cumann would like An Ard Fheis to debate the possibility of contesting elections when the time is right.
Mc Nulty/Magorrian, Down
93. In the event of elections being called that Sinn Fein instead of calling for a complete boycott of such should call for a spoiled vote campaign.
Williams/Harte, Co. Armagh
94. That Sinn Fein strictly observe the abstentionist rule regarding parliamentary elections.
McDaid/Gaughan, Buncrana, Co. Donegal.

95. In the event of all general elections that a special delegate conference of Sinn Fein, be held to decide our strategy, i.e. whether to field candidates or not, and in the event of a by-election it be decided by a constituency convention.

Comhairle Atha Cliath

ORGANISATION

97. That the post of National Organiser have the responsibility of appointing organisers at various levels within Sinn Fein, subject to Ard Chomhairle approval and of submitting a review of organisation to An Ard Chomhairle. That a review of structure form an important part of this overall review.

Ard Chomhairle

98. That the new incoming Ard Chomhairle hold more county meetings on a regular basis with the leaders of the Republican Movement attending.

**Kildare Comhairle Ceantair
Donegal Comhairle Ceantair**

99. That the incoming Ard Chomhairle look at the feasibility of maintaining the Comhairle Cuige due to its poor attendance by Comhairle Ceantair throughout the provinces.

**Worthington/Watters, Co. Louth.
Goss & Gaughan, Louth.**

100. In order to ensure that the Comhairle Cuige (Uladh) is functioning in its entirety it is necessary to have monthly meetings. The provincial Comhairli Ceantair should have the power to enforce this ruling. The officer board of the Comhairle Cuige, having failed to call three consecutive meetings should be subject to request by the Comhairli Ceantair of the province (concerned) to re-elect a new chairman and secretary.

**North Armagh Comhairle Ceantair
Williams/Harte, Co. Armagh.
Brian Smyth, Craigavon.
Green/McCreesh, Armagh.**

101. That Comhairle Cuige Laighean be disbanded as it has failed to fulfill its functions.

Martin Forsythe, B.A.C.

102. That Comhairle Atha Claith be disbanded and replaced by a decentralised structure which would function as follows:

(a) That there be four regional area meetings within Dublin on a fortnightly basis to comprise representatives from, say seven cumainn.

(b) That each alternate fortnight a central meeting be held comprising representatives of the four regions and members of the Ard Chomhairle.

Cathal Brugha, B.A.C.

103. Due to the size of Leinster we propose three organisers, one for North Leinster, one for Dublin and one for South Leinster. We propose that North Leinster would consist of Louth, Longford, Westmeath, Offaly and Meath; South Leinster would comprise Wicklow, Kildare, Carlow, Kilkenny, Laois and Wexford.

Sam McAllister/Francis Hughes, Baltinglass

104. That immediate emphasis be placed at cumann level, on the dissemination of Sinn Fein policies to potential members as part of an intensified recruitment campaign.

Ard Chomhairle

105. That the incoming Ard Chomhairle direct cumainn to set up and expand local advice centres and where necessary involve, themselves in direct protest activity.

Henry Heaney, B.A.C.

106. That each cumann set up a local government sub-committee to assist Sinn Fein councillors with a view to increasing support for Sinn Fein policies and to act in an advisory capacity.

Fergal O'Hanlon, Monaghan.

107. That Sinn Fein look to the formation of workplace cumainn which would reflect our membership other than on a strict geographical basis. A member of such a cumann may not be a member of any other cumann.

Ard Chomhairle

108. That Rule 40 of the Constitution be amended to read: "in such areas, work places or specialised groups" in place of : "in such areas".

Henry Heaney, B.A.C.

109. That Rule 40 of the Constitution be amended to read: "Comhairle Ceantair may accept as a viable body" in place of: "Comhairle Ceantair may direct".

Henry Heaney, B.A.C.

110. That serious and positive steps be taken to consolidate and build upon the widespread sympathy and support which the suffering and courage of the H-Block hunger-strikers has created throughout the whole world.

Sabhat/Grogan, Meath.

111. In order to make the working of Sinn Fein more efficient and to have a more stabilised policy that An Ard Fheis elect a new Ard Chomhairle and vote policy changes only every 2nd year. That delegates conference (name as applied to Ard Fheis) be held in the intervening year which would be a general review of the implementation of policy and how the Ard Chomhairle were carrying out their mandate. This conference would be a general open discussion and educational get-together to infuse new ideas and boost determination. This change to apply as of Ard Fheis '81. Cumainn, Comhairli Ceantair and Comhairli Cuige to remain on a yearly basis as at present.

Comhairle Cuige na Mumhan.

112. That Sinn Fein initiate a major recruiting campaign to involve as many people as possible in the Republican Movement.

Comhairle Cuige Laighean.

113. That special attention be given to re-organisation in weak counties.

Comhairle Cuige Laighean

114. That the four Comhairli Cuigi be disbanded in favour of regional structures.

Comhairle Atha Cliath

115. Due to its unsuitability as a structure that Comhairle Cuige Laighean be disbanded.

Comhairle Atha Cliath

116. That more help in providing speakers from Ireland for meetings and demonstrations organised by Sinn Fein, Britain, or on a broad base with Sinn Fein involvement, should be assured by Sinn Fein Ireland. And that when speakers do come from Ireland the organisation in Britain should be informed for the purpose of support and utilisation.

Pearse/McDaid, Birmingham, England.

117. That any four Comhairli Ceantair and any one officer of An Comhairle Cuige are sufficient to call a meeting of An Comhairle Cuige in the event of no meeting being called for two consecutive months. Notice of meeting must be circulated to other Comhairli Ceantair in writing or by advertisement in AP/RN at least seven days in advance of meeting, (signed by four Comhairli Ceantair and officer concerned).
- Peadar McElvanna, Armagh.**
118. That this Ard-Fheis calls on the incoming Ard Chomhairle to set up or help set up Sinn Fein offices throughout the country and particularly in Cork, Limerick and Galway.
- Gaughan/Keenan, U.C.D. Dublin**
119. That the Ard-Chomhairle endorsed structure for Sinn Fein (Britain), be binding on all cumainn and members in Britain. That those cumainn and members in Britain who refuse to work within the structure, be disbanded and expelled.
- Pearse/McDaid, Birmingham, England.**
120. That four Comhairli Ceantair be regarded as a quorum for the purposes of convening a meeting of An Comhairle Cuige.
- Peadar McElvanna, Armagh**
121. That An Comhairle Cuige should meet at least once per month and that failure to do so for two consecutive months be deemed as forfeiture of position of chairman or secretary.
- Peadar McElvanna, Armagh.**
122. That this Ard Fheis, in order to facilitate the security at future Ard Fheiseanna, Sinn Fein meetings etc., agrees to issue a membership card to all Sinn Fein meetings.
- Dorothy Maguire, B.A.C.**

PUBLICITY

123. That the Sinn Fein Department of Publicity be reorganised so that publicity for all our policies and for all aspects of the anti-imperialist/anti-capitalist struggle be intensified and carried out on a continuous basis.
Cumann an Phiarsaigh, Co. na Mi
124. That it is essential that joint publicity officers be elected due to the extra work-load incurred by the present prison crisis.
Caseant/Nolan, Dun Laoghaire
125. That all opportunities be taken to reply to criticism of Sinn Fein policy in the press and the media, so that a greater scope for propaganda and publicity purposes will result.
Clancy/O Callaghan, Luimneach
126. That in future all statements, policy or otherwise be given in a simple straight-forward manner, easily readable and understandable by everyone.
Joe Clarke, B.A.C.
127. That future statements by individual members of our Movement on H-Block committees, platforms etc., speaking on behalf of the protesting prisoners, be in line with our Constitution.
Joe Clarke, B.A.C.
128. That all adverse statements made by so-called political parties and pseudo-Republican parties be replied to in future by the Movement in order that these parties can be seen by the media and the Irish people as a whole for what they are.
Joe Clarke, B.A.C.
129. That an internal Sinn Fein monthly newsheet be produced, and be made available to cumainn members, outlining our position on controversial issues, as an aid to getting our arguments across to the public.
McCaughey/Harvey/Smith, Portlaoise Prison.
130. That the President of our organisation be projected more in the media.
O'Carroll/Tierney, Belfast

131. The series of hunger-striker profiles be published as a booklet.
Comhairle Cuige Laighean.

132. That a list of films, tapes, videos etc. that are available to cumainn at the present time be read out to this meeting, today.
Joe Clarke, B.A.C.

133. That a massive slogan campaign, like the Brits Out campaign, be started in all areas, at an agreed date set by this Ard Fheis.
Joe Clarke, B.A.C.

134. We condemn RTE authorities in not allowing an elected member of the people – namely Mr. Owen Carron, MP – to be interviewed after his victory.
Patrick Carty, Bundoran

135. That at the earliest opportunity Sinn Fein launch a massive campaign to have Section 31 of the Broadcasting Act removed.
Robert Emmet, Inchicore, Dublin

136. That the campaign against Section 31 of the Free State Broadcasting Act be intensified and that this campaign be fully reported in AP/RN.
Cumann an Phiarsaigh, Co. na Mi

137. That a concerted effort be made this year to lift the ban on Sinn Fein public representatives under Section 31 of the Broadcasting Act.
Joe Clarke, B.A.C.

138. That Sinn Fein investigate the feasibility of taking a case before the European Court of Human Rights on Section 31 of the Broadcasting Act.
Comhairle Cuige na Mumhan

139. Sinn Fein re-affirm its policy in calling all its members not to pay their TV licences until such times as Sinn Fein members and elected representatives are allowed by RTE to voice their opinions.
Patrick Carty, Bundoran.

140. That RTE be banned from all Sinn Fein press conferences and all Ard Fheiseanna in future, because of their refusal to interview Sinn Fein personnel under Section 31 of the Broadcasting Act.

Monaghan Comhairle Ceantair

141. That Sinn Fein wants an all Irish country-wide TV channel.

McCaughey/Harvey/Smith, Portlaoise Prison.

142. That the use of former blanketmen/Armagh women as public speakers at H-Block/Sinn Fein meetings be more widespread in future in Dublin.

Joe Clarke, B.A.C.

143. That resolutions Nos. 70 and 71 passed at last years Ard Fheis be rigidly enforced in the coming year.

Joe Clarke, B.A.C.

AP-RN

144. That a professional sales agency be brought in to study the presentation of AP/RN with a view to increasing sales. The editorial to be fully controlled by the Republican Movement.

Wexford Comhairle Ceantair

145. That Sinn Fein as a whole, take a more positive role of the sales and promotion of AP/RN.

**Mid-Down Comhairle Ceantair
Gerard McAuley, Belfast**

146. In order to facilitate re-organisation in weak counties AP/RN should be distributed weekly for several months before the organiser attempts to set up cumainn. Unemployed members around the country should be employed to go into these counties to distribute papers, where necessary, accommodation should be supplied by local Republicans.

Comhairle Cuige Laighean

147. Nach bhfuil an cumann seo sasta leis an Meid Gaeilge ata san Phoblacht/RN.

McCaughey/Harvey/Smith, Portlaoise Prison.

148. That this 1981 Ard-Fheis deplores the existing situation whereby AP/RN is not featuring articles on Eire Nua, our official policy, as instructed by a majority of the 1980 Ard-Fheis. We further deplore the situation whereby a faceless minority would appear to be curtailing and/or ignoring the express wishes of the last Ard-Fheis.
- North Tipperary Comhairle Ceantair**
149. That the weekly education series in AP/RN be restarted on a permanent basis.
- Maura Drumm, Tir Eoghain**
150. That the AP/RN devote without delay a weekly section to the Eire Nua policy.
- West Tyrone Comhairle Ceantair**
151. That AP/RN should have a weekly article on Sinn Fein policy.
- Cathal Hughes, B.A.C.**
152. That AP/RN return to covering the economic and social problems of the working class as well as the hunger-strike.
- McKenna, B.A.C.**
153. That more coverage be given to Sinn Fein work, locally and nationally in An Phoblacht.
- Goss & Gaughan, Louth.
Worthington/Watters, Co. Louth.**
154. That AP/RN give fair coverage to all 32 counties.
- Traolach MacSuibhne, Corcaigh**
155. That this Ard-Fheis instructs the Editor of AP/RN to exercise stricter control over the choice of language and grammar with a view to improving our national paper.
- Billy Reid, Omagh, Co. Tyrone**
156. That more space be given to education and cultural aspects in AP/RN.
- Billy Reid, Omagh, Co. Tyrone**
157. That An Phoblacht should contain more historical information about how the Movement has developed.
- Cashel, Co. Tipperary.**
158. That AP/RN include an Irish/English section to facilitate those wishing to learn the Irish language.
- Joe Clarke, B.A.C.**

159. That the present space given over to coverage of liberation struggles in other countries be given over on a rota basis to news of our POWs in England, USA etc.
Joe Clarke, B.A.C.
160. That space be allotted in AP/RN every week to resolutions passed at An Ard-Fheis so that all aspects of up-dated Sinn Fein policy is got across to its readers.
Casement/Nolan, Dun Laoghaire
161. That the Waterford cumann while realising the hunger-strike is of the utmost importance we would like to see more coverage of other important issues in AP/RN.
Cathal Brugha, Waterford.
162. That the present price of AP/RN be standardised at 25p.
Joe Clarke, B.A.C.
163. That this Ard Fheis calls on An Phoblacht to have a fixed price on the paper, the price being set to cover extra expenses on special issues.
Donegal Comhairle Ceantair.
164. That the management of AP/RN return to the monthly statement of account for each cumann.
Joe Clarke, B.A.C.
165. That An Phoblacht advertise in major GAA grounds where TV cameras are present and at other major sporting fixtures.
Cashel, Co. Tipperary.
166. That AP/RN promote itself more by the use of billboards, posters etc.
McKenna, B.A.C.
167. That only two weeks credit be given to any cumann in relation to the sales of AP/RN and that if passed this resolution be rigidly adhered to.
Joe Clarke, B.A.C.
168. That this Ard-Fheis express its appreciation to the staff for doing a wonderful job during the year under difficult circumstances. Many of the hunger-strike issues were the best ever produced and will be treasured for many years to come in Republican homes.
Seamus Fox, Meath.

TRADE UNIONS

169. That An Ard Chomhairle be empowered to issue a trade union policy document on behalf of Sinn Fein. The draft for such a document has been circulated to An Ard-Fheis and suggested amendments or additions to the proposed document must be delivered to An Ard Chomhairle within 3 months. This document like all others to be subject to amendment at future Ard-Fheiseanna.
Ard Chomhairle
170. That a comprehensive trade union policy document with the Republican viewpoint and policy for urban and rural areas, given in a simple and straightforward manner be drawn up for submission to the next Ard Fheis.
Joe Clarke, B.A.C.
171. That the Trade Union Department concentrate on a major campaign to win over the unemployed to our policies.
Joe Clarke, B.A.C.
172. That it become obligatory for Sinn Fein members to promote themselves fully within the trade union movement.
McKenna, B.A.C.
173. Republican trade unionists should use their positions in that movement to give the Irish workers the current leadership in their fight against exploitation and victimisation.
Cumann an Phiarsaigh, Co. na Mi.
174. That the Trade Union Department be given every assistance in it's vital work to unite the aims of the Republican and Socialist Movement.
McCaughey/Harvey/Smith, Portlaoise Prison.

CULTURE AND EDUCATION

175. Being extremely concerned at the lack of an educational programme for Sinn Fein, we urge the incoming Ard Chomhairle to give immediate priority to the drawing-up and implementing of such a programme. Also that regular educational seminars be held in all areas.
Pearse/McDaid, Birmingham, England.

176. That the Education Department be completely re-organised so as to initiate a comprehensive up-dated programme.
**Comhairle Ceantair Corcaigh
Clancy/O Callaghan, Luimneach**
177. That Sinn Fein appoint a full-time education officer who will in turn educate an appointed officer from each Comhairle Cuige.
Frank Carroll, B.A.C.
178. That this Ard Fheis instruct the incoming Ard Chomhairle to provide a proper education programme for members and to ensure that all members are kept informed on the latest developments on the political, social and economic fronts.
Sean Dolan/Joe McGinley, Doire
179. That a revised educational course be made available to all cumainn and that all Departments of Head Office be involved in revision of course.
Comhairle Cuige na Mumhan.
180. That the incoming Ard Chomhairle organise education classes for members.
Comhairle Ceantair, Doire.
181. That Sinn Fein provides some sort of education for new members.
Robert Emmet, Inchicore, Dublin.
182. That education seminars be held on a county basis.
Mid-Down Comhairle Ceantair
183. That the Youth Department should be consulted in the making of any new educational course.
Traolach MacSuibhne, Corcaigh
184. That an international committee be formed within the existing Foreign Affairs Bureau, with the specific aim of educating and informing the rank and file members of Sinn Fein on the current international struggles. This committee would be controlled and organised by the Foreign Affairs Bureau.
Comhairle Cuige Laighean.
185. That a comprehensive history of the Republican Movement be initiated this year by the Education Department and the Ard Chomhairle.
Joe Clarke, B.A.C.

186. That a series of lectures to members be given on the history of the Movement , to be organised by An Ard Chomhairle.
Cumann An tAth O Griofa Gaillimh

187. Aithníonn an Ard Fheis gurb e an Bearla an ceangal is laidre da bhfuil idir Sasan agus Eire agus nac mbeadh saoirse iomlann againn go dti go mbeadh cumhacht an Bhearla briste agus ar Ghaeigle atreimithe mar príomh theanga mhuintir na hEireann. Accordingly the incoming Ard Comhairle is instructed to appoint a sub-committee to draw up realistic policies to:
- (a) promote Irish in Sinn Fein;
 - (b) in our own communities;
 - (c) a national policy to restore the Irish language as the principle language of the Irish people.

Comhairle Cuige Laighean.

188. Ba choir go mbeadh daoine oga, cainteoiri dachas, on Ghaeltacht fostaithe i ngach scoil sa Tir leis an dteanga beo a thabhairt isteach insna scoileanna. Ni bheadh ga acu leabhair (Leabhra) a usaid. Bheadh siad ag glacadh pairt i gcaitheamh aimsire, ag shri leis na scolairi, agus mar sin de. Bheadh taistil saor in aisce acu deireadh seachtaine a bhaile. Bheadh na tuismitheoiri toilteanach sintuis a ioc le cuidiu lein an sceim.

Comhairle Cuige Chonnachta.

189. That the incoming Ard Chomhairle initiate a programme to educate members in Irish culture, e.g. language, music and crafts.

Dorothy Maguire, B.A.C.

190. That an Irish language course be set up this year in as many areas as possible.

Joe Clarke, B.A.C.

191. Both at headquarters and cumainn level all members should if possible use Irish.

Patrick Carty, Bundoran.

192. That all Sinn Fein members use only their Gaelic names and speak the Irish language as much as possible.

Clanmhor, Co. Offaly.

193. That Sinn Fein adopt a more positive attitude to the promotion of the Irish language and that the policy of compulsory Irish be dropped.

Robert Emmet, Inchicore, Dublin.

194. Ba choir do Sinn Fein nios mo a dheanamh chun an teanga Gaeilge a chur chun cinn.

Feargal O'Hanlon, Monaghan

194A. That the Ard Chomhairle of Sinn Fein authorise the Director for Education to implement a crash programme on Sinn Fein policy.

McDaid/Gaughan, Buncrana, Co. Donegal.

YOUTH

195. That more time be given to the Youth Department at this Ard Fheis.

Joe Clarke, B.A.C.

196. That a national youth conference be held yearly, two months before the Ard Fheis.

Traolach Mac Suibhne, Corcaigh

197. That a national youth conference be held at least 2 months before an Ard Fheis.

Comhairle Cuige na Mumhan.

198. That this Ard Fheis recognises Na Fianna Eireann as the youth organisation of the Republican Movement and condemns the extensive harassment and intimidation of its members, North and South of the border.

Gaughan/Keenan, U.C.D. Dublin

199. That Sinn Fein deplores the lack of concern of the real issues facing young people today on the part of the 26 county and 6 county statelets; and requests Na Fianna Eireann, the Republican youth movement to provide a policy document on education and youth affairs, for the next Ard Fheis.

Gaughan/Keenan, U.C.D. Dublin.

200. We propose that at future Ard Fheiseanna a space be available after the name of each Ard Chomhairle nominee for a statement of support from his or her cumann.

Terence O'Neill, B.A.C.

201. Sinn Fein should carry out its own investigation as to why a publicly owned smelter is not in this country.

Cumann an Phiarsaigh, Co. na Mi.

202. That only accredited members of the organisation be permitted to remain at this Ard Fheis for any debate on elections.

Robert Emmet, Inchicore, Dublin.

LATE FOR CLASSIFICATION

1. We propose that Sinn Fein be instructed to draw up a comprehensive political and historical education programme designed for use amongst the Youth against H-Block/Armagh. We ask that simplicity to be the rule throughout its entirety.
2. We propose that all levels of Sinn Fein be instructed to adopt a more active and vigorous stance in regards to highlighting and championing the many social and economic grievances of the Nationalist people.
3. We propose that the Movement honour its commitment to reviving and promoting the national language and culture in a more positive and ambitious way and we propose further that the movement engages in joint cultural and language ventures with groupings who share our concern in this regard.
4. We propose that Sinn Fein at local level be instructed to rename streets and districts in all nationalist areas, making as much use as possible of the Irish language. We ask that this be done following the initiative and example of Cuintir Cil Uaighe and Muintir Gairdini MacNaonis, where peoples consent was first sought.
5. We propose that the Movement commit itself to formulating and publishing a new policy document which will incorporate and reflect the unity and ideas within the movement.
6. We propose that the reject of the current idea of federalism in Ireland since — in our opinion — it's counter to the true interests of social democracy in Ireland and should therefore be excluded from any future policy documents.
7. We ask that the Movement take a long and serious look at its attitude to training and preparing young Republicans for their adult role in the Movement. We believe that a much better programme than at present exists should be put into effect without delay.
8. We propose that the Movement seriously encourage the formation of a Republican socialist political front in Ireland. A front which would be headed by a central representative council.

9. We propose that Sinn Fein embark on a scheme aimed at establishing peoples community councils throughout Nationalist areas of the six counties.
10. We propose that the Movement consider new and more positive ways of dealing with the menace of petty crime and hooliganism within Nationalist areas to replace the present ineffective and indeed counter-productive – in our opinion – approach.

H-Block Martyrs, D-Wing H3

1. That Sinn Fein should begin to form closer and stronger links with other minority Republican Nationalist groupings and also individuals for co-operation on all fronts but with emphasis on contesting future elections through the use of Republicans/Nationalists.
2. That Sinn Fein should take stock of its members with a view to forming study groups comprising of members with sufficient knowledge (or willing to gain that knowledge) on Sinn Fein's different policies. Such groups should examine and discuss all aspects of the struggle, they should work towards building a frame-work for research into politics, economics and all that concerns the building of a new Ireland. Other sympathisers should be encouraged to participate in discussion to produce concrete proposals for the running of this country.
3. That Sinn Fein should encourage and support (financially where necessary) its own members and sympathisers in furthering their own education to create a greater understanding of the Movement in the long run (University and College).

Terence MacSwiney/Bobby Sands, C-Wing H3

