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Game of recurring crises

THE latest crisis in the long-running series in the Six Counties has put the spotlight on the Provisionals' game of keeping the current process 'going forward' but never bringing it to a conclusion.

That conclusion, of course, means the end of their military wing and the Provisionals need it to produce a crisis, such as that triggered by the Northern Bank raid, to keep them in the media spotlight.

Each crisis is then turned to the Provisionals' advantage in vote-getting. What would distinguish them from any other smaller political party in Ireland, north or south, if they

did not have their military wing and the ongoing process of surrender it is involved in?

Perhaps the latest staged crisis — always involving the red herring of the threat of a 'split' — will expose once and for all the "constructive ambiguity" of the Stormont Agreement.

After seven years the inherent contradictions of the Agreement, promising a united and free Ireland to nationalists and a strengthened British rule to loyalists, may be laid bare.

What conclusion can Republicans draw from all of this? Certainly we can demand that the Provisionals stop using the good name of the

Republican Movement which they stole to advance themselves as a constitutional political party. Let them stand on their own merits like the Workers' Party and Fianna Fáil before them. The simple fact is that they are bankrolled to the tune of €1 million per year by Westminster, Stormont and Leinster House.

In this centenary year for Sinn Féin, there are many other organisations claiming to be the inheritors of that proud title, the meaning of which they have all dropped long ago. Republican Sinn Féin says look at what they do, not what they say.

Fianna Fáil, Fine Gael, the Provisionals, the SDLP are all following the constitutional line, the framework laid down

by the British parliament's Government of Ireland Act 1920. All of them are bolstering the *status quo*.

They frequently refer to the two referendums in the Six Counties and the 26 Counties on the 1998 Stormont Agreement. Remember firstly, that they were put to the people as the "only alternative to war".

Secondly, successive British secretaries in the Six Counties said that the vote in the Six Counties would be decisive, ie that in effect the majority in the Six Counties would make the decision. That is a far cry from All-Ireland democracy, the corner-stone of the Sinn Féin programme.

• See also 'Inheritors', page 3 inside.

Special Branch threat to confiscate €11,000

THERE has been yet another change of tack by the 26-County Special Branch in relation to the Republican Sinn Féin funds grabbed by them after the organisation's Ard-Fheis in November 2004.

These delaying tactics began with demands as to where the money came from, followed by requests to meet with the National Trustees of Republican Sinn Féin.

amounting to €11,000, the solicitor acting for the National Trustees in a letter to the 26-County Special Branch demanded the return of the money.

They then cancelled the meeting and demanded to know how the money was going to be spent. Finally, on January 14, two months subsequent to the seizure of Republican Sinn Féin's funds

On January 18 the Special Branch responded as follows: "It is the belief of An Garda Síochána that the money is the property of an unlawful organisation, namely the IRA and it is our intention to proceed with a Police

Property Application under the Police (Property) Act, 1897". The Branch, invoking a 19th century British law, will apparently seek to have the funds confiscated in furtherance of their continuous attempt to cripple Republican Sinn Féin.

This attack on a century-old political organisation must be resisted. The voice that articulates the historic national demand for an end to British rule and the achievement of Irish national independence will not be silenced.

Republican Sinn Féin through its leadership and its members remains determined to "uphold the Republican Cause no matter what they do to us" (quoted from an Urgent Appeal to Members dated December 31 last).

Already members, supporters and sympathisers have rallied to defend the All-Ireland Republic which they serve.

Money has poured into Ard-Óifig, but still more is needed to maintain and build the organisation. Ni neart go cur le chéile!

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223 Sraid Parnell, BÁC 1

Gearrscéalta

Gassed to death

THE widow of a former Republican POW who was gassed by the British in Long Kesh prison demanded on January 29 that British Prime Minister Tony Blair publicly admit what was done.

CR gas or Dibenzoxazine – ten times more irritating than tear gas – was used against Republican prisoners on October 16, 1974 following the burning of Long Kesh by the prisoners in protest against the camp conditions. Though the prisoners complained about the effects of the CR gas they were not believed but papers released under a new British freedom of information act revealed that they were telling the truth.

Paul 'Winker' Watson died an agonising and premature death last September. He was just 52. His wife Carol said it was time the British admitted and

explained why the army deployed the toxic CR gas in 1974 on the prisoners. She said it was particularly poignant on the commemoration of the liberation of the Jews from Auschwitz concentration camp.

A spokesman for the British Prime Minister said Carol Watson could write to him, and added: "It's really hard for me to find out any information about this. I'm sure if she wrote a letter someone would have a look at it. I do not deal with that side of things. You should call the MoD [British Ministry of Defence]."

The MoD refused to comment

and the NIO (Northern Ireland Office), responsible for prisons has said it is a matter for the MoD.

Paul 'Winker' Watson was just six days off his 53rd birthday when he died after a brave battle with cancer. He was one of an estimated 50 to 60 ex-POWs who suffer or who have died from cancer-related deaths in the years since the deadly gas poisoning.

All the men describe the choking effects of the gas named CR gas or Dibenzoxazine – ten times more irritating than tear gas.

Carol Watson said her husband, from the Oldpark area of Belfast, was convinced that the cancer he battled that assaulted him in almost every organ of his body was the result

of being gassed with the poison gas that was fired from helicopters over the football pitches in the compounds.

"Paul was diagnosed three years before his death. The cancer started in his stomach. He removed his stomach, his spleen and part of his gullet. That was just the start."

He endured terrible agony and years of chemotherapy until the cancer spread into his bones. The release of the papers brings to new heights the battle to have the British admit they gassed prisoners, some interned without trial.

"It's hard to believe that so many men who were there in 1974 on that night have died or have developed cancer. They were all young and fit then."

Dublin Administration accused of collusion

THE widow of a victim of the British state-sponsored Dublin bombings of the 1970s, Monica Duffy-Campbell, whose husband Tom was killed in the December 1972 bombings, said she believed there was ongoing collusion between successive Dublin governments and the British state on the whole issue.

"I believe, in some way, the Irish governments, in their own way, have been involved in the collusion in the way that they never sought the truth about these bombings until now."

Monica Duffy-Campbell was one of a number of relatives

and survivors of the bombings who spoke at a Leinster House sub-committee hearing in January. The sub-committee is dealing the issue in the aftermath of the publication of the Dublin government's Barron Report, this was not a

public inquiry as demanded by the relatives.

Monica Duffy-Campbell also said she was "astounded" that the British government had not replied to letters issued by the Barron inquiry.

She said that when her husband was "murdered" on December 1, 1972, in Sackville Place, she was four months pregnant with her son Tom, who accompanied her to the hearing. She described the impact of her husband's death has had on her life.

"My life has changed beyond belief since that night. My husband was 24 years of age. He was young, vibrant happy-go-lucky, hard-working, loving husband. He went out to work full of expectations about what the future might hold for us as a couple and family. The next time I was to see Tom was in a coffin in the North Strand."

She said she had received counseling for the past ten years but had received no support from the statutory bodies.

Conditions worsen for Maghaberry prisoners

IN A statement on February 8 Richard Walsh, PR of the Republican Prisoners Action Group said that they had met this weekend to discuss the conditions endured by Republican POW's in Maghaberry jail.

He said that since the introduction of separation as per the Steele Report conditions for Republican Prisoners have worsened.

"The Republican Prisoners Action Group will be requesting a meeting with the Human Rights Commission and other interested bodies.

"Having recognised the failures of the Steele Report, we would also call on those who contributed to that report to clarify their current position."

Attempt to criminalise Portlaoise POWs

IN A statement on January 22 a spokesperson for Laois/Offaly Republican Sinn Féin condemned attempts by the governor of Portlaoise jail "to criminalise the POWs by introducing a new form of rules".

The statement said: "Some of these rules consisted of the prisoners only having one visit per week, and would have to nominate just six names to visit them in the year and even at that the Governor would have the final say on whether these six could visit or not.

"This means that any prisoner who has a large family would have some of the family left out in the year. New arrivals to the prison are now to be interviewed and placed around the landings by the Governor and not by the designated groups O.C. This may see the Governor forcing criminals amongst the Republican prisoners.

"It is only but a few rules the Governor is forcing on the prisoners. Needless to say, the forms handed to the prisoners to fill in regarding this matter were promptly handed back to the Governor unsigned. Any further attempts to criminalise the prisoners will be met with protest from inside and outside the jail. I'll take this opportunity to urge all Republicans throughout the country to weigh in behind the prisoners and to protest on their behalf, if the need arises."

30% increase in US troops passing through Shannon

IN 2004, 158,000 US troops passed through Shannon Airport on chartered commercial aircraft compared with just over 120,000 in 2003, an increase of 30 percent.

The increase from 2003 is due to particularly heavy troop rotation in Iraq in March and September last year according to Colin Murphy in *Village* (29 Jan-4 Feb, 2005). There were a further 753 landings of military aircraft in Shannon in 2004, according to the Department of Foreign Affairs in Dublin. Commercial airlines also provide charter services to the US military to carry munitions and equipment. There were 816 landings of "foreign aircraft carrying munitions or weapons of war" in 2004 according to the Dept.

Any troops passing through Shannon are likely to have weapons with them. M16 automatic rifles are standard issue for troops and these are likely to be carried in the holds of the aircraft. The M16 is personally adjusted for each soldier so it is highly unlikely that they would be transported separately (Tom Clonan, military analyst, *Village*). Shannon is the nearest refuelling point to the US, so the stopover at Shannon is vital to the US military – it allows the planes to carry less fuel and more troops and equipment.

Since 2002 Shannon has made €43million from "tech charges" (based on aircraft weight and does not include income from spending or overflights and landing facilities).

At the moment 75% of all trade between the US and Europe currently passes through Irish Air space - this is set to rise to 90% under a new agreement.

Kevin Coen remembered

THE annual commemoration in memory of Kevin Coen was held in Sooy Cemetery, Co Sligo on Sunday, January 30 at 12 noon.

Nol Kevin Coen, IRA was killed in action against British troops at Cassidy's Cross, Co Fermagh on January 20, 1975. A fine turnout of his comrades and friends and Republicans from Cos Sligo, Leitrim, Donegal, Roscommon, Mayo and Galway was present at the ceremony on January 30.

Con Darcy, Sligo presided and Mrs McGoldrick, Rivestown recited a decade of the Rosas in Irish. Declan Curreen, Leitrim, laid a wreath on behalf of Republican Sinn Féin.

Dan Hoban, Newport, Co Mayo gave the oration. Mrs McGoldrick also laid a wreath on the grave of her husband, Seán, a comrade of Kevin Coen. The memorial on Kevin's grave, originally unveiled by Comd-General Tom Maguire, was recently refurbished.

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For a full British withdrawal from Ireland



OUR AIMS

For a full British withdrawal from Ireland . . . The establishment of a true 32-County FEDERAL DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC . . . The establishment of a new all-Ireland parliament, completely outside the present partitionist set-up, to oversee the running of the new neutral non-aligned Ireland . . .

OUR HISTORY

Formed in 1905 . . . We are the oldest political organisation in the country . . . Organised throughout the 32 Counties . . . We have continuously rejected the failed political entities of the Six and 26 Counties in existence since the British partitioned our country . . .

Jailing of Derryman 'a disgrace'

A DERRYMAN, Martin Doherty, on Wednesday, January 19, became the first person to be jailed as a result of the British Army's killing of 14 unarmed people and the wounding of 13 others in Derry 33 years ago.

Martin Doherty who was granted anonymity by the British established Saville Inquiry into the events of Bloody Sunday, and given the evidence "Provisional IRA 9" was arrested at his home at Fanad Drive in the Creggan area of Derry city.

Martin Doherty was given a three-month sentence at the Belfast High Court on January 7 for being in contempt of court after he refused to give evidence to the Saville Inquiry. Protesting the sentence outside of Derry's Guildhall were people who were

wounded on Bloody Sunday as well as relatives of those who were killed by the infamous British Parachute Regiment. Michael McKimney, speaking on behalf of the victim's families said: "It is disgraceful that after everything that has occurred at this inquiry that the only person to be arrested and imprisoned to date will be a Derry man who clearly did not murder anyone on Bloody Sunday."

He continued: "It was not Martin Doherty who killed or

wounded people then, but of those were responsible, none has been arrested and none has been imprisoned for their actions that day. Martin Doherty has shown a lot less contempt for this inquiry than those who took the stand and refused to answer questions or told downright lies."

Indeed, if the judicial system had pursued those responsible for Bloody Sunday as they have pursued Mr Doherty, we would not have witnessed the whitewash of

Widgery or indeed this second Bloody Sunday inquiry," Michael McKimney said.

In a statement Republican Sinn Féin pointed out: "It is an indictment of the British Justice system that following a 434 day inquiry, the only person to be imprisoned is a Derry man who clearly did not kill anyone on Bloody Sunday."

"The jailing of Martin Doherty confirms the fears of many that the Saville Inquiry will amount to yet another whitewash, merely Widgery'

Mark II." Meanwhile the Saville Inquiry announced that it is to reconvene in London later this month to hear the evidence of a man known as 'Witness X' who denies having told the RUC that he was a member of the IRA, and that on Bloody Sunday he fired two magazines from a carbine rifle into Glenfada Park.

The Bloody Sunday Trust described the arrest of Martin Doherty as disgraceful.

Bloody Sunday commemorated in Glasgow

The West of Scotland Band Alliance held its annual Bloody Sunday Commemoration in Glasgow on Saturday, January 29, 2005.

Around 500 marchers took part in the commemoration, including four flute bands and banner carrying contingents from Republican Sinn Féin, the Scottish Republican Socialist Movement and Mudiad Rhyddhad Cymru Liberation Movement.

The marchers conducted themselves with dignity in the face of severe provocation by groups of fascist and loyalist protesters along the route. Once the marchers reached

the rally point at Roystonhill, a Band Alliance spokesperson addressed the crowd "we remember the events of that day and let the British government know that should they try and sweep the truth under the carpet once again there are people who will continue to fight to have the truth told, whether that be in the media, the court room or on the streets.

"The message from the West of Scotland Band Alliance, the various other groups and the individuals here today is clear; 33 years on, we want justice."

Later that afternoon the Francis Hughes Cumann of Republican Sinn Féin held a social function in a Glasgow



• Marchers at the Bloody Sunday Commemoration in Glasgow.

city centre venue. Rousing songs of freedom and

resistance were sung by the Scottish Republican folk

musician Gerry MacGregor. The event had a strong Celtic

Republican flavour, and speeches were delivered by representatives of Republican Sinn Féin, Mudiad Rhyddhad Cymru Liberation Movement, and the Scottish Republicans. Each speaker gave an overview of their respective struggles for national freedom, and the importance of Celtic solidarity against the British State was the common theme.

The social function which was also supported by members of the Scottish National Party was very successful, and several people came forward to apply to join Republican Sinn Féin.

Ó Curraoin selected to contest Údarás na Gaeltachta elections

AT a selection convention held in Bearna on January 15, Tomás Ó Curraoin was selected to stand in the Údarás na Gaeltachta Elections, to be held in April.

Tomás, from Bearna, also stood in the last year's Co Council elections, where he received 1,070 first-preference votes, a tally which increased to 1,345 before he was eliminated on the second-last count.

Chairing the convention, RSF Vice-President, Des Dalton, from Kildare, said that he was delighted that Republican Sinn Féin would be represented by Tomás Ó Curraoin in this year's Údarás elections, and that he felt that Tomás had an excellent chance this time of winning a seat, especially after the large vote he received in last year's Local elections.

Tomás Ó Curraoin is a native of Na Fothra Maola, Bearna, and is employed by O'Malley Construction. He is particularly well known in GAA circles, through his involvement with Bearná Na Forbach hurling club, at underage and adult levels, and also through his activities as a hurling referee.

Speaking after the convention, Tomás said that he was honoured to receive the nomination from Republican Sinn Féin, and that he was looking forward to the election campaign. "Údarás na Gaeltachta badly needs more powers – and we have been campaigning for them for many



• Tomás Ó Curraoin

years – powers over roads, planning, water, communications, infrastructure – in order to save the Irish language and develop the people of the Gaeltacht.

"Self-government is what is needed for the Gaeltacht", said Tomás Ó Curraoin.

RSF 'sole inheritors of the Sinn Féin mantle'

On January 7 Des Dalton, Vice President, Republican Sinn Féin issued a statement stating that Republican Sinn Féin were the "sole inheritors of the Sinn Féin mantle".

He continued: "As we in Republican Sinn Féin embark on this the centenary year of the foundation of Sinn Féin in 1905 it is necessary to point out that whilst other political organisations such as Fine Gael, Fianna Fáil, The Workers' Party and the Provisionals may attempt to claim lay claim to the right of celebrating this centenary, Republican Sinn Féin are the sole inheritors of the Sinn Féin mantle. We have an unbroken continuity over the past 100 years. In that 100 years numerous group have broken with Sinn Féin and subsequently were absorbed into the partitionist system north and south.

"At every juncture since the adoption of a Republican constitution in 1917 Republican Sinn Féin have adhered to and defended that constitution, which

states clearly that the fundamental principles of the organisation are: (a) That the allegiance of Irishmen and Irishwomen is due to the sovereign Irish Republic proclaimed in 1916 and established by the First Dáil Eireann on 21 January 1919, and (B) That the sovereignty and unity of the Republic are inalienable and non-judicable.

"First and second among its stated objects are: (A) The complete overthrow of British Rule in Ireland and the establishment of a Federal Democratic Socialist Republic based on the Proclamation of 1916. (B) To bring the proclamation of the Republic, Easter 1916, into effective operation and to maintain and consolidate the Government of the Republic, representative of

the people of all Ireland, based on that proclamation.

"Now as we prepare to commemorate and celebrate our centenary we call on all of those who have long since abandoned the separatist ethos upon which Sinn Féin was founded to refrain from the pretence that they have any link to the historic Sinn Féin organisation. Further we would call on the Provisionals to follow the example of the Workers' Party and end their use of the title Sinn Féin.

"They have dishonoured this honourable and historic name long enough. Sinn Féin was founded with the objective of removing Irish participation in the British parliament at Westminster and creating an All-Ireland Parliament, those who draw salaries from or opened offices in Westminster whilst also participating in the partitionist assemblies of Stormont and Leinster House have long since abandoned the very title deeds of Sinn Féin."

Protest at closure of Carlow sugar factory

ON Tuesday, January 25, a crowd of over 4,000 people gathered in Carlow to protest at the decision of Greenore to close the factory in March. John Dillon, President of the IFA, said the decision to close the factory was a "stab in the back" for the farmers, workers and people of Carlow who had built up the plant to the point where it had made 10 million euro in profit last year.

Mick Jennings, Regional Secretary of SIFU, which represents most of the workers at the factory, said the company

had broken the law by failing to consult with the workers and the suppliers before announcing the closure. "The people who

had built the factory were patriots, but those seeking to close it were not interested in people, only profit, and this was not the kind of Ireland most people wanted to live in," he said.

In a statement Republican Sinn Féin Vice President, Des Dalton said: "Republican Sinn Féin supports the demand of the sugar factory workers, the farmers and people of the

region who took part in today's (Tuesday, January 25) protest in Carlow, that the sugar factory be kept open. The decision to close the factory is ill thought out and does not take into account the economic consequences for the workers, beet producers and people within Carlow and the wider east/south east region."

"People would do well to remember that Carlow Sugar

factory is being closed, before the Dublin government even begins negotiations on EU sugar beet quotas. During the 26 County referendum on membership of the then EEC in 1972 Republican Sinn Féin pointed out impact membership would have on the Irish sugar industry, at the time it was dismissed as "scarce monogest", there were four sugar beet factories within the

26 Counties, following the proposed closure of the Carlow sugar factory there will be only one.

"All of this should be considered closely when people decide how to vote in the forthcoming referendum on an EU Constitution, and decide for themselves who is telling the truth about the consequences of EU membership."

For The Record

FR I, JANUARY 7: The Northern Bank announced it is to recall its stock of £10, £20, £50 and £100 notes and replace them with new notes following the robbery of £26 million from its bank in Belfast.

TUES, JANUARY 11: The 26-County administration wants 26-County troops to join the EU's proposed rapid reaction battle groups despite its promises not to join any military force not approved by the UN.

WED, JANUARY 12: The White House announced an end to the two-year search for weapons of mass destruction in Iraq. The US decision to invade Iraq was based on the argument that Saddam Hussein possessed weapons of mass destruction. However Chief US weapons hunter Charles Duelfer reported as far back as September that "Saddam Hussein not only had no weapons of mass destruction and had not made any since 1991, but that he had no capability of making any either."

Irish Sugar announced it is to close its factory in Carlow with the loss of more than 300 jobs.

THURS, JANUARY 13: Mark Thatcher left South Africa after a plea bargain saw him walk free from court. He was found guilty of bankrolling a coup plot in Equatorial Guinea. He is also wanted in Equatorial Guinea on the same charge where 19 others are on trial.

Interpol has issued an arrest warrant for James Monaghan, Niall Connolly and Martin McCauley who were sentenced to 17 years imprisonment in Colombia having being found guilty in a Colombian court of training FARC members in 2003. The men were on bail awaiting sentence when they disappeared.

The Minister for Justice in the Dublin administration accused the Provos of lying about criminal activity when it suits them.

FR I, JANUARY 14: A Dutch woman, confined to a wheelchair and living alone, had her windows broken in the latest attack on her home. Since last October the woman has had her window broken, fires started, fireworks pushed through her door, and her electricity tampered with. The PSNI/RUC are treating it as a racist attack.

A 26-County policeman was given a one-month suspended sentence at Dublin District Court after being found guilty of attacking a "Reclaim the Street's" protester in May 2002. Video footage showed Paul Daly striking the protester, Emmet Bunting a teacher from Dublin, across the body after Mr Bunting had fallen to the ground having been struck by another unidentified Garda.

The European Commission is taking the 26-County administration to court on eight counts of breaching EU environmental laws.

SAT, JANUARY 15: In the Waterside area of Derry a nationalist woman was punched and kicked in an apparent sectarian attack by men. The woman was getting into her car when her eight-year-old son and his friend (who was wearing a Celtic top) were. The men punched and kicked her and called her a 'femian bastard' and 'femian scum'.

SUN, JANUARY 16: The Minister for Justice in the 26-County administration is to seek Cabinet



• Republican Sinn Féin picket at GPO, Dublin to commemorate Bloody Sunday.

approval to introduce electronic tagging as an alternative to custodial sentences. He further believes that the introduction of ID cards for Irish citizens is necessary "once the British government moves to introduce such a system".

MON, JANUARY 17: Seven prisoners were hurt during a clash in Portlaoise prison between two sections of the so-called Real IRA. The prisoners loyal to Liam Campbell, sentenced to eight years for membership in 2003, clashed with those loyal to Michael McKevitt, sentenced to 20 years in 2003 on a charge of "directing terrorism". The seven were treated for injuries at Portlaoise hospital.

It was reported that the semi-state firm Electricity Supply Board (the ESB supplies electricity to all of the 26 Counties) won a contract to supply British army bases in the Six Occupied Counties. They signed a "non-disclosure" order "for security reasons".

TUES, JANUARY 18: Detective-Sergeant John White was acquitted, on direction of the judge, at Letterkenny Circuit Court of six corruption charges including "making false statements and attempting to pervert the course of justice". He still faces another charge of unlawful possession of a firearm. White claimed that a "Real IRA" informer warned him about a car that was to be used in a bombing (the Omagh bomb) and that he has passed on the information to a senior Garda and that this information was not passed on to the RUC. Pressure was mounting on Bertie Ahern, to publish the finding of the Nally Report, an inquiry into the Omagh bombing commissioned by the 26-County Administration.

The general secretary of Amnesty International, Colin O'Connell, called on Bertie Ahern to use his trip to China to "express the outrage of the Irish people about human rights abuses in China" and to highlight such abuses "rather than leave them behind closed doors".

WED, JANUARY 19: The Equality Tribunal has ruled that Ms Tanya Persaud, an Australian national, whose father is of Afro-Caribbean origin, had been harassed by her manager on race grounds and then victimised when she complained. The Shelbourne Hotel in Dublin was ordered to apologise to Ms Persaud and pay her €9,000.

Martin 'Duckie' Doherty, a 54-year-old Derry

man who was identified only as PIRA 9 during the Saville inquiry, was arrested on foot of a warrant for refusing to give evidence to the inquiry when 13 civilians were shot dead, and 13 more injured, when British Paras opened fire on a peaceful civil rights march on January 30, 1972.

George Eogan, a renowned archaeologist, has described the decision to route a motorway through the Tara-Skryne valley as "strange and odd". George Eogan, considered to be one of the foremost experts on Neolithic and Bronze Age sites in Ireland and who previously worked with the Discovery Programme which researched the Tara site in the early 1990s, said the route was "cutting through an area that experts viewed as a part of the Tara complex" therefore the proposed route should be changed.

THURS, JANUARY 20: A senior PSNI/RUC officer, Alan McCrum, who gave the go-ahead for a Loyal Black Preceptory march to proceed down a banned route in Lurgan, on July 13 last year, has been promoted.

It was reported that the Provos had income of over €2 million in 2003.

FR I, JANUARY 21: The Court of Criminal Appeal in Dublin quashed the conviction of Colm Murphy who sentenced in 2002 at the Special Court on conspiracy charges. The judges found his conviction unsafe on two counts. However Mr Murphy faces a retrial.

The Irish National Caucus, based in Washington DC, has called on the US government not to grant a visa to Mark Thatcher after he was convicted for his role in an attempted coup in Equatorial Guinea.

SAT, JANUARY 22: Dan McFaul (20), Ballyfermot, Dublin and Cristófor Mac Carthaigh, Palmerstown, Dublin were charged in the Special non-jury Court with IRA membership and possession of explosives.

MON, JANUARY 24: Three men appeared in the Special Court in Dublin and were charged with possession of ammunition and explosives. Ray Burke, former Minister in the Free State Administration, was jailed for six months for tax offences.

Papers released under the Freedom of Information Act show that the [former] CR gas - Dibenzoxazepine - used against the prisoners in

H Blocks in the 1970s was sanctioned by the British government. CR gas is a skin irritant 10 times more powerful than CS gas. It also affects breathing and Republicans link the gas to the higher than average incidences of cancer among former POWs.

TUES, JANUARY 25: According to a report from the Central Statistics Office Ireland is a divided society with a growing polarisation in income distribution and where poverty exists on a frightening scale.

WED, JANUARY 26: A number of high profile Catholic clerics added their support to a campaign to secure a public apology for the wrongful conviction of west Belfast man Guiseppie Conlon.

Families of the victims of the bombings in the 26-County called on the British government and 26-County Administration to "lift the smokescreen" and tell the truth about what happened. No Garda or politician has ever called to tell them how the investigation was going.

Speaking in Leinster House Bertie Ahern linked the five Provo IDs to violence.

FR I, JANUARY 28: Colm Murphy was released on €50,000 bail and two sureties of €25,000 by Dublin's Special Court after the Court of Criminal Appeal found his conviction was unsafe on two counts.

Brian Hayes, FG (Blueshirt Party), joined his PD pal Michael McDowell in branding Bobbie Sands a criminal. He made his remark in the "Seamán" where he can say anything he likes under 'privilege'.

SAT, JANUARY 29: A picket to remember the victims of Bloody Sunday was held at the GPO in Dublin. A march was held in Derry attended by several thousand.

MON, JANUARY 31: An incendiary device was found in a Tesco supermarket in Strabane at around 2.30am. Last week Linton and Robinson agricultural store in Dock St was destroyed by a blaze started by a fire alarm in the store.

Nine men were arrested at a suspected CIRA training camp in Waterford by 2003 pleaded guilty to possession of firearms at a sitting of the Special Court in Dublin.

A general election took place in Iraq over the week-end.

TUES, FEBRUARY 1: Almost 10,000 people signed the petition calling on Tony Blair to apologise publicly to the family of Guiseppie Conlon.

Rioting broke out for the second evening running in the Markets area as stones and bottles were thrown at the PSNI/RUC when they arrived to search houses as part of an investigation into the death of Robert McCartney.

WED, FEBRUARY 2: The Morris Tribunal was told that a Donegal policeman wrote to a telephone data protection officer in 1998 on the instructions of his superintendent asking to have his telephone records erased.

An EU opinion poll last week found that 45% of voters in the 26 Counties had not heard of the new proposed EU Constitution.

THURS, FEBRUARY 3: The Special Court in Dublin has reserved judgment on a defence application that the arrest of five men accused of membership of the IRA was unlawful.

FR I, FEBRUARY 4: The reopening of any further investigation into car bombings and shootings in Dublin between 1971-73 has been ruled out by the Garda Commissioner Noel Conroy.

MON, FEBRUARY 7: Four men and two women were arrested after firebombs were discovered at a house in Co Antrim on Saturday.

IMEACHTAÍ

ANNUAL CLONMILT MARTYRS

COMMEMORATION

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 20

MIDLETTIC CO CORK

Assemble, Courthouse 3pm.

WREATH-LAYING CEREMONY

St John the Baptist Church, 3.15pm

Oration and wreath-laying ceremony at the Republican Plot, Holy Rosary Churchyard 4pm.

All welcome.

POW PICKET AT GPO DUBLIN

SATURDAY, MARCH 5, 2005, 12.45pm-2pm

Come along and show your solidarity with the political prisoners in Portlaoise and Maghaberry Jails.

SEÁN KEENAN COMMEMORATION

SUNDAY, MARCH 6

SEÁN KEENAN MEMORIAL

BOGSIDE, DERRY

3pm

Speaker: Brendan Magill

PARLE, CREAN, HOGAN COMMEMORATION

SUNDAY, MARCH 13

REPUBLICAN GARDEN OF REMEMBRANCE

WEXFORD TOWN, 3pm

REPUBLICAN BALLAD SESSION

ST PATRICK'S NIGHT, MARCH 17

SAINTS & SINNERS

NORTH KING STREET, DUBLIN

(near junction with Church Street)

Mucis by: Cassidy says

Admission: €10

EASTER COMMEMORATION

EASTER SUNDAY, MARCH 27, 2005

Assemble, Milltown Cemetery Gates 11.30

Parade 12 noon sharp

Speaker: Brendan Magill (Lurgan, North Armagh)

Organised by the Republican Movement

REPUBLICAN SOCIAL

IN AID OF REPUBLICAN PRISONERS'

DEPENDANTS

EASTER SUNDAY NIGHT, MARCH 27, 9pm

THE GROVE, BAYLOUGH, ATHLONE

Music by: North and South

ANNUAL HUNGER STRIKE RALLY

GPO, DUBLIN, MAY 7, 2pm

Assemble at Garden of Remembrance at 1.45pm

and march to GPO where a prominent speaker will

address the rally.

ANNUAL BOBBY SANDS LECTURE

DUBLIN, MAY 10

This year the theme of the lecture is 'Sinn Féin — 100 years of unbroken continuity'. Venue to be confirmed.

O'SULLIVAN/NRIGHT COMRAH

Republican Sinn Féin, Listolow, Co Kerry

Anyone wishing to join should contact 087-2113130

REPUBLICAN SINN FÉIN

ANYONE WISHING TO JOIN THE

ORGANISATION IN ENGLAND SHOULD WRITE

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Sinn Féin 100 Committee — Sinn Féin Poblachtach programme of events for 2005

• **A Proud History Given Confidence of Victory** Margaret Buckley will be reprinted and an update added. It will be published for Bodenstown.

• **Biography:** The launch of Ruairi Ó Brádaigh's biography will take place towards the end of the year.

• **Handing over of personal papers to UCG:** Ruairi Ó Brádaigh will hand over some of his personal political papers to UCG towards end of year.

• **The above banner will be displayed on both the Dublin and Belfast offices.**

• **Easter:** All areas must make a special effort this Easter to inform as many

people as possible of the policies of Sinn Féin Poblachtach. A serious effort should be made to ensure a large turn-out at the commemorations.

• **Bobby Sands Commemorative events:** A rally will be held on May 7, 2005 at the GPO, Dublin, Assemble Garden of Remembrance, 2pm. The Bobby Sands Memorial Lecture is planned for May 10, date and venue and other events to be confirmed in SAOIRSE.

• **Bodenstown, June 12, 2005:** An Uachtarán Ruairi Ó Brádaigh will this year give the oration at the grave of Wolfe

Tone in Bodenstown in honour of the centenary.

• **Public meeting:** A public meeting at the Ambassador Cinema, Dublin (the first meeting of Sinn Féin took place in the former Rotunda building) will be arranged for November. The meeting will cover the founding and continuance of Sinn Féin and will include the reading of a document from the first meeting in the Rotunda in 1905.

• **Video/DVD:** We hope to produce a video/DVD which would be a fantastic achievement if we could show the unbroken line between 1905-2005. We would be grateful if anyone who has

footage of any Republican events, ie footage of Six-County repression by British Crown Forces, Ard-Fheisceanna, commemo-rations, or other relevant material, could lend it to us as a matter of priority. Seán Ó Brádaigh will narrate.

• **Commemorative Calendar:** Now on sale (see add page 1). The calendar is a special one with dates and photographs of historical events/people. Will be collectors' item in years to come! Price €6/€5, available from Ard-Ofgig.

• **Laminates:** Laminated pictures from the calendar are available in Irish Freedom

Press Bookshop.

• **T Shirts/Badge:** Polo shirts with RSF Logo/Badge are available also, E20. A special commemorative metal badge is also available, E5.

• **Events outside of Dublin:** All counties are instructed to organise some event to Commemorate the 100 anniversary.

• **Finance:** All counties must raise finance for the Sinn Féin Centenary Committee. As everyone knows, without finance we cannot function.

• **Ard Fheis 2005:** This will be a very special occasion and all members should make plans to attend.

• **SAOIRSE** will carry a list of all events organised for

the Centenary throughout 2005. Please ensure that your input is sent to the paper in good time for publication.

• **Dan Keating is now the Patron of Sinn Féin Poblachtach.** He will celebrate his 103rd birthday in January 2005.

If you would like a copy of our policy documents or any of our literature, please contact our offices at:

Teach Dáithí Ó Conaill, 223 Parnell Street, Dublin 1, Phone: Dublin 872 9747; email: saoise@iol.ie or 229 Falls Road, Belfast, Phone: Belfast 90 319 004, email: com. RSFBELFAST2004@aol.com.

Colm Murphy's conviction quashed

ON Friday, January 21, the Dublin Court of Criminal Appeal quashed Dundalk man, Colm Murphy's conviction and 14-year sentence. Colm Murphy was charged with conspiracy to cause an explosion and tried by the Dublin, non-jury Special Criminal Court in January 2002. He appealed the conviction and sentence in a hearing before the three-judge Court of Appeal in December 2004.

In its judgement the Court of Criminal Appeal, found that the conviction was 'unsafe' on two grounds. The first ground related to the fact that the non-jury, three-judge Special Criminal Court had been willing to accept unquestioned 26-County police evidence despite the fact that there was clear evidence before the court that two Special Branch men had altered their interview notes and had lied under oath, committing, what Colm Murphy's defence counsel, Michael O Higgins described

as a "massive perjury". The two members of the 26 County Special Branch concerned, John Fahy and Liam Donnelly are currently awaiting trial on perjury charges before the Dublin Circuit Criminal Court. The second ground was that the non-jury Special Court had breached Colm Murphy's right to a presumption of innocence by using inadmissible evidence of previous convictions in arriving at its decision to convict.

The Vice-President of the Republican Sinn Féin, Des

Dalton said: "Republican Sinn Féin welcomes the Dublin Court of Criminal Appeal's quashing on Friday January 21 of Colm Murphy's conviction and 14-year sentence by the non-jury Special Court. However we deplore the court's decision to send Colm Murphy back for retrial on evidence which has been clearly discredited. On top of this they imposed prohibitive bail sureties amounting to €100,000 euros even though his application for bail was unchallenged. The fact that the non-jury Special Criminal Court was willing to convict Colm Murphy based on evidence which it is unlikely would have been accepted by a conventional court, as well as infringing his right to presumption of innocence, highlights the assault on basic human and civil rights which the non-jury Special Court and the draconian Offences Against the State Act represent.

"In its most recent observations on the 26 County



• **Colm Murphy.**

State's human rights record in 2000 the UN Human Rights Committee called on the Dublin Government to dismantle the non-jury Special Criminal Court. Despite this the Dublin Government announced in December that it intended opening a second non-jury Special Criminal Court. "It would appear that the Dublin Government remains

determined to use all the draconian legislation, at its disposal, regardless of the impact on Human Rights, to suppress those who refuse to accept or compromise with British rule in Ireland and oppose the Stormont Agreement".

Colm Murphy was freed on bail on January 28. He had to lodge a personal surety of

€50,000 plus two independent sureties of €25,000 each at Dublin's Special non-jury Court to secure his release after three years behind bars.

His conviction was overturned by three appeal court judges on the grounds it was unsafe on two counts.

After his release Colm Murphy's daughter Leonora, who posted bail on his behalf, read a statement to the media.

She said: "We are delighted with our father coming home today. It's been a nightmare for all of our families for the last six years.

"Our hearts go out to the people of Omagh who have lost their loved ones. It was a terrible atrocity which should never have happened but also one that destroyed my father's life. We are grateful and pleased that the courts have recognised the terrible miscarriage of justice and we will not stop until our father's name has been completely cleared."

Join
CUMANN na mBAN



For details contact Máiréad Ní Chaoimh
c/o 223 Parnell Street, Dublin 1

JOIN FIANNA ÉIREANN



For information on joining apply to
<http://fiannaeireann.com>

Local areas are asked to write to Republican prisoners in Portlaoise, Magherry and Magilligan prisons, in particular those from their own province, not forgetting prisoners from the other provinces.



CABHAIR continues to support all true Republican prisoners and their dependants in Irish jails within the 32 Counties.

With this in mind we ask for local areas to form Finance Committees. Help and advice will be given by the Central Committee.

All contributions should be sent to:

**Central Committee
CABHAIR
223 Parnell Street
Dublin 1**



REPUBLICAN Sinn Féin has secured a premises at 229 Falls Road, Belfast as the organisation's public office in the city. This excellent location near the city centre gives a much-needed focus and morale boost to our growing membership in Belfast and throughout Ulster.

Contributions, which will be gratefully acknowledged, can be made:

1. To the following: Mary Ward, Co Donegal; Frank McCarthy, Co Antrim; Jimmy McElhinney, Co Tyrone; Geráine Taylor, Belfast; Michael McGonigle, Co Derry; Joe O'Neill, Co Donegal; Mick McManus, Co Fermanagh; Larry McMahon, Co Monaghan
2. By sending a donation to: Ard Oifig, 223 Parnell Street, Dublin 1 or to 229 Falls Road, Belfast.
3. By Standing Order Form published here.

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Aoine

‘AONACH’ Aoine an Chéasta: níl fágtha anois de ach an stair, an chluimne. Nuair a ghlac na Sealdáigh lena raibh ar fáil, saibhreas agus cumhacht, ab ea, chreidfeas féin nach raibh déanta ach feall éile, aithris éigin ar 1921, agus nach raibh i ndán don bhfeachtas, ach an teip.

In siate Ghaeilge a scríobhas m' thaisnéis 'Súil Éile, *Aimsir Oig*, eog. Míchéil Ó Cearúil; Coiscéim, 2000; 377-384); agus cén fáth, d'eioge, go bunúsach, ach an nímh in cadán na hÉireann agus a muintire, atá prémhathú go doimhín inar gcuid chomharsana ó ré go na Normanach, nó n' bhliadhnaí go maith lena chéile roimhe sin a réitigh Éireannach agus Sacsanach, mar is ríleir ón stair. I smidiríní atá an seicim anois agus, go gc indeirneann roinnt polaitoirí gur féidir in píosaí a thábhú le céile at uathair, níl ann, dáiríre, ach an seannuair, gur ar mhaithe leis féin a dhéanamh an cat crónán.

BALADH BREÁN
Babaladh bhaine ba chúis leis an mbreisdach, a deirtear, toisc lámh a bheith ag na Sealdáigh sa ngasac!

De réir dhá na tíre seo, agus na Breataine, neamhchiontach atá duine, nó comhlacht, nó eile, go dtí go bhforairtear a mhalairt sa gcúirt. Ach ciontach, ciontach, ciontach a bhéicéim Briotanach, an Iarnuairist, Teach Laighcan agus, ar ndóigh, na méan.

Níl fhios againn cén áit a bhí in aghrime, ach tá baaladh breán níos measa ná riann ag

teacht amach ó na cúrsaí seo. Abair gur fear é. Más fear, an amadán chriochnaithe atá na Sealdáigh?

Nár raibh ar a gcuid samhlaithe cé an toradh a thóidh as an mbeart céanna? Nár thuig sad an leibhéal a bheadh ag Londain agus ag Baile Átha Cliath len iad a ruigeadh amach sa bhfásach in athuair agus iad a loit sa gcuid toghachán eile nach bhfuil ró-fháda uainn, cheofnaim? Ach, a deir tuas, nár chruithaigh siad cheana go raibh cúl in easnann orthu, agus go mór, nuair a ghléidhíod na míbealladh na Sasnach? Ab amháil ná bhíod ar fáil ar star na hÉireann? Féach anois iad na staic mhaighid ag an domhan mór!

GAN SÁRÚ
Fad is a bhí an cogadh beo theip glan ar na Gaill iad a bhreisdh agus sin admhathie ar na Gaill féin. Is é a dúirt na sainleathna nach bhféadfaí iad a shárú.

Ar na mallabha, cuireadh in iúl dúinn go raibh na Briotanach chomh sírathie sin tráth go rabhadh ar smaoineamh féil tharraingt siar agus toidhach ar dtíre a fhágáil fúinn féin, mhaist!

Gan amhras dá laghad tá fadhanna go leor le réiteach sa tír seo, agus beidh go ceann tamaill agus aithoiti an oileáin san áireamh, ach go dtí go n-imoineann na Briotanach is beag atá ar ár gcumas a dhéanamh ach ar gceannas a chéipéistí don saol mór, agus an bealach chun na sairse a shloisiú. Céard é a rinne na Sealdáigh ach gach pionsabal a bhain lenár goimhlíat ar son na haontaonta agus na sairse a threigean trí bhéith páirteach in aithbhuí na Stormaite. Céard eile a bhí ar bun ach ach bhotin damanta 1921 a athdhéanamh.

GÉILLEADH TOMLÁN

Cén fáth nach míbeadh Blair agus Aherm ag fáire fútha, a n-ann in amhréidh, a b'páirtí scoilte, agus a gcuid gunnaí i lámhaibh an namhad, más fear.

Dáiríre, níl ach bealach ionraic amháin roimh a n-áit mar atá imeacht ó star na hÉireann agus go bóthar a fhágáil faoi dhream éigin eile atá níos réadúla, agus a dtuigean ar a laghad nach féidir linn riann muintín a bheith againn as focal an 'Sasanaigh.

Níl tuaine ó na Briotanach ach a n-imeacht, a bhfágáil, é eile a bheith againn ar dtír a riaradh go grámhar, go tuisceanach, go cotrom, mar a d'fhógair Gluaiseacht na Poblachta i gcónaí, ar bonn *liberé, égalité, fraternité*.

Nach i gcóirpháirtíocht atá? Cén fáth gur mar sin atá? Toise gur éirigh leis an oiread sin polaitoirí, agus leis na méadán, dallamulog a chur ar vótóirí na hÉireann, a chéadach an "comhaontas", trí

reifeann sna Sé Chontae agus sna 26 Chonate. *Vox Dei?* Ní chreidim féin é sin ach reifeann ab ea é a chruithaigh fadh mhór don té, don dream, a dteastaim uaidh deiradh a chur leis an gerochdheighilt, agus ré na chrothrom a bhunú sa tír seo.

Déanaimis an ré id a bhunú i mbliana, i bunaithe ar na firici, ar na réadúlacht, ar an bhfirinne. Is í bunfirinne, bunlíne na polaitoirí sna 26 Chontae, *nár chóir* deiradh a chur leis an gerochdheighilt.

'Tuige?' Eagla, imní, fadhbanmai do na dreamanna polaitiúla, cogadh, marú, bochtanas, atheismice, agus geilleagar an oileáin in amhréidh.

Tugtar fáid ndeara nár ríne an Saorstá, ná an stát a lean é, faic na frídí i gConradh na Náisiún, ná sna Náisiúin Aontaithe, mar agóid, mar chlámhsán, in cadán na crioche dhéighilte céanna. Corbhoal ó chorpshátoir corruair in Éirinn ach smid uathu thar fáil Baol orthu.

Dá gceapfaid na polaitoirí go mbainfidís bunaitise as bheith páirteach i bhfeachtas náisiúnta agus idirnáisiúnta in cadán na crioche dhéighilte, bí cinnte de go ndéanfadh amháin. Ach bhíod glic. B'ól dóibh náir theastagóid ó fhormhór an phobail sna 26 Chontae go ndéanfai an tír a aithoiti!

Náire orainn uilig gur threig muid ar dtír a bhfuil sé i mbaol a bheath, an creatúr, é agus lorg oibre. Aineolas, oideachas fíabhtach, agus trí na Criocheachtaí i gceann de na tíortha is saibhre agus chraiceann an domhain is cúis leis an gciniochas abhus. Ach i lár an dorchaíais feicim

Cén fáth gur éirigh chomh maith sin leis an reifeann? Thuidh theas ar son phlean na Sealdáigh agus na Sasnach? D'éile ach gur ar an seif atá an t-athaoiti fágtha. Dáiríre píre, níl i scéim na Sasnach agus na Sealdáigh ach leagan eile de shocrú 1921, an ceann gur dhíoláigh Stormaite a chur i bhfeidhím ina ionlán, san áireamh, na hinstitiúidí uileÉireannacha . . .

CINÍOCHAS AG FÁS

Ag athrú as cuimse atá nabal na hÉireann ar gur loirte, é ach éirí leifléasach, amhfeicéanach. Lena chois sin tá fás ag teacht ar an gciniochas. Le linn m'óige, bhíod fáite romh theacht an tincéasa sa gceantar. Go maith a réitigh an gnáthdhuine le. Bhíod saibhéalach. Bhíod gur maith le cáipit. Bhí deis acu soithi a dhéisiú, agus ar phraghas réasúnta. Ach le teacht an alimánam b'hlambhaid a chailleadar a gceird agus a gothú. D'éir a chéile ba ea a d'fás an ciniochais ina goime.

Arís, le linn m'óige, ag dul i méid a bhí an fríghéidhachas. Inniu, ar éigean, ach i gCorbach, seans, atá sé beo, buiochas le Dia; ach ag méadú as cuimse atá drochbheas ar an duine bocht, ar an duine gorm, ar an té atá ag teacht isteach in Éirinn ó áit a bhfuil sé i mbaol a bheath, an creatúr, é agus lorg oibre.

Aineolas, oideachas fíabhtach, agus trí na Criocheachtaí i gceann de na tíortha is saibhre agus chraiceann an domhain is cúis leis an gciniochas abhus. Ach i lár an dorchaíais feicim

féin fannléas éigin, níos mó spéise ag daoine sa nGaeilge, arís ar dheiscama len i a fhoghlaim, toradh ar theachtas *Súis*, is dóide. Ar na bliana atá ag an nGaeilge tá tobar mór spioradálta agus ansin atá an dóchas, maidir le fileadh ar an Éireannach mar a bhí sé tráth, níos aige ar a chomharsa, grá aige dó, fonn bun air dul i gcomhar leis an gcomharsa leis an saol a ghealladh do gach éinne, agus fáilte aige roimh gach éinne a tháinig sa tigh isteach.

DÚISITEAR CnG

Bhios ag súil go gcuirfeadh Conradh na Gaeilge scéala amach agus go fairsing i mease na n-imreicourí, é d'ádh gur tóg go mbeadh fáite rompu in imeachtaí na Gaeilge, agus nach goonóid sé faic ar an duine bocht an teanga a fhoghlaim. Súil gan léargas. Ach níl sé ró-dhéanach fós, a Nolláig, a chroí.

Bhíod trua againn don stránsár i gcónaí, bhíod sé geall go gorm. Le 10 mbliana atáid ag plóid isteach, ach ní minic a theicim iad ag éiseacht le ceol na hÉireann, nó pionta éil acu sa gcubh. Chub Chonradh na Gaeilge. Ach ina chlodhadh arís atá an Conradh, fíaroch.

Mar choimriú ar a bhfuil i gceist againn san aiste seo tá, gur de ríachtanas é an ré nuá atá ann a aithint, i a chrothadh, smaoine tuas a chur i bhfeidhím maidir lenár n-ompar, athphleanáil i ndiaidh athphleanáil a dhéanamh, gan ar n-áisiúg a mhíochúid, ach a i thabhairt chun bua trí mícáin na spioradálachta agus na loigheas. Agus Dia linn!

— Deasún Breatnach

KNIFE ATTACK LEAVES ONE MAN DEAD, ONE WOUNDED

A Belfast Chronology

Saturday, January 1, 2005. There were reports of a car bomb attack on a West Belfast barracks. It was believed the bomb was defused by British Occupation Forces.

Thursday, January 6, 2005. It was reported that a petrol bomb had been thrown at the RUC/PSNI in Servia Street in West Belfast.

Sunday, January 9, 2005. The home of a nationalist family on the outskirts of north Belfast was attacked. A concrete building block was hurled through the window of the house on the Mill Road, in the nationalist Bawnmore estate. Shortly after 6am a silver-coloured Fiesta pulled up on the Mill Road, Oneman got out and hurled the large block threw the living room window. The family were in bed at the time and have been attacked on several other occasions.

This attack by loyalists, was just another in a long spate of sectarian attacks on nationalists living in the Bawnmore area. Just recently a young nationalist schoolgirl was chased and beaten by loyalists on the Whitewell Road. To date there have no arrests made by the RUC/PSNI which has angered many local people and only emphasizes the view that the British police continue to be unacceptable to nationalists.

Thursday, January 13, 2005. The *Irish News* carried a report on a loyalist who received a suspended sentence after admitting making a record and possessing information on suspected Republicans. The attorney-general for the Six Occupied Counties was asked to review the leniency of the sentence as this is the second suspended sentence imposed on Gordon Hutchinson from the Mourneview Estate, an LVF stronghold, within a few months. A 'Real' IRA member was recently sentenced to six years on a similar charge.

Sunday, January 16, 2005. A plaque was unveiled in Ardoyne in memory of Danny Barrett who was murdered by the British army the day after Vol Joe McDonnell died in the B-Blocks of Long Kesh in 1981.

Danny Barrett was only 15-years-old when he was murdered on the July 9, 1981. He was shot in the neck as he sat on the small wall around the garden of his Havana Court home. The shot was fired by a Brit who was in an observation post on the old mill

in Flax street.

The British claimed Danny had a rifle. This as so often before in many murders carried out by the British Occupation Forces was nothing more than a cover for the murder of an innocent 15-year-old.

The ambulance taking Danny to hospital was stopped three times by the British army and RUC leading to a delay of twelve minutes Danny was found to be dead on arrival at hospital. Eamon McAuley a friend of Danny's said this week there are murals in Ardoyne of innocent victims like Stephen Lawrence, Robert Hamill and solicitor Pat Finucane.

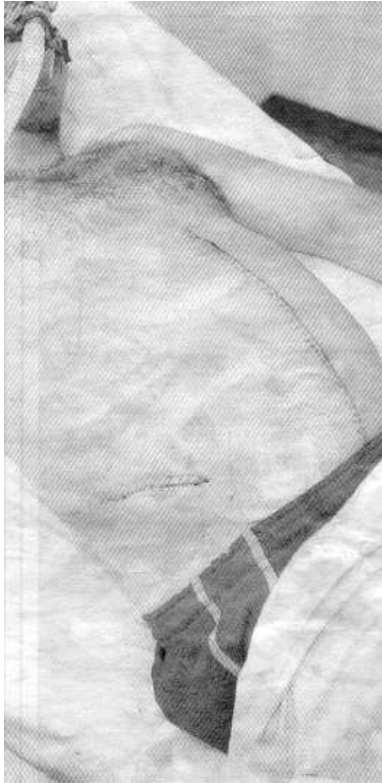
But there has never been a plaque or mural to remind our children and our children's children that an innocent 15-year-old from Ardoyne was cruelly taken from his family and friends that fateful summer of 1981.

We want to remember his short life and to see his plaque unveiled outside the house where he was killed we have never forgotten him, he has always been in hearts and minds and we are so proud at last to do something for his memory and for his family.

Saturday, January 22, 2005. Trouble broke out in a number of loyalist areas of Belfast as the UVF targeted a number of taxis belonging to "Call-A-Cab" Taxis owned by Jackie Mahood who has links to the LVF and who was badly wounded in the head after being shot by the UVF a number of years ago. Armed UVF men attacked and burnt out a number of taxis belonging to Mahood attacks took place in Enfield Parade, Woodvale Road, Highfield, Crumlin road the Ardoyne Road and a shooting was also reported in the loyalist Ballysillan area it is believed that eight taxis were burnt out in the UVF attacks.

Sunday, January 23, 2005. Around 7pm another attack was reported to have taken place in the lower Shankill area. It was believed an attack carried out on a house in Hopewell Crescent is said to have been carried out by the UVF. A number of hooded men were believed to have forced their way into the house and attacked a woman after which they covered her and her house in black paint.

Monday, January 24, 2005. There were reports of trouble in the loyalist Ballysillan area of North Belfast. It was believed



• *Brendam Devine showing the wounds received in the knife attack which killed his friend Robert McCartney (33) from the Short Strand area east Belfast. See January 31, below.*

confused loyalism carried out attacks on British Occupation Forces A number of petrol bombs were thrown. The RUC/PSNI claimed a number of Land Rovers were damaged. Further reports said another "Call-A-Cab" had been set on fire in the loyalist Westland area of North Belfast.

It was also reported that two nationalist men were badly beaten in a sectarian attack. One of the men was attacked by loyalists who jumped from a car in Duncairn Gardens. The same loyalist gang was believed to have carried out the second attack on a nationalist man in his

own garden in Waterloo Park. Both attacks took place in north Belfast.

Tuesday, January 25, 2005. The RUC/PSNI flooded into a number of areas in North Belfast. It was later claimed by them that they had increased patrols in response to the loyalist feud the claim shown to be a lie as many nationalist areas witness the heavy occupation forces patrols. They also confirmed that the UVF was behind an attack on the taxi firm of Jackie Mahood in which several cars were burned out and a driver injured.

One person was arrested last night after a number of petrol

bombs were thrown at the PSNI/RUC in the Ballysillan area of north Belfast.

Wednesday, January 26, 2005. The RUC/PSNI claimed to have found over 30 petrol bombs along with drugs in the loyalist Ballysillan area of north Belfast. Also in the same area another taxi was burned out in the Silverstream area as without a doubt another part of the loyalist feud.

Thursday, January 27, 2005. Belfast solicitor, Patrick O'Hare, was treated in hospital last night for serious head injuries after an unprovoked attack by three men outside his home.

Friday, January 28, 2005. There were reports of shots being fired into a taxi office in the Ballysillan area of north Belfast. The taxi office owner was said to have links to the UVF.

Saturday, January 29, 2005. It was reported that a cafe on the Crumlin road had been attacked by a number of men. The cafe was badly damaged in the attack and unconfirmed reports claim the attack was part of the UVF and LVF feud.

Monday, January 31, 2005. There were reports of rioting in the nationalist Markets area. It was believed the rioting broke out after the RUC/PSNI flooded the Markets and carried out a number of raids. A Provisional front man and British MLA to Stormont said a number of homes belonging to Provisionals were the centre for the raids. One man was arrested and the raids were carried out after a fight in Magennis's Bar in which a man named as Robert McCartney was stabbed and later died.

Over 20 Land Rovers moved into the Markets area. The reaction of the nationalist youth was one of resistance to the Occupation Forces and rioting went on for some time.

There were also reports of trouble at Carrick Hill. The trouble started after loyalists attacked nationalist homes close to the Shankill Road. Windows and doors were damaged and kicked in and the loyalists were driven back by nationalists who confronted them.

It was also reported that a young nationalist was attacked by a loyalist gang as she walked near Carlisle Circus after visiting the Mater Hospital on the Crumlin Road the teenager was chased, but managed to get away by running up the Antrim Road. Yet another sectarian loyalist attack carried out in recent weeks but played down by the Establishment.

Michael and Pearl Testimonial Awards D

CUMANN Na Saoirse Náisiúnta (The National Irish Freedom Committee) held its 10th annual Michael and Pearl Flannery Testimonial Awards Dinner at the Astoria Manor, Astoria, New York on Friday January 28, 2005.

This year's attendance equalled that of last year, in spite of the US State Department's policy to limit Irish American participation in our historic Fenian tradition. An integral part of this policy denies US entry to proponents of the Irish authored EIRE NUA (New Ireland) federal peace proposals, thus creating the false impression that there is not an Irish alternative to the failed British arranged Good Friday Agreement of 1998.

The theme for this year's Awards Testimonial included:

- A celebration of the lives of our deceased comrades Peter Farley and George Harrison, and a commemoration of their passing.

- The marking of the centennial of Sinn Féin, the oldest Irish political party.

- The American contribution to the struggle for a United Ireland Gaelic and Free.

This year's honorees were:

Dr Eileen Metress Ph.D. of Toledo Ohio received the Pearl Flannery Spirit of Freedom Award.

Fr Lawrence E. Lucas, chaplain of Rikers Island penal colony received the first Sr. Sarah Clarke Human Rights Award.

John McDonagh of Radio Free Eireann and Cumann Na Saoirse Náisiúnta received the Michael Flannery Spirit of Freedom Award.

Regrettably, Dr. Eileen Metress, who had the flu was forced to cancel arrangements to travel from Toledo, Ohio to New York. However there are plans to make the presentation of the Pearl Flannery Award to Dr. Metress in Toledo at a later date.

The aftermath of a major snowstorm prevented Al Lewis from attending. Mr. Lewis, a veteran civil rights activist, actor and former recipient of the James Larkin Award, had planned to make the Testimonial his first public appearance after major surgery.

A commemorative ad journal to mark this historic occasion was produced by Brian Mór Ó Baoithigh, who also performed the duties of master of ceremonies. Brian Mór designed and produced each of the spectacular awards that were presented to the honorees. Each award is an original work that rank amongst his finest.

George Harrison's nurse and friend of many years Priscilla McLean set the tone for the evening by reminding the audience that George lived a life guided by his uncompromising principles.

Brian Mór in paying tribute to Peter Farley said that since his death many people have come to know about his dedication to the cause of Irish freedom and that his legacy lives on.

The celebration of Peter Farley and George Harrison's lives featured a short video that was produced by Brian Wardlow and captured the essence of their life long commitment to the cause of Irish Freedom. The band

played their favorite West of Ireland songs and the young piper Brendan Byrne played a mournful lament to close the ceremony for the unrepentant Fenians

This was followed by a video address by Ruairi Ó Brádaigh, President of Sinn Féin Poblachta, that covered the centennial anniversary of Sinn Féin, the oldest political party in Ireland. Mr. Ó Brádaigh, congratulated the honorees and expressed his condolences to the families of his noble comrades, Peter and George and of the legacies that they left to Cumann Na Saoirse to enrich peoples' lives.

Karen Lewis, a WBAI radio show host, presented Fr. Lawrence Lucas with the Sister Sarah Clarke Human Rights Award and spoke eloquently about Sr. Sarah's extraordinary work for the Irish political prisoners in British jails. Karen who was carrying a copy of Sr. Sarah's Book 'No Faith In The Spirit' said that it was a stroke of brilliance by The National Irish Freedom Committee to have connected Sister Sarah Clarke and Fr. Lawrence Lucas across the chasm of time. She also noted that Fr. Lucas' work in ministering to the large prison population on Riker's Island has not endeared him to the establishment, an experience also shared by Sr. Sarah.

Upon accepting the Sr. Sarah Clarke Human Rights Award, Fr. Lawrence E. Lucas paid tribute to Sr. Sarah's life long work. Paddy Joe Hill of the Birmingham Six has called Sister Clarke the patron saint of Irish political prisoners. Fr. Lucas, who has spoken out on British imperialism in Ireland and on injustice everywhere, talked with sincerity of the trials and tribulations along with the joys that mark his work as chaplain to prisoners. He noted that many of those in the system, whose obligation it is to make the conditions of prisoners lives somewhat better, leave a lot to be desired.

Brian Mór introduced his long time friend John Mc Donagh to the prolonged cheers of family and friends and then presented him with the Michael Flannery Award. John who hosts the weekly Radio Free Eireann show every Saturday on WBAI in New York said that he was honored to receive the award at this point in time as he had plans to continue with his involvement in the cause of Irish freedom for as long as it takes.

"Mac" as he is known thanked his family for their unstinting support and spoke of the two biggest surprises in his life. The first was Michael Flannery's reaction when he (Mac) attempted to ensure Michael that the Provos were never going to sell out. Mike's reply was that it was basically a done deal. Mac said that Mike's reply shocked him. The second was in October of last year when he heard of George Harrison's death. Mac said that he felt aggravated that George died because they had plans to take

George's statement of support to the Sinn Féin Ard Fheis in Dublin, and a number of interviews for the show had been planned. Mac made his feelings known on the ongoing farcical situation in Ireland and on the main players involved. He noted that he was a much better position as an honoree to appreciate the work by the various people that goes into producing such a successful Testimonial Dinner.

A well deserved praise must go to those people who made the event run so smoothly; Maggie Trainor, who along with Brian Mór organised and managed the program for the evening; Bob Loughman the ticket chairman; Brian Wardlow the tech person; Chris Dugan and Pat Williams were busy in their role of answering questions about all aspects of Cumann Na Saoirse' program and campaigns; Michael Ó Coisdealbha and Linda and Sean Burns for the layout and printing of the successful Ad Journal.

A special word of thanks must go to long time activist Fionán Ó Sé and his friends from Pittsburgh Pa. and to The Brotherhood of Irish American, led by Steve Gilliland from Butler Pa. Finally, Cumann Na Saoirse Náisiúnta wishes to say *Go raibh míle maith aguibh* (a thousand thanks) to the good people who purchased ads in the Journal, to every single person who attended, to the honored guests, to WBAI radio, to the band *Tom Dokery And The Lads* that entertained everyone, to the piper Brendan Byrne and to the excellent staff at the Astorian World Manor for the service that they provided.

Below is the text of Ruairi Ó Brádaigh's address by video link to those assembled in New York:

"At the outset and on behalf of the true Republican Movement in Ireland I wish to extend greetings to all assembled at the annual Michael Flannery Testimonial Awards Dinner in New York.

In particular I congratulate the organisers of the event and extend felicitations to tonight's honorees, Dr Eileen Metress, Father Lawrence E Lucas and John McDonagh, all of whom have been active in the cause of human rights, the support of prisoners and their families and in advancing the cause of Irish national independence.

I also seek on this occasion to pay tribute to the work and memory of two distinguished Irish Americans who were taken from us in the past year. It was my privilege over the decades to work with George Harrison and Peter Farley in the cause of Irish Freedom.

George, indomitable George, succeeded Michael Flannery in 1994 as Patron of Republican Sinn Féin and served in that capacity with distinction for the last full decade of his life.

For that, together with his late wife Ellen, laboured in support of Republican Prisoners and acted for close on twenty years as distributor of our newspaper SAOIRSE-Irish Freedom in North America. An avid cameraman, he has left us a rich legacy of historical Irish Republican recordings.

Suaimeas suas go raibh ag a n-anamusal calma. May their brave and noble souls enjoy eternal peace. Their



• John McDonagh, New York, recipient of the Michael Flannery Spirit of Freedom Award. E. Lucas, who received the Sister Sarah Clarke Human Rights Award.



• A section of the attendance at the dinner in New York.

unselfish service to their fellow human beings and to humankind in general surely deserves no less.

In this year 2005 we celebrate the centenary of the foundation of Sinn Féin in Dublin in 1905. The previous year, 1904, had seen the inauguration of Cumann Camógachta na hÉireann (the Women's Camogie League) and the birth of the Abbey Theatre – the aims of which was "to show the Irish people to themselves". The Irish national spirit was slowly being revived.

At that first Ard-Fheis of Sinn Féin on November 28, 1905, the following resolution was adopted: "That the people of Ireland are a free people, and that no law made without their consent is, or can ever be, binding on their conscience."

The basic principle of the Organisation was to withdraw the Irish representation from the British parliament and to set up a Constituent Assembly for the whole country at home in Ireland.

Mary Lambert Butler (Maire de Buiúille), writer and Irish speaker, suggested to Arthur Griffith the title

Sinn Féin (Ourselves), which denoted self-reliance and the marshalling of the entire resources of the Irish Nation, both material and moral.

Brian O'Higgins, who was there from the inception, became a Deputy of the First and Second (All-Ireland) Dáiléanna and remained steadfast as a Republican all his life, wrote in his *Wolfe Tone Annual* of 1949:

"It is often sought to be shown that the organisation set up in 1905 was not republican in form or spirit, that it only became so in 1917; but this is an erroneous idea, and is not borne out by the truths of history.

"Anyone who goes to the trouble of reading its brief constitution will see that its object was 'the re-establishment of the Independence of Ireland'.

"The constitution of Sinn Féin in 1905, and certainly the spirit of it, was at least as clearly Separatist as was the constitution of Sinn Féin in and after 1917, no matter what private opinion regarding the British Crown may have been held by Arthur Griffith."

The fact is that active Irish Republican Brotherhood men were

Pearl Flannery Dinner in New York



Flannery Spirit of Freedom Award with Fr
uman Rights Award.



members of Sinn Féin, that Seán Mac Diarmada – later 1916 leader – was one of its first organisers and that all of its propaganda was Separatist, pro-Republican and anti-British.

Another leader of 1916, and signatory to the Proclamation of the All-Ireland Republic, Éamonn Ceannt was an early member as was Séamus McManus of Donegal, poet and author who remained true to the Republican Cause until his death in 1960.

The new movement quickly spread to Belfast and Cork and later to many parts of the country. It had a newspaper of the same name from 1906 to 1914 when it was suppressed by the British government. This was edited by Arthur Griffith, who was a member of the IRB at the time and was an able journalist and propagandist.

Sinn Féin spread to the United States. The Sinn Féin League was founded in New York by Judge Daniel F. Colahan and John Devoy in 1907 and the Sinn Féin League of America was founded in Buffalo a year later.

In 1908 Sinn Féin contested its first ever by-election in Leitrim North.

Seán Mac Diarmada, on home ground in the constituency, was the mainspring of the Sinn Féin campaign which was conducted on an abstentionist programme. It was not successful but a number of town and city council seats were won about that time by the organisation and were taken up.

The platform afforded by these elections was availed of for the furtherance of the Sinn Féin policy. This had been developed in support of the national question, the restoration of the Irish language and the economic doctrine of self-sufficiency along the lines advocated by the German Frederick List.

Right up to 1916 Sinn Féin was a public rallying point for staunch nationalists and Republicans. This was pointed up by the neutral stand taken with the outbreak of World War I in 1914 and led to the Sinn Féin organ and other nationalist newspapers being banned.

While Sinn Féin was a civil and political organisation with no military commitments, some members were also in the Irish Volunteers and the Irish Citizen Army.

Pádraig Pearse, Roger Casement and other Republican leaders had visited America and secured funding and linkage with England's enemy in war, Germany, in preparation for the Easter Rising of 1916. A small grouping, the Hibernian Rifles, who also joined in the Rising were under the influence of the Fenian organisation in America, the Clan-na-Gael.

The Rising itself removed any doubts as to Sinn Féin's Republican outlook. The caption "Sinn Féin Rebellion" and the title "Sinn Féiners" were imposed on the insurgents by the British at a time when the organisation had little political influence.

In the following year, 1917, a by-election was won in North Roscommon by Count Plunkett, father of Joseph Plunkett, executed 1916 leader. Later that year other by-elections were won in Longford, in Clare and in Kilkenny.

All were gained on the basis of denying the claim of the British parliament to rule Ireland, and to set up a rival Irish parliament in Dublin. Then a hunger striker, Thomas Ashe, died in prison because political status was denied to Irish Republicans.

In late October a great Ard-Fheis of Sinn Féin was held to harness the rising tide of revolutionary Republicanism. This time a definitely Republican constitution was adopted.

Henceforth the organisation could be described as "Republican Sinn Féin". There were no more doubts as to its monarchist or constitutional leanings.

The threat of conscription by the British government in 1918 galvanised the people behind Sinn Féin. The Irish Parliamentary Party – the constitutional nationalists – abandoned the English parliament. The anti-conscription pledge signed by citizens declared that the passing of the Conscription Bill "must be regarded as a declaration of war on the Irish Nation".

In the general election at the end of that year 1918, Sinn Féin won 73 out of 105 seats in all of Ireland and proceeded to implement its policy. This was to "make use of any and every means available to render imminent the power of England to rule Ireland in subjection by military power, or otherwise", (quoted from the Republican election manifesto).

The first All-Ireland Dáil was convened, Ministers were elected, and it proceeded to legislate for Ireland. Courts were set functioning and local councils broke with London and attached themselves to the Dáil.

The British forces attacked, guerrilla warfare ensued and the British parliament partitioned Ireland into 26 and Six Counties. A Truce was arranged and a Treaty of Surrender imposed on Ireland.

Sinn Féin was divided. Those who accepted the new British arrangement for the country went on to organise themselves as "Cumann na nGaedheal" and later Fine Gael. Those who stood by the Constitution of Sinn Féin still maintained the name "Sinn Féin". The first break-away has, since 1922, been entitled to claim the mantle of Sinn Féin.

Following a bloody civil war, 77 executions and much sacrifice Sinn Féin re-organised itself and built up. By 1926 it had 48 parliamentary seats, on an abstentionist basis, in the 26 Counties. Again the reformist question of accepting the new British partitionist arrangements was raised.

The constitutionalists failed at the Ard-Fheis, departed from Sinn Féin and formed Fianna Fáil under Éamon de Valera. In time they would come to enforce the rule of the two states on Republicans causing deaths on hunger strike, executions by firing squads and the imported English hangman and mass internment without trial. Clearly, these are not, despite their protestations, the "continuation of Sinn Féin".

In 1946 came the formation, outside the Republican Movement, of Clann na Poblachta led by Seán Mac Bride. This was the most benign manifestation yet of constitutionalism. It had many former Republican activists but did not attempt to take over the Republican Movement. It brought down a Coalition Administration in the 26 Counties in 1957 rather than engage in coercion against Republicans.

In 1965 Clann na Poblachta dissolved itself. Already many of its members had returned to the Republican Movement and many others did in the 1970s and 1980s, including Seán Mac Bride himself.

The next defection came from the Republican ranks in 1969-70, the Workers' Party used the name and titles of Sinn Féin and the Irish Republican Army until 1982.

While still using these honoured titles, they fully accepted partition and British rule in the Six Counties. The Workers' Party even engaged in physical action against the Republican Movement. They were the third breakaway from Sinn Féin and undeniably put themselves beyond all



• Michael Flannery

claim to succession to the organisation founded in 1905.

Then in 1986, following a heroic campaign of resistance to British rule in Ireland, including ten deaths on hunger-strike, another effort was made to divert the historic Republican Movement into the British-made partition settlement of 1921.

A resolution was forced onto the agenda of the Ard-Fheis, the terms of which were contrary to the Constitution of Sinn Féin. It sought acceptance of the 26-County partitionist parliament while Section 1 (b) on Membership states:

"No person who approves or supports the candidature of persons who, if elected, intend taking part in the proceedings of the British parliament or partition assemblies by which Ireland is ruled . . . shall be admitted to membership or allowed to retain membership".

Earlier the Constitution declares the Organisation to be based on the fundamental principles that the allegiance of Irishmen and Irishwomen is due to the Republic of 1916 and of the 32-County Dáil of 1919, and that the sovereignty and unity of the Republic cannot be given away or voted upon.

Now, as we know that Republic is an All-Ireland body and to accept it is to undo the 26-County State and the Six County Stormont Assembly. Yet the offending resolution was forced through thereby breaching the Constitution.

Over 100 delegates and 30 visitors who opposed the move withdrew and continued the Ard-Fheis elsewhere, taking with them the unbroken Constitution of Sinn Féin. They would not take part in what that Constitution calls an "act of treachery" (Section 6 (e)).

The Organisation was continued under its description since 1917 – Republican Sinn Féin. No other body adheres to the intact Constitution, nor has any other association the right to the title "Sinn Féin". Whether they defected from the Organisation in 1922 or 1926, in 1970 or 1986, they cannot celebrate the Sinn Féin centenary as the true continuation of the body founded in 1905.

Of course every disruption of the

Movement in Ireland was paralleled by similar action in the United States. People like Joe McGarrity of Clan-na-Gael and John J. Hearn (Westfield, Mass) of the American Association for the Recognition of the Irish Republic maintained support for the Republican Movement in Ireland through the 1920s.

In 1970 and 1986, Michael Flannery, George Harrison, Joe Stynes and Eoin McNamara were the pillars on which re-organisation took place. People always came forward to fill the gap and tonight we salute all who were not found wanting in time of trouble.

But there were the high points as well. After 1916 Liam Mellows was "Stateside" until 1920. Harry Boland followed him and Mary MacSwiney did a tremendous coast-to-coast tour in 1921 and again in the mid-1920s.

In 1927 Judge Peters of the Supreme Court of New York rules that the \$2.5 million of the First Dáil Loan still remaining in the States did not belong to the Free State administration because the 26-County parliament was not the successor of the First (All-Ireland) Dáil. It was "one bright moment for Sinn Féin", writes Seán Cronin in his book, *The McGarrity Papers*.

Irish Republican leaders Frank Ryan and Seán Russell toured the States in the 1930s, while in the 1950s Paddy McLogan, President of Sinn Féin, did similar work. Comdt-General Tom Maguire received a wonderful welcome in Chicago in 1967 for the Fenian Century.

Dáithí Ó Conaill and Seán Keenan were the people who founded Irish Northern Aid in 1970 and again in the late 1980s formed the Irish Freedom Committee, Cumann na Saoirse Náisiúnta.

Some of those mentioned here gave their lives for Irish Freedom. The others devoted their entire adult existence to the service of the same ideal. Today British forces of occupation remain in Six Irish Counties while the politicians in Dublin's Leinster House parliament collaborate openly with them.

Former comrades have gone so far as to advocate joining these same occupation forces under a new name and taking part in their deadly work of maintaining British rule in Ireland.

Twenty-five Republican prisoners are incarcerated on both sides of the Border. Some are serving sentences of ten and twelve years imprisonment in Maghaberry and Portlaoise jails. They have families which need your support.

The torch which was lit on both sides of the Atlantic almost 150 years ago, when the Irish Republican Brotherhood was founded in Ireland and the Fenian Brotherhood in America, still burns brightly. It gives light tonight at your function in New York.

One hundred years ago Sinn Féin was formed in Dublin. In 2005 a banner is displayed on the Republican Sinn Féin offices in both Dublin and Belfast. It reads: "1905 Sinn Féin 2005: 100 years Unbroken Continuity."

Arthur Scargill in Dublin

ARTHUR Scargill, former president of the British National Union of Mineworkers and leader of the British Socialist Labour Party came to Dublin on January 17 for a day of activities which included an RTE TV interview and culminated in a talk by him at SPTU's Liberty Hall to mark the 20th anniversary of the end of the British miners' strike.

A large crowd, which included the Vice-President of Republican Sinn Féin, Des Dalton, heard Tom Ryan, Chairman of the Dublin Trades Council introduce Arthur Scargill.

Describing the night as the "highlight" of his career he described the 1983-84 miners' strike as an example of a "so-called democratic state using the machinery of the state to attack its own workers".

At the time of the strike, Tom Ryan said, he like many other young Irish people was working in England. As a member of the printer's union he attended rallies in support of the miners, "at these rallies I was never a 'Paddy' but simply a comrade", he remembered.

Arthur Scargill, who described himself as "half Irish" and when asked which half he replied "the left", over the course of 90 minutes held his audience with a fascinating, moving and at times funny account of the British Miner's strike of the early 1980's.

He began by referring to the recent guilty plea by Mark Thatcher, son of the former British Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher, in a South African court to supporting the overthrow of the government of Equatorial Guinea by a group of British mercenaries.

"Margaret Thatcher referred to the striking miners as the 'enemy within', it was there the case I hope that both Bush and Blair will arrest Mark Thatcher if he arrives in their jurisdiction, here is a man who tried to bring down a government and over the heads of its people hand a country's resources over to a band of international capitalists. Will they detain Mark Thatcher as they have detained so many

people because of their name, skin colour or political outlooks? If we were the enemy within then he is surely the enemy without".

Describing the background to the strike Scargill said: "The miner's strike was political. The Tory government under Thatcher were determined to break the NUM, if that meant destroying the British coal industry in the process, then so be it. Thatcher knew that if she could break the NUM, the strongest union, then she could take and beat the wider trade union movement, as she did at Wapping for example in the late 1980s."

He said his intention on the night was to deal with some of the "myths and nonsense" written by members of the British Labour movement in particular, about the strike. Scargill said the strike was for one of the noblest causes.

"It was not about better pay or conditions, it was about preserving jobs. Working class communities fighting for their very existence," he said. The miner's strike started on November 1, 1983 and lasted until March 2, 1985. In the months before the strike a document from the 'British Coal Board' came into the possession of the NUM, which revealed that they intended to close 98 pits. At the time this was denounced as "scaremongering" by both the Tory government and the 'Coal Board', however as Arthur Scargill pointed out all of those pits are now closed.

Whilst the protest started as an 'overtime ban', which meant that miner's worked a three day week, it soon escalated. By March 1984 the 'Coal Board' had lost 30% production, in an effort to bring



* Arthur Scargill signs a copy of SAOIRSE in Liberty Hall, Dublin.

the situation to a head they announced the closure of five pits within a week. This left the NUM with little choice: "Despite what many extreme left idealists might like to believe, what happened next was not some spontaneous uprising of a resurgent working class. The union leadership made the decisions. I wrote the strike resolution, which was put to the Yorkshire Area Executive and the Scottish Executive on March 8 1984, all but three areas came out. All of which was within the rules of our union as mandated by conference." Said Scargill. He continued: "However we were engaging an enemy that had prepared, that had learned from the strikes of the early 70s. The government were intent on isolating the NUM

from other unions." This involved a vicious campaign of misinformation including an ongoing smear campaign directed at Scargill personally. It would take him years of litigation to clear his name.

The British government also sought to have the strike declared illegal, which would allow them to freeze the union's assets. Scargill recounted the long legal wrangle, which ensued, culminating in the English Lord Chancellor, the highest legal officer in the English judiciary stating that whilst the union had conformed to all legal requirements he was ruling against them in the 'national interest'.

The decision of the English High Court to declare the strike illegal was trumpeted by all of

the mainstream media, the fact that the Scottish High Court had found the strike to be legal was ignored, this included a TV interview given by Arthur Scargill only hours earlier when his reference to this fact was deleted.

Scargill recounted how as he put it the "resources of a state were turned against its own people". He was completely unapologetic for any breach of the law by the NUM during the strike: "We had every right to defy the law and protect worker's rights against a law that is wrong. The union and its members were under attack."

Describing the overwhelming force used by the British police at the Ogreave colliery, when 8,200 riot police squared up to 10,000 unarmed and unprotected miners, Scargill said: "The police were armed with 1000 pounds in their pockets, shields, batons, and horses. We were armed only with pride, right, a noble cause and nothing else."

Scargill spoke emotively of the women's support group, made up mostly of the wives, mothers, sisters and daughters of striking miners, who ran soup kitchens, supported the pickets, marched, leafleted and highlighted in every way that could the plight of the miners. "They were an inspiration to me and the union," said Scargill.

He reserved special praise for the support shown to the miners by the Irish Trade Union Movement, "which contributed more, pro rata, than anyone else" according to Arthur Scargill. The Irish Trade Union Movement also helped with advice on the movement of the NUM funds, which the British government were trying to freeze. He also praised the support shown by artists such as Christy Moore and the Dubliners. He said the contribution, which moved him most, was £126 pounds sent by the South African National Union of Miner's "At a time when they were bearing the full

brunt of the Apartheid regime".

During the course of the strike, 13,000 union members were arrested, including Scargill himself, 11,000 were hospitalised, a figure which also included the NUM President, 11 people died, two miners were killed on the picket lines and 966 were sacked. "All of this was done to break a union its democratic right to defend jobs. It was a privilege to lead men and women who were magnificent, who were right in everything they did," Scargill concluded.

During a brief question and answer session Arthur Scargill spoke of the betrayal of the strikers by the British TUC and Labour leadership. In reply to a request that he voice his opposition to the policies of an Irish trade union leadership which is continuing to cosy up to the employers and government, Scargill said he would regard it as an abuse of the hospitality shown to him to comment on the internal affairs of the Irish trade union movement, however, referring to the Partnership agreements he said his opposition to "collaboration with the employers" was a matter of record.

"I have opposed collaboration in the past and continue to oppose it now and in the future," he said. Scargill spoke of James Connolly's influence on him and revealed that his Socialist Labour Party, which he formed in 1996 having left the British Labour Party the year before, took its name from the organisation founded in Scotland by Connolly.

Asked if he thought the strike was a failure, Arthur Scargill answered: "The strike was not a defeat, it brought together men and women of all colours against an unjust capitalist system. We had a vision and were right to fight and I am proud of the role played by the international working class."

McCreevy and the EU referendum

IN a press statement on January 20 the National Platform EU Research and Information Centre said that Charlie McCreevy had been appointed an EU Commissioner, yet he stated the previous week that he intended to play an active part on behalf of the Yes Campaign in the upcoming referendum on the "Treaty Establishing a Constitution for Europe.

The statement continued: "While Mr McCreevy, like any civil servant, will have a vote in the referendum as an Irish citizen, is it really appropriate for him as a supranational public official to campaign in such a fashion? Is it compatible with a proper appreciation of his role as an EU Commissioner?"

"EU Commissioners take an oath to put the EU's interests before any national

interest when they take up their jobs. Whether Commissioners are Irish, Italian or Danish does not mean they are there to work for Ireland, Italy or Denmark. They may like to believe that expanding the EU's power and functions is identical with their own country's interests, but it is not necessarily so.

"The EU Commission has no role in the ratification of EU treaties, which are

exclusively a matter for the Member States. Yet the Commission, which has the exclusive right to propose European laws, is very much an interested party. It will gain a huge increase in its own powers at the expense of national Parliaments, Member States and their citizens if the proposed EU Constitution is ratified and a further 60 or so national vestiges are abolished.

"As an EU Commissioner Mr McCreevy is paid a substantial salary for his services in implementing the existing EC/EU treaties, but surely not to campaign for ratifying new ones? If Mr McCreevy can devote his time and resources that

should be spent on Commission business to political campaigning in the Irish referendum, what is to stop other Commissioners from doing the same thing?"

"If the principle of Commission interference of this kind is accepted as regards Mr McCreevy or his colleagues, what is to prevent the Commission using its huge financial and personnel resources to interfere in a one-sided fashion in the Irish and other Member State referendums, against the principles of constitutional fairness in referendums laid down by the Supreme Court in the 1995 McKenna case, and quite possibly in violation of European law as well?"

"In 1998 it took the threat of legal action by a local citizen, Mr Owen Bennett, to prevent the European Commission Office in Dublin from disseminating large amounts of one-sided pamphlets in the Amsterdam Treaty referendum under the guise of providing objective information on that treaty. When the matter was referred to the Commission's Legal Services in Brussels, they concluded that this action was legally inadvisable.

The Commission's resources, including the salaries of its officials, are contributed to in part by Irish taxpayers. Those resources should not be used to forward the ratification of a Treaty-

cum-Constitution that would hugely increase the Commission's powers at the expense of Irish and other EU citizens who ultimately provide those resources — a Treaty moreover that may never come into force if it is rejected by one of the 25 EU Member States.

"Irish voters should be permitted to make up their minds on the EU Constitution without outside intervention of any kind from the EU Commission or its Commissioners. Commissioner McCreevy should think again.

(Signed) Anthony Coughlan, Secretary.

WHAT THEY SAID

As the seat of British power at Stormont there is an agenda to accrue to the faceless and hugely unaccountable bureaucrats of MIS, the responsibility for intelligence gathering within Northern Ireland, a development High Order appears not to reject in principle.

— Irish Independent, December 24, analysis by Alan Murray.

(PSN/IRC Chief Constable) Orde's quiet notion that employing tactics similar to those devised to deal with the Yardies gangs he encountered in London to ensure the elusive IRA were not emboldened terrorist groups in Northern Ireland was breathtakingly complacent and downright frightening.

— Irish Independent. The long-time retired former RUC Chief Constable, Sir John Kerwin, coined a saying borne out of his encounters with the senior officers of the London Metropolitan Police who came to visit him.

"You can tell a man from the Met, but you can't tell him much," he would sigh to his aides after yet another meeting with a complacent Met officer.

— Irish Independent. There was, I believe, a concern lest, in the event of our (26-County State) voluntary involvement in the war [WWII], the more republican elements in Fianna Fáil might break away and join the IRA.

That organisation remained a significant force in the early years of the war... the (26-County) Dáil had voted to introduce internment, which by 1942 had broken the back of the IRA for many years thereafter.

— Irish Times, January 2, article by Garret Fitzgerald entitled "Warlike: Neutrality theorised rather than real." Soon after (January 2, 1975), a truce between the Provisionals and the British army was established, but there was little hope the ceasefire would endure.

Even so, towards the end of 1974, the British government was happy to engage in dialogue with the Provisionals, expecting this to gragment the movement further.

— Irish Times, January 4, 2005; Richard Bourke on the 1974 British State. Neutral secretary reports by Marilyn Rees, NI secretary for consideration by Harold Wilson, British Prime Minister.

All the British had to do was promise "withdrawal" and keep them talking. But an intriguing minute in a top secret planning document from December 1974 gives the game away without fully spelling out how the deception was to be done.

"At the last meeting," the passage reads, "the Home Secretary (Roy Jenkins) said that when this discussion was taken up again he would try to explain what he meant by withdrawal."

— Richard Bourke. In other words Britain would seek as much as possible to disengage from the intricate politics of Northern Ireland.

But her involvement would continue through the control of finance and law and order, although even here the primary role in security was to gradually be handed to the RUC.

— Richard Bourke, "The SLDLP Overview" of 1974. British State Papers.

Such disengagement could be called "withdrawal" for the purposes of negotiating with the Provisionals. But beneath the subterfuge lay the true intention of digging in for the long haul, a "Top Secret" policy document from the middle of December 1974 spelt out the new reality: "we have a further considerable period of direct rule ahead of us."

— Richard Bourke, "London Overview"

There was a considerable debate [on November 22, 1974] concerning the prospects of a British withdrawal, which had been proposed in 1970, which the SDLP reckoned to be almost certain.

— Irish Times, January 4, 2005. John Bowman on the SLDLP and Dublin government contacts and meetings (1974 State Papers).

It is where in the 1974 [Leinster House] cabinet papers there are estimates of the limitations of any military withdrawal as a possibility but [the 26-County State] army could provide if a civil war was to follow a British withdrawal.

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— Irish Times, January 11, 2005, article by Michael Jansen.

According to some Palestinian analysts, because the Islamic Hamas movement and Israel are pleased with the election result because Mr Abbas has emerged as a weak president.

Hamas does not want him to be in a position to curb the success of its Pat Leahy, Political reporter. He goes on to list both the 24 British Army bases and the monthly bills in excess of £78,000 for Shackleton barracks in Derry to £1,197 for Clooney Camp also in Derry.

— Michael Jansen. Mr Sharon's immediate response in the aftermath of Mr Abbas's victory was to reiterate his long-standing demand that the Palestinian Authority dismantle armed groups, end suicide bombings and stop the firing of makeshift rockets from the Gaza Strip into Israel.

— Irish Times, January 11, 2005, article by Peter Hirschberg.

Mr Sharon is opposed to a Palestinian state in all of the West Bank and Gaza, to east Jerusalem as a capital of such a state, and to the "right of return" for Palestinian refugees — all demands that the new Palestinian leader would bring to the table.

— Peter Hirschberg. If, however, Mr Sharon responds ultimately to be

dragged back to the table for substantial negotiations, Mr Abbas will lose public support and his term in office could again be brief.

— Peter Hirschberg.

The big question is whether Mr Bush will be ready to put pressure on Mr Sharon in the pursuit of a settlement.

— Irish Times, January 11, 2005, article by Peter Hirschberg.

The Northern Bank, Marko and Gallaghers have all made significant contributions to [Provisionals] IRA funds at a time when its political representatives have been more welcome in the Blair household than Chancellor Gordon Brown who lives next door.

— Patrick Murphy, The Thursday Column, Irish News, January 13, 2005.

The theory that Britain has no vested interest in Ireland [as suggested by John Hume in a speech in 1980] is half right. Britain has no economic interest here — the European Union movement has seen that. But it has a security interest. It can step back from direct involvement but it has a vested interest that the locals will not threaten its interests through rebellions or alliances with the enemy.

— Patrick Murphy. So when the [Provisionals] IRA offer to end violence and destroy its guns, Britain jumps at the chance. In return it offered access to political power, prisoner releases...

...and more importantly for the republicans, iconic historical status. More significantly the British would also turn a blind eye to ongoing [Provisionals] IRA criminality in the short term... Better to have the [Provisionals] IRA robbing Belfast banks than blowing up Canary Wharf.

— Patrick Murphy. The Gerry Adams/Martin McGuinness leadership of the [Provisional] Republican movement would probably be ditched and replaced by the hard men.

Were the hard men then to resume paramilitary action, stern moves would be required. That could range from a retrogradation of Section 31-type broadcasting restrictions through internment both north and south of the Border. Not a very attractive prospect.

— Sunday Business Post, January 16, Back Room column.

The ESB supplies electricity to 24 British Army bases in the North, in a contract worth more than £7 million a year.

— Sunday Business Post, article by Pat Leahy, Political reporter. He goes on to list both the 24 British Army bases and the monthly bills in excess of £78,000 for Shackleton barracks in Derry to £1,197 for Clooney Camp also in Derry.

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government, through its Special Branch, has seized £11,000 from Republican Sinn Féin so far this year.

— [Provisional] Sinn Féin, power is the be-all and end-all and it has been remarkably skillful about going out and looking for it. The only real cynicism is that, in its attitude to the country it operates in, it has developed some of the traditional lies of Fianna Fáil.

The two parties will make perfect coalition partners when the time comes.

— Sunday Tribune, January 16, 2005, article by Diarmuid Doyle.

Basic fairness dictates that, where possible, interview of accused on IRA [membership] charge should be video-recorded.

— Irish Times Law Report, January 17, 2005, of case of DPP v Paul Kelly, judgement by Special Criminal Court delivered on 17 January 2005.

After the Omagh bombing, there was a widespread desire that the perpetrators be caught and punished.

When Mr Murphy, a man with known Republican connections, was arrested and held in custody, it was to be acquitted. In the public mind the equation of dissident republicans, any dissident republican, with the atrocity was total.

— Irish Times, January 22, article by Carol Coulter under the heading "Judgment is unusually trenchant."

Finding otherwise could have resulted in Mr Murphy's acquittal, which would have caused uproar. But, as the neighbouring jurisdiction has found, "appalling vistas" sometimes have to be faced if the integrity of the legal system is to be preserved.

— Carol Coulter.

— Irish Times, January 22, two-sentence pronouncement [denying the Northern Bank raid] wasn't enough to convince the sceptics, because P O'Neill's credibility has suffered in recent years. Even bitter enemies used to concede that his statements could be relied upon, but there have been a number of occasions where P O'Neill led us astray, eg...

— Irish Times Weekend Review, article by Daigán de Bredain, January 22, 2005.

By McDowell's reasoning, Wolfe Tone, Robert Emmet, Patrick Pearse, James Connolly and Eamon de Valera were criminals too (as well as Bobby Sands).

Likewise Eoin MacNeill, McDowell's grandfather — who, after the 1916 Rising, was arrested and sentenced to penal servitude for life. Although MacNeill was released under the following years general amnesty, he died briefly, legally being a criminal.

— Irish Times Weekend Review, January 22, television news by Eddie Hol.

After all, the [hunger] strike centred on the issue of whether the strikers be deemed political prisoners, not ordinary criminals. Ultimately, it was about the moral and legal legitimacy of the North Atlantic Treaty.

— Eddie Hol. A British general election is looming; this spring, and with predictions abound that the SDLP may be set to lose two of its three Westminster seats, the party is eyeing up the current Labour government, according to springboard to draw back nationalist support.

— Sunday Business Post, January 23, article by Paul T

Colgan.

The militant failure of the Fenians begot the parliamentary struggle for the Home Rule of Ireland, which drove a new generation into revolutionary brotherhoods.

— Sunday Business Post, January 23, article by Tom McGurk.

In more ways than one, the fact that Eamon de Valera faced in the late 1920s was not unlike that which Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness faced in the late 1970s.

They all sought to build political parties out of the remnants of what were essentially paramilitary forces.

— Tom McGurk. Fianna Fáil's emergence was yet another example of the great Irish historical circle from militarism into post-revolutionary politics.

It had happened previously with the Fenians and the IRA. A similar process later created Clann na Poblachta and in turn the Workers' Party, which later joined up with the Labour Party.

— Tom McGurk. In the end, de Valera was unable to bring all the "boys of the old brigade" with him into Fianna Fáil and they split off to create the seeds that two generations later emerged as the Provisional IRA.

— Tom McGurk. The prospect of another post-revolutionary Stormont is dead for the foreseeable future.

As the fallout from the Belfast bank robbery settles like bomb debris, contaminating the surroundings, some consequences are clear. Unionists now have a veto with which both governments are entirely sympathetic. Next time [Provisional] republicans will play a huge price for a deal.

— Irish Times, January 28, column by Fionnuala O'Connor. Martin Cullen should have been fired over Farnleigh House (it went on sale for £3m, he contrived to buy it for the state for £23m and it then required a further £20m to kit out the house). He should have been fired over the electronic voting fraud; and should be fired now over the Monica Leech extravaganza.

— News & Views Editorial, Village, 29 Jan/Feb 2005.

Cullen's direct discussions" with Leech cost €87,462. Since 1986, 3,800 trade unionists have been killed, 178 in the past year alone (in Colombia). The FARC jail commander, Julio Serrá, told Margaret Gowan & Co Ltd who were commissioned by the NRA to "access the archaeological significance of the proposed route" (of the M3 motorway through the Hill of Tara).

— Village, 5-11 February, 2005, in article by Emma Brennan.

It also appears that there is significant confusion about the files that were furnished to Justice Barron, the man heading the inquiry... Noel Byrne later confirmed that one file relating to the Clones bombing is, in fact missing... This issue caused considerable confusion at the sub-committee hearings, as it did during the hearings last year into the bombings of 1974.

In that instance, it was discovered that the intelligence file on the Clones bombings in 1974 was missing from the Department of Justice files.

— Village, News & Views, 5-11

What is significant about that is not that there are or may be one or two bad apples in the force, but that it is likely the "bad apples" have been featured on other occasions as part of Garda conduct.

— Vincent Browne.

It is not clear we need to know about the Garda to realise that there is something very wrong at the heart of the organisation.

They made a complete mess of the Veronica Guerin murder investigation, the conduct of the Garda in Donegal defies belief, the handling of the Abbeylea affair was appalling, and now this.

— Vincent Browne. However, it appears that the preferred option [for "leading Irish-Americans"] of getting the [Provisional] IRA disbanded may prove very difficult.

— Sunday Business Post, January 26, article by Niall O'Dowd in New York.

It is clear that [Provisional] Sinn Féin is still involved in a number of international debate about which way to proceed.

Insiders confirm that any dismantlement would cost a number of hardliners opting out with potentially dire consequences.

— RTÉ radio one to Dublin Minister McDowell: "Was Kevin Barry a criminal?"

— Michael McDowell: "I'm not going down that road." RTÉ did not pursue the matter.

— News at 1pm, February 1, 2005.

"The monuments around Tara cannot be viewed in isolation... but must be seen in the context of an intact archaeological landscape, which should not under any circumstances be disturbed. No mitigation would remove the effects of this route on the Hill of Tara or on its outlying monuments. It would have severe implications from an archaeological perspective.

This section of the [proposed] M3 runs through one of the richest and best known archaeological landscapes in Europe. At the centre is the Hill of Tara, the set of the High Kings of Ireland, and the focus of ritual, political, social and religious activity for over four thousand years. It would be virtually impossible to underestimate the importance of the archaeological and historical landscape of the area."

The 2000 report from Margaret Gowan & Co Ltd who were commissioned by the NRA to "access the archaeological significance of the proposed route" (of the M3 motorway through the Hill of Tara).

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— Village, News & Views, 5-11

Special Branch Must be Resisted

A chara
On Saturday last, February 5, the usual monthly POW picket was held at the GPO, Dublin. This monthly picket attracts much attention from passers by, most of whom are under the impression that there are no political prisoners in Ireland. It is explained to them that although the Stormont Agreement ended POW status in the Six Occupied Counties there are POWs in Maghaberry prison, Derry. We further explain to them that there are also POWs in Portlaoine prison. This picket also attracts the attention of the Special Branch who make a point of harassing any young people at the picket. New members are singled out for special attention. These new people are surrounded (literally) by the Branch and question in a very aggressive manner. On Saturday last one young lad was searched because he did not have ID on him. Now we all know that Michael McDowell is doing his utmost to introduce compulsory ID for Irish citizens, but this is not a fact yet.

This is nothing but intimidation and harassment to try to prevent people from engaging in peaceful protest and demonstrating our support for the political prisoners.

On Saturday morning a young couple leaving Republican Sinn Féin's Ard-Óifig in Parnell Street were stopped and questioned. On Monday morning they had a visit from the Special Branch at their home.

On Saturday afternoon Republican Sinn Féin members, leaving the office after a meeting, were again accosted by the Special Branch and asked the usual inane questions. All this harassment is being catalogued for future reference so any harassment of our members or supporters should be reported to Ard-Óifig.

However we must not let the intimidation and harassment stop us from bring the Republican message to the general public. Perhaps we should remind ourselves of Pastor Niemöller's words (Niemöller was a victim of the Nazis)

First they came for the Jews and I did not speak out — because I was not a Jew.

Then they came for the communists and I did not speak out — because I was not a communist.

Then they came for the trade unionists and I did not speak out — because I was not a trade unionist.

Then they came for me — and there was no one left to speak out for me.

It is time we all spoke out against the erosion of our basic civil and political rights.

TALLAGHT READER

Mudiad Rhyddhad Cymru at Bloody Sunday March

A chara
For the first time in many a year Welsh Republicans lined up alongside their Irish and Scottish cousins to remember the awful events of "Bloody Sunday — 30/01/1970" where British Para's opened fire and murdered 13 unarmed civil rights protesters on an anti-internment march.

On the 30th anniversary of the Easter Rising Cayo Evans, Commander of the Free Wales Army marched in Dublin, in the eighties groups of nationalists travelled up to Scotland, this time it was our turn to leave mother Cymru and march with our Celtic cousins. To show our solidarity and stand up and be counted in the fight for freedom and justice.

M Rh C was invited by the Francis Hughes Cumann of Republican Sinn Féin to attend the event in Glasgow. On the Friday we were treated to a feast of Irish music and rousing rebel songs by Gerry MacGregor in the Tollbooth the oldest Irish pub in the city.

On the Saturday dressed in our "No 13" we joined the massed ranks of Bands, Marchers and flag bearers on Shamrock Street, and were instantly aware of the enormity of the occasion. This is when I discovered how aggressive the police were, insisting I took off the final from the flag pole and threatening eviction from the march. The final was fixed and I so had to break the pole and look for some means to get right back to the dig, as last hope I asked the following police vans to look after it "Do I look like a taxi" and "throw it in the bin" were the polite responses I got!

With the flag safely off in a taxi I went to rejoin the march and was totally taken aback as another taxi pulled up with the driver hanging out his window his face in total rage as he shouted "you are a feimian pig". The rest of the march passed off without incident except from small groups of loyalists giving Nazi salutes as we went by. Amazing, brilliant, awe inspiring, these are the words I'd use to describe the Band Alliance and their members, their enthusiasm and stamina beat out the rhythm as we walked on to their proud tunes. God how my eyes were opened — we have marches they have MARCHES!

The group were greatly welcomed and many took photos of the "Eryr Wyn" and "Ddraig Goch". This sense of Celtic solidarity continued in another social event organised by the Francis Hughes Cumann of RSE, in a pub venue, as music was again provided by Gerry MacGregor and various speeches were made by Republican speakers.



• Colour party from the Welsh republican organisation Mudiad Rhyddhad Cymru at the Bloody Sunday commemoration in Glasgow (see letter on left).

As M Rh C Spokesman I would like to formally thank Republican Sinn Féin for their invitation, and "Seamus" for looking after our party of travellers!

DIOLCH ADAM PHILLIPS

Contradiction In Terms

A chara
I would like to make a brief comment on the recent Liam Mellows commemoration in Castletown held by Provisional "Sinn Féin".

John Dwyer spoke of irony at the grave of Liam Mellows which seemed oblivious OF an even greater one.

Mellows not only spoke vehemently against the Free State, he also fought against it. For that "crime" he paid with his life at the hands of men who, like those "honouring" him that day, call themselves Republicans.

Surely it is a contradiction in terms for anyone claiming to be a Republican to be part of a 26-County Establishment and to sit in that parliament which murdered Mellows and his comrades? Ironical?

MICHAEL HUNT
Rúnaí
Cumann Pádraig Ó Pearraill
Sinn Féin Poblachtach
Wexford

Change For the Worse

A chara
Two years ago we were told

violence, as is the killing of the civilians themselves. In other words killing people and destroying their property is an act of violence, and damaging a warplane is not.

"If Mary Kelly, damaging the train tracks going to Auschwitz would she not be considered differently? Would we call this violence?... no, I think not." This was a question posed and

Westminster seat in the next general election. No surprise there. However the last line of the report read "He is defending a 5,040 majority over the Ulster Unionists, which he secured when we won the seat in 2001". Should we now assume that the *Irish News* has become the official newspaper of the Provost?

DUBLIN READER

First Dáil Celebrated In Mansion House

A chara
While listening to the Joe Duffy Talk Show on RTÉ I heard Billy Maguire speaking and asking for those interested to attend at the Mansion House at 12 noon on January 21 when we would celebrate the first meeting of the First (All-Ireland) Dáil Éireann.

Joe Duffy promised to try to have a digital camera there. It was honoured to attend and be welcomed by Billy Maguire on January 21. I did not see a digital camera or any other camera.

The Proclamation of 1916 was read by Séamus Ó Súilleabháin, Co Limerick standing before the Tricolour.

Billy Maguire explained the significance of the sovereign seal handed down to him through his family in Vaughan's Hotel, Gardiners' Row, Dublin on January 21, 1919 and also gave a very educational history on the strings of the Irish harp. A different number of strings mean different things, for example an eight-string harp is that of Oghlaigh na hÉireann; the sovereign seal of the 32-County republic has 12 strings while seven and 13 string and the 29-string Brian Boro harps are musical instruments.

A very worthwhile exercise and I would encourage people to attend this simple non-political event each year on January 21 at 12 noon.

Those who attend next year will hear the history of the first 32-County Republic and why Ireland belongs to the Irish.

PEIG KING
Dublin

Freudian Misprint?

A chara
In a report on the *Irish News* of January headed "Doherty to defend seat" it stated that Pat Doherty is to defend his

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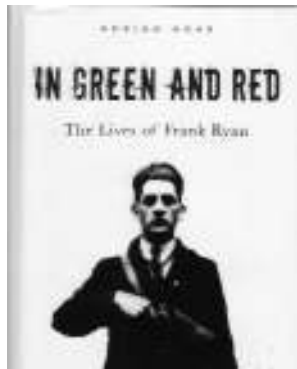
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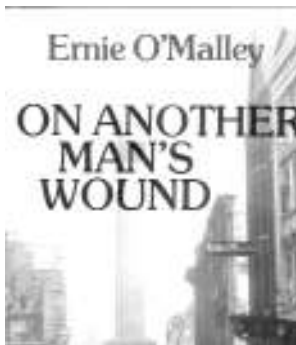
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SUCCESSFUL PUBLIC MEETINGS

50 Years Ago

THE [Prisoners' Dependents] collection was successful beyond our greatest hopes — the people were eager to contribute, anxious to show

their support for the national demand: "The British forces in Ireland must be got out," so reported the Republican Aid Committee in the February, 1955 issue of *An t-Eireannach Aontaithe/The United Irishman*.

"Reports are still coming in for the National Collection. For various reasons the collection arranged for Christmas Day was delayed in some areas with the result that returns for these are now coming to hand...."

"One point the collection has definitely made clear: the Armagh and Omagh raids struck a very responsive chord in the hearts of our people in every part of the country."

Public meetings had been widely organised. A new Cumann, "named in honour of Waterloo's pride, Cathal Brugha," had been fortunate in acquiring the clubrooms in Colburn Street, Waterford, which were occupied by Sinn Féin and the Volunteers right through the stormy years of 1917 to 1922.

The new Cumann held a public meeting in Broad Street on January 22 which was addressed by Tomás Mac Curtain, Liam Earley and Michael Mac Carthaigh, all of Cork. The Cork Volunteer Pipe Band travelled to Waterford for the occasion and was given an enthusiastic reception.

The *Irish Press*, January 24, said "a large gathering of young people" assembled for the meeting. "The principle speaker, Tomás Mac Curtain said, there was still young men prepared to fight to remove the last vestige of British rule from Ireland.

"This was proved, he said, by the fact that young men fought in the Barrack Square in Omagh. Mr Michael Mac Carthaigh, Cork, said there was going to be a struggle with the British army in the not too distant future.

"He said they had the men and the equipment to drive the last British soldier out of the country." The report in the *Irish Press* was entitled "Fight coming, Sinn Féin meeting told."

The Waterford Christmas collection for the prisoners' families was "successful beyond expectation." In the city it took in £146 and in Dungarvan and surrounding areas £190.

"Great credit must go to the GAA, to the NACA clubs and to IRA Veterans of the calibre of Pat Whelan and Vincent O'Donoghue, Lismore, President of the GAA. Go géitúidh Dia a saothar."

"A coirm-cheóil in aid of the same fund, organised by the NCA clubs was held in the Municipal Theatre, Waterford, on Sunday, January 16." The Republican newspaper reported:

The *Sunday Press* and the *Sunday Independent* of February 6 reported "300 young people" marching through the centre of Galway the previous night "in protest against the sentences imposed on the men captured during the raid on Omagh Barracks."

It was in fact a student protest on the lines of that held in Dublin during December, a Fife and Drum Band and a Flag-bearer flying the National Flag led the parade. Many carried lighted torches and placards calling for support for the Republican Movement.

An Eyre Square meeting was addressed by Páid MacNámará, who presided. Other speakers were Séamus Soraghan, Bill, Flynm, Brendan Ó Duill, Seosamh Mac Criostáil and William Connell, all of UCD and William Fogarty (Galway) of the Veterinary College, Dublin.

The *Sunday Press* a week later — on February 13 — recorded that the Fermargh County Convention of the GAA "took subscriptions from all clubs in the county for the dependents of the prisoners of the Omagh Raid. There was a very generous response and a substantial amount is to be forwarded."

During January, the Sinn Féin Ard Chomhairle sent a letter to the St Vincent de Paul Society asking them to reconsider its decision to have Richard



• **Gobaíní Ní Bhradaidín (right) with Mary Mac Swiney.**

O'Sullivan QC London as a lecturer in the Gresham Hotel, Dublin. He had been Crown Prosecutor at the trial of Peter Barnes and James McCormack who were executed in 1940.

The letter, written during the *Sunday Press* of January 9 pointed out that there would be a large number of people in Dublin who would object very strongly to Mr O'Sullivan's appearance in Ireland.

An unsigned letter was received in reply stating the lecture was to "foster devotion to a saint and at the same time to raise funds, which are sorely needed indeed, for the activities of the Conference among the poor."

It was agreed by the Ard Chomhairle that Sinn Féin would neither picket the Hall nor interfere with the lecture. Among those on the platform was John A Costello, head of the Dublin Administration, An Breitheamh Cearbhall Ó Dálaigh and the Earl of Wicklow who presided.

As the lecture began, reported the *Irish Press*, of January 10, "A young man sitting in the front row of the large audience shouted loudly, 'What about Barnes and McCormack? What about the two young Irishmen in Birmingham'." As he continued to protest he was removed from the hall by a number of men.

The professor was, of course, the redoubtable Brendan Behan himself. An Independent Republican he had been a prisoner, aged 16, in Walton prison, Liverpool in February 1940 when Barnes and McCormack were hanged in Birmingham. Naturally he had very deep feelings on the matter.

The chairman, Lord Wicklow, said "we guessed what was coming but we thought it was better to let the gentleman in (Behan was instantly recognisable) and let him have his little bit of noise than have a lot of noise outside. Now it is over."

But Behan had made his mark.

When the former Minister for Finance in the first Free State government, Ernest Blythe (Eamán de Blaghd) condemned the IRA as a "criminal conspiracy" at the Literary and Historical Debating Society (the "L&HS") in UCD he was booed by a section of the audience.

The December issue of the Republican paper carried a signed article by Veteran IRA Volunteer Ben Doyle rebutting Blythe. Doyle described himself as a member of the IRB until it was taken over (by the pro-Treatyists), a GHQ Staff Officer 1921, a Battalion Commandant 1922, a Brigade Commandant in 1923 and still acknowledging the Republican stand.

Republican in Dublin would remember the late Ben Doyle as a former OC Dublin Brigade, father of An tAthair Piaras Ó Duill, OFM, CAP, Brendan Ó Duill and John Doyle. He remained a faithful Republican till the end.

In his article in *An t-Eireannach/The United Irishman*, he wrote with some passion, drawing on a lifetime of experience in Republican ranks:

Blythe's early work for Conradh na Gaeilge, for the IRB and for their Irish Volunteers was acknowledged "trojan."

"The first criminal conspiracy (in the eyes of Republicans) was the IRB-engineered signing of

the Treaty of Surrender in 1921, in which Mr Blythe played a prominent part.

"The second criminal conspiracy in 1922 was that by which the so-called Provisional Government, with the support of Blythe, borrowed artillery from the British to crush the IRA and the Irish Republican Movement.

"The third criminal conspiracy was the Boundary Agreement of 1925 by which the British government, the Stormont Junta and the Free State Junta, including Mr Blythe, set up Partition in its present form.

"The fourth criminal conspiracy was when Blythe and his co-conspirators prevented the Partition Agreement being debated and was voted upon by the public representative in the 26 Counties, with 71 members out of a House (Free State) of 153 members voting for it."

But the numerous conspiracies of Blythe and company failed hopelessly in their main aim — to end for all time the organisation on which they had turned turtle, i.e. the IRA.

It was interesting and paradoxical to note that each of the conspiracy movements over more than 30 years contained a prominent person from our Occupied Six Counties:

Cosgrave, Blythe and co. De Valera, Aiken and co. McBride, Kelly and co.

Ben Doyle ended by suggesting to the UCD L&H that they refuse a platform to any person who has taken part in "operation CC" (Criminal Conspiracy).

All of this arose out of the aftermath of the Armagh and Omagh Raids, 50 years ago. If Ben Doyle were alive today he could write a few more paragraphs dealing with the 1969 to 70 Criminal Conspiracy against the Republican Movement and the 32-County Republic, not to mention the similar Conspiracy in 1968!

Then the Republican journal took to task in its February issue no less a person than Dan Breen, Fianna Fáil TD for Tipperary. The Belfast paper *Resurgent Ulster* (labeled by Stormont in December 1954) in its April issue had quoted a letter by Breen in the *Sunday Press* of February 7, 1954.

"I still believe it is the duty of every man and woman whose country is held in subjection, like mine was and still is in part, to use every means within reason to rid their land of the invader. You can't rid a country held in subjection by kid glove methods.

"Well then, use the weapons best at hand, and if you need better weapons, and the garrison have them, it is your duty to take them, and in doing so if you kill them as we did in Solohabead, you are still only doing your duty."

Of course all of that was before the Armagh and Omagh Raids. The Belfast paper quoted Dan Breen's letter under the heading: "Dan Breen Upholds the Policy of the IRA today."

However when young Irishman at Armagh and Omagh took Breen at his word, there was an altered tune in the *Sunday Press* of January 16, 1955. Dan Breen had another letter:

"I fully know that going cap in hand to England or any imperial power will get us nowhere, yet I cannot agree with wasting young Irish lives. I admire bravery. I always shall — but I don't believe in foolhardy enterprises.

"I have never asked anyone to do anything I would not do myself, and I would not attack the North, under present circumstances, or under any circumstances.

"I believe the spirit of McCracken, Hope, Russell and other patriots will re-awaken in the North some day and when that day comes, Ireland will be free and united, and especially Republican.

Later in reference to Armagh and Omagh, Breen was reported as saying that "he did not believe in stunting." His letter in the *Sunday Press* of January 16, 1955 was in reply to "Mr. P Pearse Danaher." Was this the Plunkett Pearse Danaher who was later a Sinn Féin candidate in the local elections in Limerick in 1960?

On the last day of 1954, December 31, Republicanism was dead, especially Republican Kerry, mourned the death of Mrs. Ellen Daly of Knocknacree, Fries. She was mother of Charlie Daly, executed by Free State forces at Drumboe, Co. Donegal in March 1923 and of Tom Daly, formerly Adjutant General of the IRA who died in 1939.

Mrs Daly and her family were staunch supporters of the Republican Movement down the decades. Burned down by British forces in May 1921, her home was used and her home was a meeting place for members of the Movement and was constantly raided and ransacked by Free State

forces. A report stated: "Right

down to the time of her death the soldiers of the Irish Republic were found in a ready work in her home, and many, including some of those now serving sentences in Crumlin Road jail were as honoured to accept her hospitality and help as she was proud to give it.

"The finest and most huge proportions, friends from all over Kerry and many of the adjoining counties attended. Former comrades of Charlie and Tom formed the guard of honour while an oration was given by John Joe Sheehy, Tralee."

Then on January 16, 1955 a truly remarkable Irishwoman died at the great age of 93. She was Gobaíní Ní Bhradaidín and she passed away at her residence, Ballinacorney, Castlecove, Sth Kerry. Born in 1863 as the Honorable Albinia Broderick and sister of the earl of Midleton, leader of the Unionists in the south of Ireland she was reared and educated in England.

She rebelled against her family background and as a mature woman trained as a nurse in Jersey Street Hospital, Dublin. Influenced by Conradh na Gaeilge, she learned Irish, went to the Donegal Gaeltacht, became fluent in the language and Gaelicised her name to Gobaíní Ní Bhradaidín.

On the death of her father, Viscount Midleton of Co Kerry in 1910 and being financially independent, she went to live near Sneem, Co Kerry. She nursed the sick in their homes during an outbreak of smallpox and in 1912 she financed a small hospital "Baile an Cháinínín" for the poor.

Gobaíní joined Cumann na mBan and the lady who had been presented at court in London through her husband, joined the fight for Irish freedom. In 1920 she was elected a Sinn Féin member of Kerry Co Council.

Although her husband had held high posts in the British cabinet, she sheltered IRA Volunteers on the run, worked with White Cross and distributed food to those impoverished by the struggle.

The *Irish Press* in an editorial at her death said: "In the Republican Cabinet itself one of the nine members was a Protestant, Robert C. Barton, Minister for Economic Affairs, and outside the Cabinet the Minister for Publicity was Erskine Childers, later to lay down his life for the Republic." Gobaíní was in a great tradition.

"When this woman died in the fight for Irish freedom, was taken prisoner by the Free State and made a dramatic escape from a third-storey window in Kenmare by means of sheets tied together.

"In 1925 in order to avoid the South Kerry IRA column of impending encirclement, she deliberately drew Free State fire and was severely wounded in the hip. Margaret Buckley, in her *Jangle of the Keys* records her arrival at Kilmahon jail on a stretcher and immediately joining the hunger strike there in her weakened condition.

In *Women of Ireland*, Kit and Cyril Ó Céirín describe her as "fearless, sincere and generous", rebelling against her class and her conditioning. She was frequently a delegate at the Ard-Fheis of Sinn Féin and stood out against any compromise.

Gobaíní set up a Republican journal, *SAOIRSE*, with her own money and, when she died in 1955, left the remainder of her wealth "for the benefit of the Republicans as they were in 1919-21."

For many years Mick Lynch, The Spa, Tralee and John Joe Rice fought to have her will implemented. An associate of her husband na mBan, "EB", in a letter to the *Irish Times* of January 27 described her rough county attire at a Convention of the banned organisation and said, "When this woman OC Kerry No 3 Brigade and Sean Ryan, Batt Vice OC Kerry No 3 Brigade, were hanged she was in contrast to her apparel."

An *Eireannach Aontaithe/The United Irishman* said: "Her life was an inspiration to all who knew her and the Republican Movement has great reason to regret and miss her."

The pall-bearers at her funeral to Sneem Cemetery were all IRA Veterans: JJ Rice, OC Kerry No 2 Brigade; JJ Sheehy, OC Kerry No 1 Brigade; "When this woman OC Kerry No 3 Brigade and Sean Ryan, Batt Vice OC Kerry No 3 Brigade, were hanged she was in contrast to her apparel."

Sean Ryan, Tralee delivered the gravesides oration. The officiating clergy were Dean CL Haines, Waterville; Canon AR Armstrong, Kenmare; and Rev J Koyroff, Ballymacelligott, who recited the prayers in Irish.

(More next month. Refs. An *Eireannach Aontaithe/The United Irishman*, February 1955, December 1954; *Women of Ireland* by Kit and Cyril Ó Céirín (1996); *Irish Press*, January 10, 19 and 24; *Irish Times*, January 27; *Sunday Press*, January 9 and 16, February 6, 13; *Sunday Independent*, February 6 and *The Jangle of the Keys* by Margaret Buckley (1938)).

Welcome home lads

MITCHELL McLaughlin asked Michael McDowell if Bobby Sands was a criminal and was duly informed that the man had been convicted of a crime. Like many recent television performances by Gerry's men the rhetoric was there but any credible or believable stance other than that of the crawler was absent.

The fact is clear that the Old Brigade have been found out and Ahern, Blair and the PD types, like all bullies, are letting fly, believing that their actions will not be answered.

Having conceded more than even the Paisleyites requested and still finding their surrender not being accepted Adams and his company (Limited Intelligence) are at a loss to know what to do next.

It is interesting that while Gerry has no qualms about decommissioning weapons not even the thickest of political

hacks has had the temerity to suggest that some of the Northern Bank money should be returned. It is clear that when Limited Intelligence says 'not a cent' they really mean it. It seems the Provos are willing to part with anything except money.

The past few weeks have been tough for the Provis. It seems that reality is finally coming home to nest. The lads from the north are back in touch with what British rule in Ireland is all about. The myth that nationalists can ever be equal citizens in a colonial state is once again much harder to hide.

CUTE words and misinterpretation is a fine thing when everyone is singing from the one hymnbook. Unfortunately for Gerry the game seems to be up. As Abe Lincoln once said 'you can fool some of the people some of the time but you can't fool 'em all, all of the



time'. Of course it could be coincidence but it is interesting to note that as soon as De Chastelain hinted to Paisley at the massive quantities of weapons he had witnessed being destroyed Paisley lost interest in doing any deal at Leeds Castle.

Since then the powers that be north and south as well as in Britain have likewise hardened their position. Could it be that someone has dared to state that the 'King has no clothes?' or perhaps more to the point is it possible that someone somewhere has reason to believe that the Provos have no guns?

There is an irony in McGuinness and Adams trying to persuade everyone that they don't have the Northern Bank millions at the same time as they would like to claim they have retained some of their weapons.

ONE thing is for sure, the good old IRA's plan to retire with dignity has received a blow. It seems that surrender must not just be done but must be seen to be done. *Et tu British?* as Adams must have asked many times this week.

When Adams agreed that piece of the Belfast Agreement which stated anyone captured after April 10, 1998 would be deemed a criminal he didn't believe it included him. The fact is he has learnt in recent days that anyone who is in favour of a democratic all-Ireland vote will always be a criminal.

Democracy on this island is for a chosen few and demarcation is a matter of whim. This week Gerry and the lads have discovered that they are back on the wrong side of the fence. Welcome home lads.

— Mac Cool

Republican Garden Bundoran

THE Committee & Trustees of Republican Garden is pleased to announce that work has started on the Garden over the last few weeks.

Special Appeal for Funds

In remembrance

1973 Volunteer Ruddy Carty, Bundoran, Dungannon

1973 Dermot Crowley, Cork City

1973 Sean Loughran, Dungannon

1984 Antoine Mac Giolla Bhrighde, Magherafelt

1984 Ciaran Fleming, Derry City

The Hunger Strikers who died 1974 - 1981

Those who are being remembered all had some connections with Bundoran, Ballyshannon, Donegal, Leitrim & Sligo Areas.

To complete the Garden it will cost €30,000, so we are asking you to give a donation please to any of the names listed below:

Chairperson: Joe O'Neil

Vice Chairperson: Jimmy McElhinney

Treasurers: Mick Cullen & Joe Dillon

Joint Secretaries: Mary O'Neill & Phyllis Cullen

Trustees: Pat Barry, Ann Sheerin, Martin McGrath, Declan Curneen, Séamus McGowan, Thomas Kelly and Mary Ward.



• Work has begun on the Republican Garden in Bundoran, Co Donegal.

Don't sell out to Stormont or Leinster House . . .

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SAOIRSE - Irish Freedom
223 Parnell Street, Dublin 1
Tel: 872 9747; Facs: 872 9757
e-mail: saoirse@iol.ie