

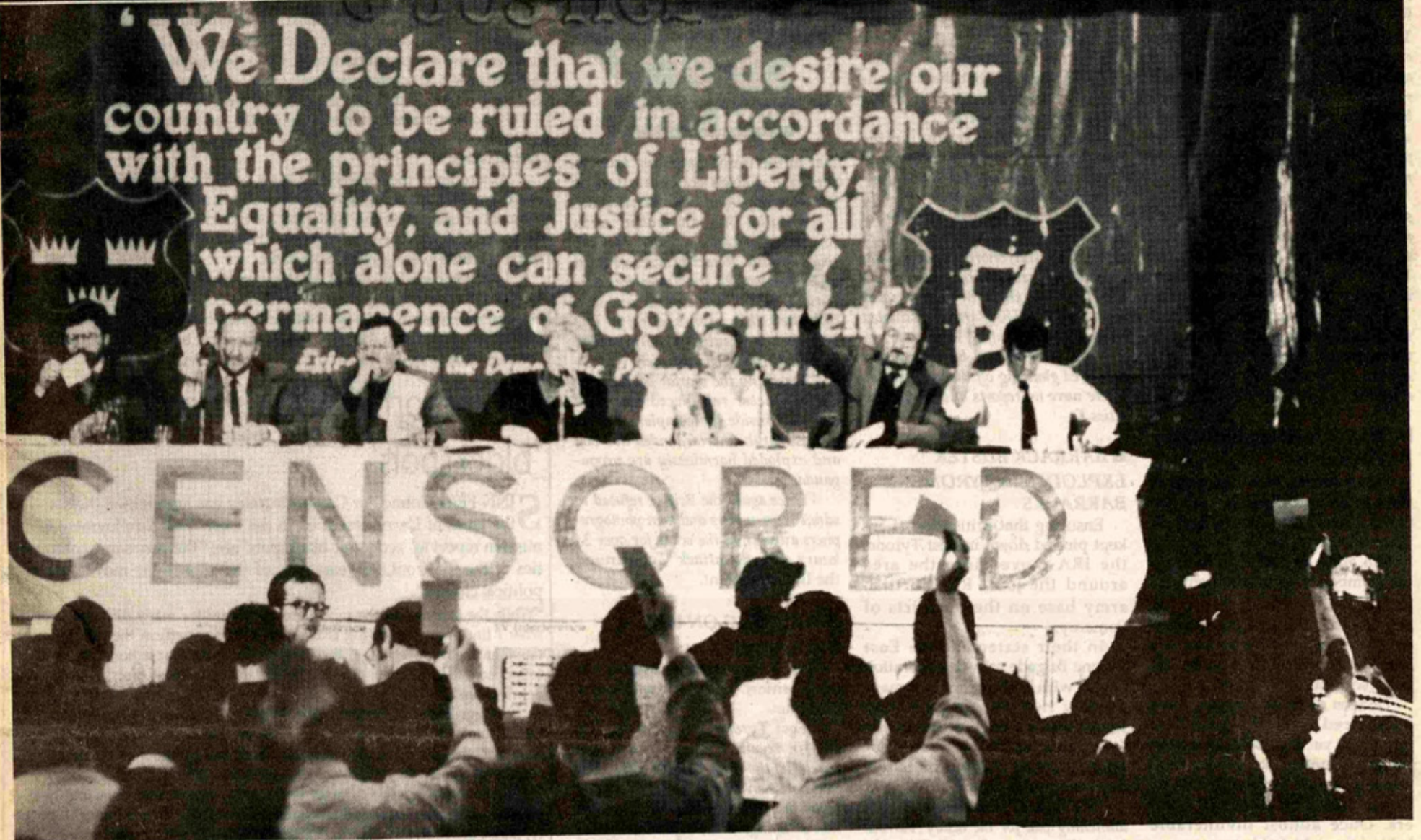


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REPUBLICAN NEWS

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Thursday, 30 June 1994



SINN FÉIN DELEGATES WILL DECIDE



SINN FÉIN'S Ard Chomhairle decided at a meeting on Wednesday, 29 June, to hold a national delegate conference within the next few weeks. The purpose of the conference is to reach a formal position on Sinn Féin's attitude to the Downing Street Declaration.

Speaking in Dublin following the Ard Chomhairle meeting Sinn Féin Vice President Pat Doherty said:

"Sinn Féin is approaching this conference in a positive and flexible frame of mind and will assess the Downing Street Declaration in the context of the unfolding peace process and within Sinn Féin's own peace strategy.

"The Ard Chomhairle will be seeking support from delegates for its view on how the peace process can be moved on.

"The issues that lie at the heart of the conflict must be adequately addressed. From Sinn Féin's perspective these are:

- That the Irish people as a whole have the right national self-determination;
- That the exercise of self-determination is a matter for agreement between the people of Ireland;
- That the consent and allegiance of unionists are essential ingredients if a lasting peace is to be established;
- That the unionists cannot have a veto over constitutional change;
- That the British government must join the persuaders;
- That the London and Dublin governments have a major responsibility to secure political progress."

The announcement of the special delegate conference came six days after the publication of the report of the Sinn Féin Peace Commission (see pages 8/9) which heard the views of a wide range of opinion on the declaration and the overall peace process.

It came also after over six months of internal debate and discussion on the 15 December document and its implication for the search for peace and justice in Ireland.

News

Belfast post damaged in rocket attack

VOLUNTEERS operating near Belfast city centre engaged RUC personnel at their Grosvenor Road Barracks shortly after 7.30pm on Tuesday evening, 28 June.

The Belfast Brigade said that "after commandeering a Lada Samara car armed Volunteers drove past the barracks and into the city centre. Driving back up the Grosvenor Road one Volunteer armed with a rocket launcher prepared to fire through the car's sun roof.

"The Volunteer driving then stopped directly opposite the base's main observation post. This is situated at the barrack's main entrance. The Volunteer armed with the rocket launcher then fired the rocket at 7.45pm. It exploded causing substantial damage to the post. As in the previous attack, however, the British refused to reveal if they suffered any casualties".

■ MORTAR HITS MOBILE PATROL

Following the recent increase in the use of horizontal mortars by Ogligh na hÉireann's Belfast Brigade, the tactic has forced the British army and RUC to increase the number of armoured vehicles in their patrols. However, this has not deterred the IRA and Volunteers launched another mortar at a four-vehicle patrol in West Belfast last weekend.

Dozens of these mortars have been fired over the past few months at various locations across the Six Counties, some with fatal consequences for the crews of British armoured personnel carriers. Once almost invulnerable behind the vehicles' heavy armour the crown forces are now only too aware of the potential of these IRA-engineered weapons.

The latest use of the mortar classed 'Mark 16' by the British army occurred during an operation in West Belfast on Sunday

morning, 26 June.

In their statement the Belfast Brigade revealed that their Volunteers had waited for over 14 hours before firing the mortar.

"After carefully setting up the launcher in a garden shed which overlooked the Suffolk Road the Volunteers waited for the crown forces to appear, but had to allow a number of these to pass because of the proximity of civilians. But, shortly before 11am, a signal was received that four APC's had just left their British base at Woodbourne RUC Barracks, situated at the bottom of Suffolk Road.

"As these passed by the mortar was fired glancing off the lead vehicle. There were no reports of enemy casualties."

■ BARRACK BUSTER EXPLODES IN TYRONE BARRACKS

Ensuring that British forces are kept pinned down in East Tyrone, the IRA moved into the area around the joint RUC/British army base on the outskirts of Pomeroy.

In their statement the East Tyrone Brigade said the operation began with Volunteers commandeering two vehicles, a Range Rover and a Peugeot car, in the townland of Turnabarron at approximately 9.30pm on Saturday evening, 25 June:

"On one of these was fitted a launching pad for the heavy 'barrack buster' mortar, classified by the British army as a 'Mark 15'. The warhead contained 220lbs of explosives. Once armed the vehicle, now a mobile mortar launcher, was driven to within 70 yards of the base at Station Road at 1.50am on Sunday morning".

The East Tyrone Brigade said



that in the immediate area around the base a large concentration of British troops had been deployed.

"Despite this, and acting with commendable courage given that the roads around Pomeroy were covered by British patrols, the Volunteers continued with the operation and breached this high security. The launcher was subsequently parked and the firing mechanism set.

"On firing the mortar soared over the perimeter reinforced wall and exploded inside the complex. British claims that the mortar landed in a bog and exploded harmlessly are propaganda.

"Once again the British refused to admit to casualties and kept photographers away from the scene for over 24 hours after the attack", continued the IRA statement.

■ WARNING ON USE OF IRA NAME

The IRA restated its long standing position on individuals using its name:

"East Tyrone Brigade deny any part in recent disturbances at two hotels in the East Tyrone area. The two hotels in question, the Glenavon Hotel in Cookstown and the Glengannon at Dungannon, have had a series of disputes between door staff and patrons.

"The IRA take this opportunity to once again restate our long standing position regarding anyone using our name. Anyone using the name of Ogligh na hÉireann will be contacted and appropriate action will be taken."

IN BRIEF...

○ Muilleoir pledges to fight funding cut

ANY ATTEMPT to remove funding from two nationalist areas of Belfast with high levels of unemployment will be resisted, Sinn Féin Upper Falls Councillor Máirtín O Muilleoir has pledged.

Ladybrook and Andersonstown were mentioned in a Department of Economic Development paper as being currently in receipt of funds under the 'Making Belfast Work' scheme. However, neither is subsequently mentioned in a list entitled 'Areas Identified as Deprived Using the New Indicator'.

O Muilleoir states that this is despite the inclusion of wards containing a majority of Protestants with lower levels of unemployment than the two West Belfast wards.

"According to the April 1994 figures from the Department of Economic Development, Ladybrook has 526 without work and Andersonstown 532. The removal of Ladybrook and Andersonstown from 'Making Belfast Work' will be a severe blow to the job prospects of residents of both wards. It will undo years of efforts to bring jobs to both areas.

"I don't know what kind of guidelines of deprivation they have concocted but they have obviously done it deliberately to exclude wards with high unemployment such as Ladybrook and Andersonstown. The battle to keep these two areas within the MBW boundaries will be my political priority in coming weeks and months."

FEC report highlights Derry 'blackspots'

SINN FÉIN Councillor Cathal Crumley has highlighted the fact that the areas of Derry described in the recent Fair Employment Commission report as 'economic blackspots' are, "the very same communities at the forefront, 25 years ago, of the civil rights movement and political change".

"While the statistics in the report are significant for many different reasons, what I find most disturbing is that these findings affirm the multi-generational nature of poverty and they also demonstrate that nationalists continue to be punished for their political beliefs in the form of discrimination and deprivation."

Pointing to the 50.7% unemployment level recorded in the Brandywell area, Crumley said the major cause of poverty and despair suffered by nationalists was the history of discrimination practiced by unionist politicians and employers against the majority of citizens in the city.

"Nationalists can see through the window dressing of flags and newly-cobbled pedestrian areas and recognise that for them, unemployment, poverty, poor education and despair remain the order of the day, just as they have for generations."

Crumley concluded by urging the communities concerned to work together to fight this "cycle of despair".

'Tit-for-tat' reporting slammed

A HUMAN RIGHTS monitoring group has described recent loyalist killings as attempts "to create fear in the Catholic community".

The group, based in Derry at the Pat Finucane Centre, said there was "a deep sense of frustration within the nationalist community [created by] the media fixation with 'retaliation' and 'tit-for-tat' murders".

A spokesperson for the group condemned the "inaccurate and dangerous descriptions of the current violence". In the period from 2 June to 20 June, loyalists had killed nine people, eight of whom were Catholic, while the remaining one was killed while working with Catholics.

"The reality is that all Catholics in the North of Ireland, and indeed any Protestants who work or socialise with Catholics, are potential targets for loyalist paramilitaries."

These killings are "a response to any perceived political progress seen as detrimental to unionism, and above all, because of a deeply embedded fear and hatred of Catholics inherent in extreme loyalism."

"The targeting of an individual because of their religion is almost exclusively a loyalist phenomenon and it is erroneous and dangerous to talk of 'sec-tarian tit-for-tat' murders."

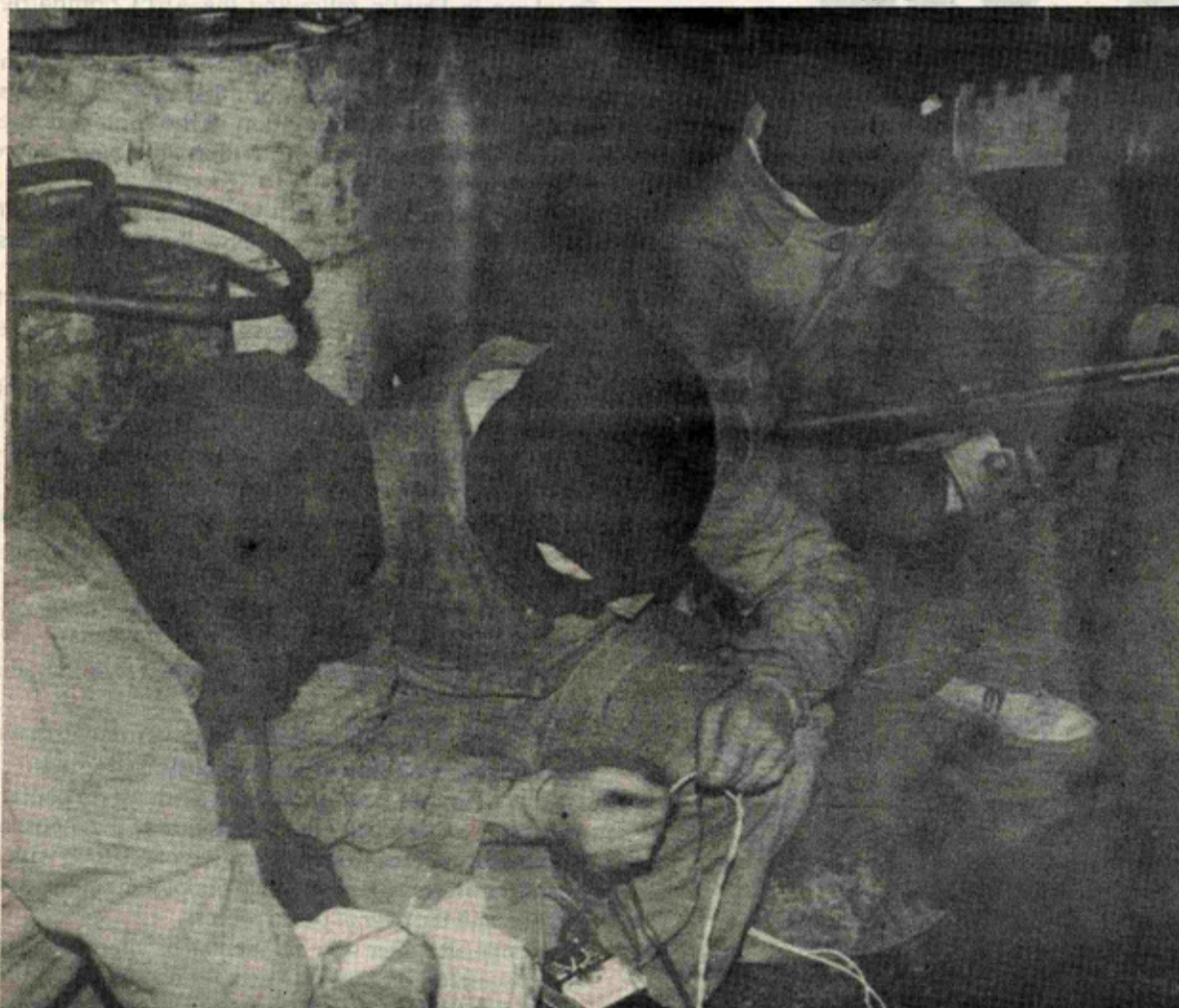
Witness defended in Ann Marie Smyth case

ATTEMPTS by the prosecution to undermine the credibility of the main prosecution witness in the case of those accused of killing Catholic woman Ann Marie Smyth were this week refuted by the prosecuting lawyer.

Five men are on trial accused of murdering the Armagh woman because she was a Catholic at an East Belfast house, in February 1992. Four weeks ago a defence lawyer had claimed that the evidence of the prosecution witness, Cheryl Kelly, was unreliable, and he described her as "a drink and drug addicted thief".

The trial has now resumed with the prosecution stating, on Wednesday, 22 June, that the defence claims come "nowhere close" to the truth and that Kelly's evidence "was not in contradiction with other evidence, nor was it inconsistent and nor was it absurd."

The lawyer also described Kelly as "painfully honest" about the events which led to the discovery of Smyth's body dumped on waste ground with her throat cut.



● IRA Volunteers again engaged British forces in rocket and mortar attacks in Belfast and Tyrone this week

RIR colour sergeant indicted for having explosives

British soldier charged with murder

THE CHARGING of two British soldiers from the Royal Irish Regiment (RIR) on Saturday, 25 June, with a loyalist murder and with possession of explosives was described as "only the tip of the iceberg" by Sinn Féin President Gerry Adams, who has repeatedly highlighted the well-developed links between British crown forces and loyalist death squads.

Both British soldiers in court last Saturday faced charges linked to murders and attempted murders carried out by the UVF. These charges follow over 20 years of similar charges of hundreds of crown forces' personnel from this 'locally-recruited' British army regiment. It was formally known as the Ulster Defence Regiment (UDR) and cosmetically changed its name two years ago in an effort to shrug off its notorious sectarian history. This was all to no avail, as

was witnessed in a magistrates court in Belfast on Saturday.

Saturday's charges came after weeks of intense activity by loyalist death squads, particularly by the UVF, who massacred six men at a bar in Loughinisland, County Down, on Saturday, 18 June. A couple of weeks earlier they murdered two Catholic schoolboys in the A2B taxi depot in Armagh city. At the time of this double killing, an RIR patrol had just left the front of the taxi depot.

Facing the most serious charges was Private Neil Irwin who was accused of the murder of Portadown nationalist Francie Brown. Brown died in a UVF bomb attack outside his home on 11 March, 1994. The loyalist bomb had been concealed in a concrete block and exploded as he moved it away from beneath his truck.

Irwin was further charged with the attempted murder of Teresa Carroll at her Armagh home. The woman, who is in her 60s, narrowly escaped death when a 2lb UVF bomb was thrown through her living room window in the early hours of Friday, 10 June.

In AP/RN's report of that attack, (AP/RN 16 June, 1994) Armagh Sinn Féin Councillor Noel

Sheridan said that there was widespread suspicion in Armagh that the Carroll family (two of whom, Roddy and Adrian, have been shot dead by official and unofficial state forces) had been targeted again by serving members of the crown forces. Another son, Tommy, has survived several loyalist attempts on his life. At present a member of the UDR is serving a life sentence for the murder of Adrian Carroll in 1983.

Irwin was also accused of the attempted murder of Catholic building workers at a building site at Corran, in Keady, County Armagh on 7 April and the attempted murder of Joseph

and Bridget McCartan at their Blackwater home last November. An additional charge of possessing 6lbs of the high explosive Powergel was also included.

It is now thought that loyalist death squads have acquired supplies of this commercial explosive from Britain, a fact the British army's most senior bomb disposal officer revealed to journalists 24 hours before Irwin appeared at the Belfast court.

It was also Powergel which was used in the UVF gun and bomb attack on the Widow Scallan's bar in Dublin in May. Fortunately due to the heroic action of IRA Volunteer Martin Doherty the UVF death squad failed to arm their bomb properly.

In the dock with Private Irwin was his Colour Sergeant Maurice Nicholl, who was accused of possessing an improvised explosive device and ammunition with intent to endanger life between 24 December last year and 30 January this year. The 39-year-old non-commissioned officer left the courtroom to shouts of: "Keep her lit, Mo," from associates.

Nicholl's rank as colour sergeant means that he is one of the most senior-ranking RIR members to appear in court on UVF or UDA-related charges. Nicholl's rank could only be obtained by someone with a long service record.

This rank would have enabled Nicholl to know all company movements and patrols of the entire RIR battalion based at Drumadd Barracks in Armagh, including those accompanied by the RUC and other British army regiments.

It would, also, have meant constant daily contact with British army officers from the rank of lieutenant and up in the North Armagh area and he

would, as well, have liaised with other senior noncommissioned officers in other RIR battalions throughout the Six Counties.

Radio signals and code changes used on British army frequencies are routinely passed through a colour sergeant's desk. Nicholl's battalion area covers East Tyrone, the North Monaghan border region and North Armagh, including the towns of Portadown and Lurgan. It is highly significant that within these areas the UVF have regrouped over this past four years since they were rearmed with South African supplied weapons under the direction of British intelligence.

Collusion, which takes many different forms, ranges from the passing on of intelligence files and photomontages collected by the crown forces and includes active participation in death squads by members of these same crown forces.

This is nowhere demonstrated more clearly than in Drumadd Barracks itself. In 1983, following Adrian Carroll's murder, four UDR members were jailed for the killing (three were later acquitted on appeal). However, at the time, up to 20 UDR soldiers were questioned about their involvement in loyalist death squad activity. Indeed press speculation, then, said that most of those released had been directly involved in death squad activity.

When the UDR changed its name to the RIR, after merging with the Royal Irish Rangers, AP/RN wrote: "As far as nationalists are concerned the main interest in the merger is to see how long it is before the initials RIR or ex-RIR appears after the name of someone charged or convicted of an act of sectarian thuggery against their community."

The RIR's history, since July 1992, has been predictably the same as that of its predecessors the UDR and 'B' Specials. As the armed wing of unionism, the members of this regiment remain intent on terrorising and killing nationalists and whether they do it in or out of uniform is immaterial.



Charges against British soldiers of involvement in death-squad activities is only the tip of the collusion iceberg

UVF band leads march through Lower Ormeau Road

TWO DOZEN local residents stood in dignified protest as scores of heavily-armed RUC personnel 'escorted' this summer's first Orange march through the Lower Ormeau Road in Belfast on Sunday, 26 June.

Protesters with placards calling for "The Re-Routing of Sectarian Marches" were hemmed in by the RUC as the Orange Order, led by the UVF East Belfast band, paraded Nazi style through the nationalist area. Two men in paramilitary uniforms led the march claimed to be a "church parade".

Prior to the demonstration a statement was issued by the Combined Loyalist Military Command in relation to this march in which they warned "hangers on or troublemakers" not to attend the march.

"This statement, along with the

attitude and behaviour of the RUC, show clearly the symbiotic relationships between the crown forces, Orange Order (with which there is a big overlap) and loyalist murder gangs," said South Belfast Sinn Féin representative Seán Hayes.

"The people of the Lower Ormeau are as determined as ever to ensure they do not have to endure these annual bouts of coat-tailing and are organising a major demonstration for 6 July, for the 'mini-Twelfth', calling for a halt to Orange parades in their district. Sinn Féin calls for all nationalists to support this protest."

The march and rally against sectarianism is to assemble at Cooke Court in the Lower Ormeau Road at 6.30pm on Wednesday, 6 July, the night of the mini-Twelfth.

Meanwhile Sinn Féin's Mid-Ulster representative Barry McElduff has warned that the

nationalists of the area are "bracing themselves with considerable apprehension for a summer season of Orange marches". The people of Pomeroy, Stewartstown, Ballyronan and Cookstown would again become "imprisoned in their own homes. This need not and should not be the case."

"Nationalist villages and estates are disrupted annually by a succession of Orange marches from the beginning of July to the end of August. Nationalists will be monitoring, very closely indeed, the RUC's interpretation of the Public Order (Order) to see if there are any disparities in their treatment of nationalists and their treatment of loyalists."

Less than a month ago the RUC prevented a peaceful nationalist parade from going through Cookstown despite the fact that it is mainly a commercial area and an area lived in mostly by nationalists.



Nationalists all over the Six Counties will have to brace themselves for a summer season of Orange marches, backed up by the sectarian police force

News

workers in struggle...workers in struggle...workers in struggle...workers in struggle...workers in struggle...

Management mess-ups behind Aer Lingus crisis

CENTRAL to the crisis at TEAM Aer Lingus are claims by management that union work practices are losing the company millions, that it is now insolvent and trading recklessly and that the union plans for developing TEAM are "simplistic". In a week when both management and unions made submissions to the joint committee on state-sponsored bodies, AP/RN publishes a brief guide to some simplistic management decisions at the group and a summary of the union submission to the Leinster House committee.

Management practices the problem

"We have no doubt that we have the skills to compete in a savage market". This was the confident assertion earlier this week from chairperson of the TEAM craft union negotiators, Denis Smyth. Smyth was speaking at the public presentation of the TEAM unions submission to the Leinster House committee on state-sponsored bodies.

The union's presentation was a damning indictment of management practices at TEAM. In their introduction they say that they are "baffled that the focus has not been on the management scandal at TEAM".

"No one should underestimate the workforce's complete lack of faith in our management. In the past two years we have agreed changes worth a staggering £34 million, yet time and time again management has come back to us demanding more and more. Despite our sacrifices, TEAM is still being mismanaged into oblivion".

The submission asks: Why have the management not won available new contracts? Why has the company locked itself into diminishing markets when it is capable of expanding the services it offers? Why does the management only focus on labour costs when its own

advisers have told them that that is "not the primary factor" in repair management? Why have the management calculated their costings so badly that after the conclusion of agreement last March they had to tell unions their figures were out by up to £10 million?

The unions pointed out that using management figures "the company only needs to sell an additional 200,000 hours of work to break even". This translates into the equivalent of "5 C checks on aircraft", not a huge amount of work.

This reflects a limited market of 7 million work hours say the unions. They argue that there are numerous other markets that TEAM could tender for. These include provision for compulsory modifications to aircraft that have to be carried out within the next two years. TEAM has the capacity

1. In 1991, it was revealed that an Aer Lingus subsidiary Aer Lingus Holidays had falsified its accounts accruing losses of more than £17 million. The money has never been recovered.

2. In 1987, Aer Lingus management, against the advice of the government, initiated a £500 million spending programme of fleet modernisation, which involved purchasing or leasing 18 new Boeing 737 aircraft. The cost of a single 737 during the time varied between £29 and £24 million. Aer Lingus was advised to stagger the fleet replacement programme to ease the debt repayments for the company. Most of this fleet was to be used on its European short-haul routes. These same routes lost the company £50 million during the 1985-1992 period, while the hugely-expensive modernisation programme was taking place. Aer Lingus now has one of the most modern short-haul fleets in the world and nearly £500 million in debt.

3. Two Boeing 767s that Aer Lingus leased for £500,000 a month have barely been used by the company. Only one has been

leased at a loss to the company of over £200,000 a month, while the other stood idle for over a year.

4. In March 1993, Aer Lingus appointed former British Airways executive Peter Owen as chief executive to the company. Management would not disclose Owen's salary. Under current guidelines, the most a public sector manager can be paid is £71,000 a year. In his former job, Owen is reputed to have earned a six figure sum and industry analysts could not envisage him coming to Aer Lingus for anything less, a figure of £250,000 was quoted at the time.

5. One of Owen's first actions was to seek implementation of the Cahill plan for the group which involved a 10% wage cut for all workers. In 1991, the same workers had agreed to defer PESP increases of over 5% due to them and agreed changes in work practices which reduced labour costs by £11 million annually.

6. In July 1993, Bernie Cahill admitted to the Leinster House committee on state-sponsored bodies that even though he was chairperson of the company, it

was not until he took an executive role in the group that he got clear information of the financial position of the company.

7. The Cahill plan, formulated with his new-found information, estimated the average cost of redundancy at £50,000 per person. The actual cost has been £90,000 per worker. Aer Lingus management has not specified how they got this so wrong. Originally, £12.5 million had been allocated for this. It has now cost £28 million.

8. There are still £17.5 million of unpaid bills owed to TEAM. Unions disclosed this week that one TEAM customer in Iraq has still to be billed for work done over 12 months ago.

9. In January 1994, Aer Lingus took delivery of new Airbus A330s, even though Boeing had promised work for TEAM if Boeing aircraft were purchased by the group. Despite this, Cahill describes the Airbus as "the flagship of the revitalised Aer Lingus".

10. In June 1994, it was revealed that Aer Lingus had overpaid its catering suppliers by up to £12 million in a two-year period.

and the skills to do this work but management has refused to compete for this market, estimated at 30 million work hours.

The union's proposals aim to create the conditions in which they can produce a quality product, within the right timeframe and at the right price.

The company's view is that this can only happen through reducing wages and other labour costs. They want to introduce contractors from the Philippines who would be paid minuscule exploitative rates.

Unions point out that what is needed is efficient work measurement standards. With these, the company could correctly cost, plan

and schedule work, yet no such system has been set up in TEAM. The result has been gross inefficiencies and unscheduled costly overtime in order to have work completed. TEAM unions have agreed to the hiring of temporary workers but "not cheap Third World workers who management plan to exploit".

The unions also focused on management's reneging on a plan formally agreed in early March. The plan would have guaranteed the future of TEAM. Management came back to TEAM after the plan was agreed seeking further concessions from the union which unions showed

would not guarantee the long-term future of the company unless management practices changed. Management now claim that there was no agreement, despite considerable publicity heralding it at the time.

They also pointed out the deliberate hyping of TEAM's alleged £50 million debt. Almost all of the debt comes from stock and equipment inherited from Aer Lingus, which have since required a write down of £16.5 million. They also inherited bad debts of £8.6 million from Aer Lingus. They say that "taking all this into account there was always going to be a crisis."

Thousands march in support of TEAM workers

■ BY ART Mac EOIN

A BLACK COFFIN and four pall-bearers led a crowd of several thousand people through the centre of Dublin to Fianna Fáil headquarters in Mount Street on Thursday, 23 June, to protest at the loss of jobs at TEAM Aer Lingus.

The funeral procession aimed to put pressure on Fianna Fáil TDs, especially those in Dublin North, in regard to the dire situation facing TEAM workers and their families. TEAM workers were joined on the demonstration by workers from other state companies and the private sector. The march paused for a minute outside the Aer Lingus offices on O'Connell Street.

The coffin was finally laid to rest at the door of Fianna Fáil head office. Outside, speakers condemned the rising redundancies at TEAM, blaming management and the government and slamming the report of the Labour Relations Commission (LRC).

TEAM Aer Lingus shop steward Paddy Finnegan told those gathered

outside that Brian Cowen had made a decision on a report that was censored. "It cut our side of the story out completely. The minister didn't want to know because if he accepted that report it was an indictment of himself and previous ministers and of the Cahill plan."

If TEAM workers accepted management proposals they would end up as "seasonal workers on poor wages and without any rights. That is the future for us. We gave them a plan which they say they will look at if we accept the LRC. You can't win with these people."

Finnegan said that in spite of management, TEAM had made a tremendous contribution to the economy. The loss of jobs and wages would "tear the heart" out of communities in North Dublin. Justice and fair play was all that the TEAM workers sought.

A stoppage by public and private sector workers alike was threatened by Eamon Devoy of the Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union (AEEU) if other protests failed. Because of recent

anti-union legislation, such a stoppage would be more difficult to organise, he pointed out, but added that as throughout the history of workers' struggle in Ireland they would "only succeed despite the law".

It was revealed at the rally that TEAM management had cut telephone lines used by the unions at Dublin Airport. But the workers were not to be outdone and after a collection among their membership they hired a mobile telephone.

Sam Nolan of the Dublin Council of Trade Unions (DCTU) said that the losses at TEAM were incurred through mismanagement by the TEAM board. He pointed out that the Beef Tribunal was to cost £30 million to ascertain whether it was Dessie O'Malley or Albert Reynolds who told lies.

"That is £8 million more than the equity to be put into your company. I can tell you for nothing that the management and board of TEAM Aer Lingus told lies."

He added that the Ethics Bill

currently before Leinster House ought to be extended to cover the boards of management of semi-state companies.

"The boot-boy from Tullamore [Transport Minister Brian Cowen] is doing a stonewalling job and is responsible for the loss of 800 jobs. He should get a kick in the liathróidí bigger than the one Ray Houghton gave to the ball that landed in the Italy net."

Larry O'Toole of Dublin Sinn Féin addressed the crowd, pledging his continued support for the TEAM workers. He said that the loss of so many jobs at TEAM was an attack not only on the workers but also on their families and their communities. A message of support was also read out from Sinn Féin Dublin City Councillor Christy Burke.



● TEAM workers, whose jobs are being killed off by Aer Lingus management and the government

If you have a story at your workplace, let us know. Contact AP/RN by phone 8733611 or fax 8733074.

News

Service charges set to strike across Dublin

BY NEIL FORDE

DOUBLE TAXATION is the only apt label for the service-charge bills now landing on doorsteps of the citizens of the newly-created Fingal and South Dublin Councils.

Between 1 June and 1 October home owners in these local authorities will be levied at £85 and £70 respectively in water charges. Dublin Corporation and Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown authorities are set to follow suit. Charges for refuse and sewage are also possible within the next year.

For the moment, those claiming social-welfare payments have been given a waiver on the charges. However, there is no guarantee that this will stay the case in forthcoming payment periods. For families on low income, it is yet another drain on limited money resources.

Service charges in the current form were first introduced in 1983. This came only six years after the 1977-81 Fianna Fáil government abolished rates for domestic householders. The intervening years have seen disproportionate increases in rates for commercial premises and the introduction of double taxation as both PAYE tax increases and service charges have been levied on Irish taxpayers over the past eleven years.

The Dublin government back-

down on the implementation of a property tax this year and the parallel enforcing of service charges shows just how unbalanced the central government policy is on taxation and the power of local government. A small minority of under 20,000 householders has more impact on central government than the 546,000 people living in County Dublin.

Up until the three new local authorities in Dublin were created this year, Dublin was the only region not to be included in this double taxation scam.

The current debacle over service charges is central to the whole focus and role of local government in the 26 Counties. Councils are trapped in an organisational and political vacuum.

This is created by the need for local legislative bodies to represent and plan for their local economic and structural services, and new developments in the communities they represent.

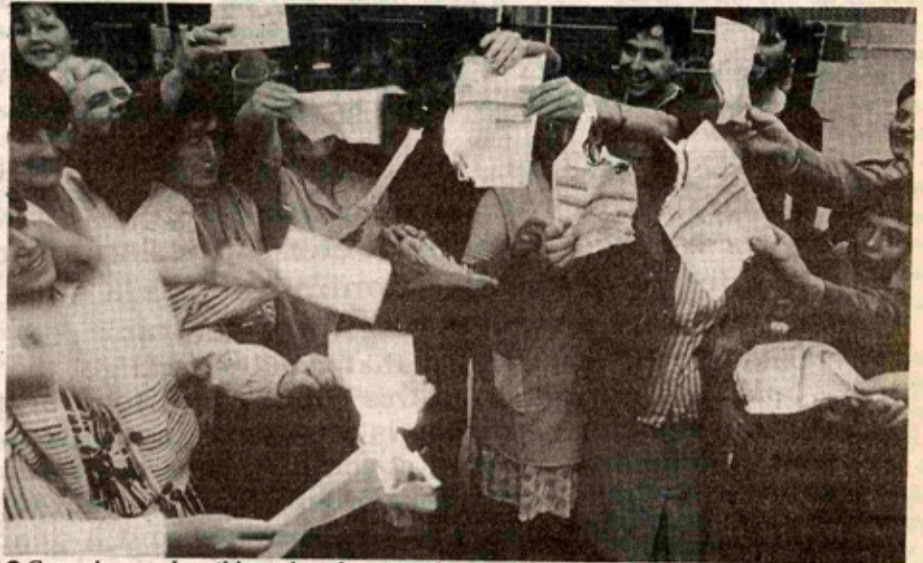
Twenty-six County Minister for the Environment Michael Smith called last December for the new councils to have a sharper focus

on the needs of the area they represent. He said the councils would ensure "more relevant and accessible local government".

Within days of formation the councils were forced by Smith to introduce service charges or be dissolved. Smith had cut back on the funding allocation for the councils, putting all the councils in a position where resources could not meet the demand for services.

The situation in Dublin is only a replica of local authority funding in the rest of the state. The 26 counties has 112 local authorities, 1,633 elected local councillors. The state of Luxembourg which is half the size of Kerry has 126 local authorities. Switzerland has 3,634 local authorities.

Alongside these directly elected councillors are 2,400 appointed representatives on state sponsored boards. This is not counting education and fisheries boards. Our appointed officials easily outnumber



● Campaigns such as this against the water charges are being organised throughout Dublin

ber elected representatives.

The Western European average for the ratio of local expenditure to total public expenditure is between 30% and 40%. In Denmark the figure is 75%, while in the 26 Counties it is only 10%.

According to Tom Barrington, former director of the Institute of Public Administration and creator of the Barrington report on local government "Irish citizens are the most disempowered in Europe" and "the services offered by local gov-

ernment the most underdeveloped".

Campaigns against the water charges are being organised by tenants' associations and community groups all over Dublin. Sinn Féin Councillor Christy Burke has pledged to fight the threatened implementation of service charges in the Dublin Corporation area which contains most of the city's population. He said the party locally would be taking up the fight and urged early action to prevent the charges.

First victim of new plastic-bullet gun

A New Lodge Road woman was injured when British soldiers opened fire with lethal plastic bullets on Friday evening, 24 June. Mrs Ann Allsopp who lives in Spamount Street and who is a chronic asthmatic and needs a nebulizer and oxygen to help her breathe, was hit on the thigh after the RUC ordered a large force of British soldiers to open fire.

The shooting followed weeks of assaults and abuse by a recently installed British regiment. On Sunday, 12 June, British soldiers ran amok in the same street causing injury to six people who ended up in hospital after the British attack.

This latest potentially fatal incident began shortly after the Ireland vs Mexico World Cup match had ended around 7.30pm. Four teenagers walking home after watching the match in a friend's house on the New Lodge Road were wearing the Irish soccer team football shirts when several British army personnel carriers slowed down and stopped beside them.

The British soldiers started to

question the young people and several of them were pushed about by soldiers chanting "Up Mexico". One boy, aged 13, was suddenly thrown against a wall by three British soldiers and local residents say that this drew dozens of people out of their homes as the teenagers shouted for help.

Seeing residents coming out of their homes the British forces summoned reinforcements. A force of RUC personnel arrived and the situation became very tense. However, one of the RUC patrol was then seen shouting an order to three British soldiers armed with plastic-bullets guns and telling them to open fire.

On receiving the order the British soldiers fired a volley of the plastic bullets. The spot where the firing took place is only yards from where two British soldiers shot dead a New Lodge youth, Peter McBride, two years ago.

At a distance of less than 40 feet, and contrary to their own regulations, the British soldiers opened fire, using the new guns introduced in the last month, because they were supposedly 'more accurate'.

The plastic bullets fired are cylinder shaped projectiles four inches long and 1.5 inches in diameter. They are solid PVC, weigh 4.75 ounces and are fired at a velocity of between 130-170 mph. Fifteen people, many of them children, have been killed by plastic bullets since their introduction in the early 1970s. In 1981 alone 29,601 were fired.

Ann Allsopp was struck in the leg and was helped back into her home by a family member and a neighbour. Two other neighbours saw her being hit and described seeing the flashes from the plastic bullet guns and people falling down.

Acting on advice from the area's Sinn Féin Councillor Paddy

McManus all affected by the incident have given evidence of what they witnessed to solicitors.

As Ann Allsopp was laid down on her sofa she suddenly took a severe asthma attack. Alarmed relatives called her own doctor who had to treat her at home as he was afraid to move her in case her condition worsened. She has been unable to sleep since the ordeal.

Speaking at the scene witnesses to this attack said that they were "fed up being treated worse than animals". As other British mobile patrols passed shouting obscenities, one Spamount Street resident pointed out that if dogs were being shot in the street in England by plastic bullets English people would be rightly concerned.



● Ann Allsopp became the first victim of the new 'more accurate' plastic-bullet gun

Glens fight for hospital

THE PEOPLE of the Glens of Antrim have mounted a campaign to get a locally-based paramedic unit and fully-equipped ambulance in the area which would provide initial emergency treatment and a much quicker response to serious incidents which require hospitalisation.

The campaign, launched recently, came about as a result of the health authority's strategy of centralising hospital facilities. What this has meant for the people of the Glens is a long and sometimes arduous journey to the nearest acute hospital service on the shores of Lough Neagh.

The area has witnessed a steady reduction of hospital facilities over the last few years. One of

the biggest blows was the closure of the local hospital in Cushendall about four years ago. Another major blow was the closure of the Waveney Hospital in Ballymena and the Moyle Hospital in Larne.

For anyone in the Glens now needing accident and emergency treatment they have to travel to the other side of Antrim town, 36 miles away from Cushendun. And while there is an ambulance facili-

ty in Ballymena, it is acknowledged that even the most efficient service would mean that any casualty would not reach hospital within an hour of it being called.

It is recognised by medical authorities that in serious emergencies, the first hour is critical to the recovery of the patient. There would clearly be an even greater delay in winter when road conditions, particularly on the high road between Glenariff and Ballymena, are notoriously treacherous for vehicles in the snow and ice.

The existing public transport to Antrim Hospital is woefully inad-

equated and disadvantaged groups such as the elderly, unemployed and low-income families are further discriminated against. Linked to all the above is the dramatic rise of the population in the Glens area during the summer months with thousands of holidaymakers staying in caravan's, B&Bs, guest houses and holiday homes, putting pressure on the existing limited service.

The campaign, which is gaining momentum, has seen a small committee being formed from local groups and interested parties from Ballycastle to Glenarm. Significantly this has the full support of the medical centre and staff in Cushendall.

The committee has expressed its unease at the health board's

"typical stationary response".

The board says the area is sufficiently well served and is obviously reflecting British Tory party philosophy — seemingly motivated more by money considerations than the concerns of the sick. This lack of understanding and their continuing refusal to even look again at the need for a paramedic unit highlights the real fears of the Glens people.

But then as one local doctor remarked to a Waterfoot patient whom he was referring to the Antrim hospital: "No one on the health board lives in the Glens and few would have experienced the 'uniqueness' of the Ulsterbus service between Antrim and Cushendall!"



An Phoblacht

REPUBLICAN NEWS

30 JUNE 1994

Crocodile tears for a fat cat

THE SIGHT of Fine Gael, the PDs and their friends in the Dublin media getting themselves worked up about Peter Sutherland and the presidency of the EU Commission is a sure sign that the silly season is fast approaching.

The FG/PD front argues that if Sutherland got the job it would be a great boon to this country and John Bruton is leading the chorus of howls at Albert Reynolds for not putting his name forward at the EU heads of government summit in Corfu last week. Britain blocked the favoured nominee of eleven of the 12 countries and a deadlock resulted. This led to fresh rounds of behind-the-door diplomacy as the leading states contend to get the one they think will most favour their interests into the top job in the EU bureaucracy.

The whole thing is a travesty of democracy. The powers wielded by the president and his EU Commission are enormous. Not one of them is elected and they enjoy some of the most highly-paid jobs in public administration in the world. They are in effect the government of the EU. No one who does not conform absolutely to the right-wing, monetarist policies that dominate the EU agenda would be allowed near even a lowly clerk's job in the commission.

Of course Peter Sutherland, the former Fine Gael attorney general, is eminently qualified on those grounds. But the demand for an "Irish presidency" is absurd. Even if he personally would further the real interests of Ireland — and Sutherland definitely would not — he would be constrained by the Treaty of Rome, the Single European Act and the Maastricht Treaty. Only a president devoted to the process of EU integration, erosion of national sovereignty, and policies that have led to mass unemployment, will be considered.

Peter Sutherland is a former Fine Gael attorney general, a former Allied Irish Bank chairperson, a former EU commissioner who opened the way for wholesale privatisation of the public sector throughout Europe, a former head of the world trade body GATT, who reinforced the exploitation of underdeveloped countries, and one of the wealthiest men in the country.

That we are expected to take pity on Peter Sutherland for this blip in his lucrative career is laughable. In short it makes absolutely no difference to Ireland who becomes EU Commission president.

What the doctor ordered

FURTHER proof that Dr Joe Hendron of the SDLP, MP for West Belfast, lives in a world far removed from reality was provided in Westminster last week. In the House of Commons Hendron backed a Private Members Bill which sought to legislate for compulsory identification cards.

Hendron admitted that his views were personal and not party policy, but he voted for the law which would force everyone in the Six Counties to carry a British government-issued ID card. Fortunately the bill — moved by a Tory backbencher — was not passed, but Hendron was unrepentant about his support. Incredibly the West Belfast MP said that compulsory ID cards would make life easier for nationalists being stopped on the street by the RUC and British army. Anyone with any experience of this knows that such a requirement would give a field day to crown forces to assault, arrest and charge people for not having their ID.

It is not necessary to repeat here arguments against such a police state scheme but it is necessary to point out the bumbling, bungling nature of an elected representative who could support it. The people of West Belfast deserve better than Dr Joe Hendron.

News

Time for nationalists to hold their nerve

WRITING IN THE *Irish Times* on 23 June, five days after the Loughinisland massacre, Mary Holland, directing her remarks to her readership in the 26 Counties said: "It is not always sufficiently appreciated down here that one of the main factors which has prevented a slide into full-scale sectarian violence has been the restraint of the Protestant community and the relative lack of support for violence."

However, Holland's next sentence is more telling. She wrote: "But, as unionist leaders have warned in recent months, that is changing fast."

What is telling about Holland's last sentence is the clarification it gives of the relationship between loyalist political figures and the loyalist death squads. In essence, loyalist/unionist politicians tread a very thin line between "explaining" why loyalist violence occurs and justifying that violence.

Newspapers in the week after the Loughinisland killings contained articles carrying commentary that expressed the sentiment that Protestant/loyalist violence really only exists because the IRA exists or that (and this is developing into a seminal theme for pronounist commentators and politicians) "insecurity about the political process is driving loyalists to use violence".

Roy Bradford, one time Stormont minister, now a columnist with the unionist daily the *Newsletter*, writing two days after the Loughinisland killings contextualised this development in the unionist/loyalist psyche thus. He said that when unionists' worst fears are confirmed loyalists will react violently.

So citing Sunningdale in 1974, the Hillsborough Agreement in 1985 and the Downing Street Declaration in 1993 as concessions to the IRA he asks us to under-

stand the increase in loyalist violence, at those times, as a response to "weak" British governments "dancing to an IRA tune".

But, as he maintains, the IRA has refused to accept "the unimpeachable offer made to them" then it is time for the British government to "impose peace".

Irish nationalists know well what it is for the British to "impose peace". And in pursuit of this "imposed peace", unionists, of all shades, deem republicans, nationalists and Catholics as the enemy, as the transgressors to be defeated.

In this view unionists have ready allies in pro-unionist journalistic and political figures in the 26 Counties. Conor Cruise O'Brien writing in the *Independent* (the London version) in the week after Loughinisland declared that, "the Downing Street Declaration had the effect of stimulating loyalist paramilitaries into greater activity".

Then, accusing the British government of attempting to "buy off the IRA", O'Brien in his role of number one neounionist said this would only "alarm the unionists".

All these roads lead to the same destination.

All these commentators are telling nationalists that they must lower their political demands. Indeed they are linking their political philosophy to the actions of

the loyalist gun gangs in order to psyche nationalists out.

They are quite deliberately giving political expression to the actions of the death squads in order to break the nationalist nerve.

They want Articles Two and Three removed from the 26-County Constitution, they want to ensure that any concession around, "shared executive power" is nowhere near the negotiating table and in the Six Counties nationalists must go back to where they were pre-1968.

Clearly, what is being developed here is a politically inspired psychological operations or "psy-ops" strategy. However, nowhere is the extent of this psy-ops strategy more clearly demonstrated than in the claims of the British army last Thursday, 23 June, when their head bomb disposal officer said that the threat from loyalist bombers had increased dramatically.

At a time of intense loyalist activity and the attempts to justify it, we see the British army demonstrating in quite graphic manner the potential of loyalist bombs. The media gimmick could only have been cleared politically by a Stormont minister and its timing could only add to the sense of vulnerability felt by nationalists at this time.

The developing peace process has focussed national and world opinion on nationalist demands and the need for self-determination for the Irish people as a whole. All in all it is imperative that nationalists hold their nerve at this time and ensure that the British and their allies do not break our resolve.



News

Council Roundup Council Roundup Council Roundup Council Roundup Council Roundup

Sinn Féin excluded in council carve-ups

■ BY ART
Mac EOIN

AS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCILS around the 26 Counties held their annual meetings this month following elections on 9 June, Sinn Féin was the victim of carve-ups on several local authorities.

Speaking at election-count centres in Monaghan following the party's resounding success in the county, the newly elected Sinn Féin councillors called for democracy, equity and cooperation in the interests of the people of Monaghan among parties at council level.

However, a Fianna Fáil/Fine Gael pact to exclude Sinn Féin councillors from any committee positions backfired at the first meeting of Monaghan Urban District Council. The make-up of Monaghan UDC is three Sinn Féin Councillors, three Fianna Fáil, two Fine Gael and one independent councillor.

At the first meeting of the authority Sinn Féin proposed that councillors agree to rotate the position of chairperson among the different parties on the UDC over the next four years. But Fianna Fáil proposed their own candidate for the position while the Fine Gael councillors nominated Independent Heather Graham. But Graham withdrew from the contest claiming that she had been "set up" by Fianna Fáil who she said initially told her they would support her for the position.

The Sinn Féin proposal to rotate the chair position was deferred until the July meeting when the town clerk said the first statutory meeting of the council must first elect a chairperson. In the end Fianna Fáil Councillor Clerkin was elected to the position.

The initial pact to exclude Sinn Féin councillors from committees came to nought and Owen Smyth, Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha and Caoimhghín O Caoláin were elected to several committees including estimates, planning and housing. Owen Smyth filled one of the two UDC places on County Monaghan Vocational Education Committee and Caoimhghín O Caoláin was elected to one of the

positions on the Association of Municipal Authorities of Ireland.

In Clones, however, the story was somewhat different. A Sinn Féin proposal to rotate the positions of chair and vice chair and that all political groupings be represented on each of the various committees was defeated four to three.

Sinn Féin Councillor Pat Treanor had argued that the council would be discriminating against Sinn Féin if they decided to keep the party out of the positions which would be contrary to the wishes of the people of Clones who had elected three Sinn Féin representatives onto the council.

On the proposal of Independent Councillor Ross Mealiff, seconded by Peter McAleer, it was agreed that each political grouping be represented along with the chairperson on the UDC's Housing and Estimates Committees. Pat Treanor is to be the Sinn Féin representative on the Estimates Committee while Debbie Moore sits on the Housing Committee.

At the annual meeting of Ballybay Town Commission another Sinn Féin proposal to rotate the position of chair and vice chair, this time tabled by newly-elected Sinn Féin Councillor Eugene Duffy, failed when there was no seconder. A similar position was obtained in Castleblaney where Sinn Féin candidate Jackie Crowe topped the poll claiming nearly double the quota. Despite his outstanding election performance Crowe failed to get elected to a statutory committee.

Meanwhile in Tralee, County Kerry, a Fianna Fáil/Labour pact saw Sinn Féin, the Green Party and Independent councillors excluded from all positions on committees at the annual meeting of the UDC. Sinn Féin Councillor Billy Leen slammed the lack of

democracy in the proceedings. One member who was absent from this very important first meeting was elected onto the local VEC, causing outrage.

On Sligo Corporation where there are two new Sinn Féin Councillors, Seán MacManus and Vincent Murray, there was an attempted Fianna Fáil/Fine Gael pact to carve up positions between themselves, but this failed when other councillors refused to participate in the agreement and adhered to democratic principles.

SDLP BELFAST COUNCIL STRATEGY LAMBASTED

The SDLP's "self-serving strategy" in the council has been lambasted by Alex Maskey, leader of the Sinn Féin grouping of ten councillors on Belfast City Council. He has called on the SDLP to stop its practice of colluding with the Official Unionists in an attempt to gain seats on the top five standing committees in the council.

But Maskey now believes that that policy is in tatters because the SDLP's Alex Atwood has lost the chair of the Client Services Committee due to the refusal of the unionists to support him.

"Unionists hold 53% of the seats on the council, but hold a disproportionate 95% of the top positions such as chair, deputy chair, Lord Mayor etc. With the elections for the five standing committees on the council now over, nationalists hold not one of the committee chairs.

"The only change made to the make-up of these committees in ten years has been the introduction of proportionality, allowing parties representation on the committees proportionate to their council strength. That change came about as a direct result of Sinn Féin pressure and a key court case."

At present the formal SDLP position is that they will not support Sinn Féin candidates for chair and deputy chair position. If they were to change their policy and

agree to a nationalist voting arrangement — similar to that operated by the unionists — nationalists would be sure to win more top posts. More importantly, pressure from both parties on the issue of rotation of top posts couldn't be resisted by the unionists.

"Slowly but surely, the unionist stranglehold on the City Hall is being broken. The question the SDLP must ask themselves is, 'are they going to play a part in breaking that stranglehold?'"

REMOVE RIR FROM ARMAGH CALL

The removal of the RIR from the city and its disbandment was called for by Sinn Féin Councillor Noel Sheridan after two soldiers based in the city were charged with loyalist murders. Sheridan attempted to have a motion heard in the council, but unionists scuppered his call and ruled him out of order.

Council chairperson and EU MEP, Jim Nicholson, of the Official Unionist Party refused to let Sheridan be heard.

Sheridan said afterwards: "Given recent loyalist attacks in the city and the obvious involvement of members of the crown forces in these attacks, it is imperative that an independent inquiry be held into collusion. Jim Nicholson's decision exposes the extent to which the unionists party will go to cover-up the activities of both the death squads and crown force involvement in their activities".

MBE FOR SDLP COUNCILLOR

A Craigavon SDLP councillor, Hugh Casey, has accepted an MBE medal in the British Queen's birthday honours' list. His acceptance of the award has led to rows within the SDLP with some members of the party accusing Casey of undermining the party.

"By accepting this award, Casey has undermined two supposedly main tenets of the SDLP — its nationalism and its socialism," said an SDLP member

"As an Irish nationalist party our members should not be accepting awards relating to the British empire and as a socialist party the SDLP does not believe in this type of honours system."

However, Casey himself does not see "any conflict" in accepting the award and doesn't believe it compromises his political principles, claiming that he was given the award because of his community work rather than having any connection with his political activity.

In 1989, Magherafelt SDLP Councillor Mary McSorley accepted an MBE in the queens honours' list. Her action enraged both her constituents and other members of her party with McSorley eventually being forced to resign from her position on the council.

FIRST NATIONALIST VICE-CHAIR IN COOKSTOWN

Cookstown Council has elected a nationalist vice chairperson, the first in its 21-year history. SDLP Councillor James McGarvey was supported by both the SDLP and Sinn Féin. But two Sinn Féin councillors, Seán Bégley and Séamus Campbell, walked out of the meeting on Tuesday, 21 June, in protest at the en-bloc re-election of the council's committees.

Councillor Bégley said that it was disgraceful that Sinn Féin had been excluded from these committees over the past two years, saying that there is an SDLP-unionist pact to deny Sinn Féin representation.

"There is no democracy in the appointment of committees in which party representation was not taken into account."

In a recent survey of councillors in Cookstown, the Green Party found that all parties were, in principle, agreed for the need to share power. However, none of the parties, with the exception of Sinn Féin, has adopted a position reflecting this stance in council.

TEMPORARY REPRIEVE FOR MATERNITY UNIT

Dungannon Sinn Féin Councillor Brendan Doris has welcomed the Southern Health Board's decision to maintain its maternity unit at Dungannon's South Tyrone hospital for a further three years.

The unit was threatened with closure, but has won its reprieve after intensive lobbying by opposition groups. It has also been disclosed that the unit will receive an additional £500,000 in investment.

"Had the decision to close the unit been taken then no babies would have been born in hospitals in County Tyrone," said Councillor Doris. "I welcome the decision to stop the closure, but I am concerned that the Southern Health Board might decide to close the unit after that date. This unit is crucial to the South Tyrone area, and any threat even if postponed for three years must be taken seriously," warned Doris.

COURT CASE WILL FOLLOW SF COUNCIL EXCLUSION

Strabane District Council will be taken to court to force them to change their policy of excluding Sinn Féin from external committees. Sinn Féin councillors Ivan Barr and Charlie McHugh insisted that the party will seek a judicial review if the unionists continue to vote and debar them from bodies other than all party council sub-committees.

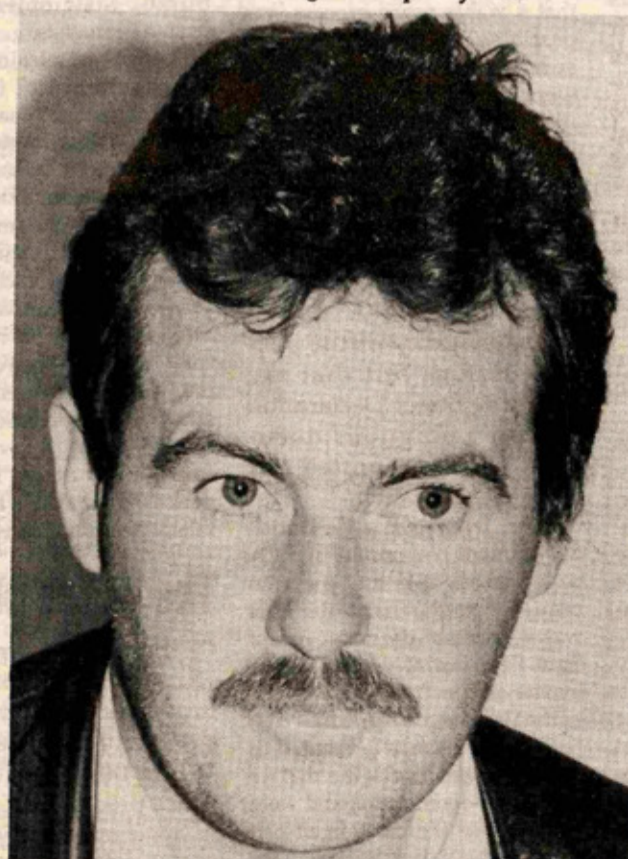
A similar action taken by Sinn Féin councillors on Belfast City Council was successful last year.

"We are the only grouping on the council whose members have been discriminated against in this manner. We are not excluded from all committees. There are the all party committees such as the finance and general purpose committee which they could not keep us off," said Ivan Barr.

He continued: "It is all the external bodies and committees in which the council is represented and from which Sinn Féin councillors have been excluded."



● CAOIMHGHIN O CAOLAIN



● PAT TREANOR

Report of the Sinn Féin Peace Commission

Charting a course to peace

Below, AP/RN publishes the summary of conclusions of the Sinn Féin Peace Commission, the report of which was published in Dublin on Friday, 24 June. We highlight snippets of the vast range of submissions received by the party up to and including the period of its five hearings in January, February and March this year.



● Sinn Féin Vice President Pat Doherty, General Secretary Lucilla Bhróiníoch and Head of Sinn Féin's Women's Department Mairéad Keane at the press conference to launch the party's Peace Commission report

Sinn Féin peace strategy

Sinn Féin's desire to hear the views of the public is not something new or unusual. We have over the years solicited opinions on how to establish a durable and lasting peace in Ireland. The document *Towards a Lasting Peace in Ireland*, launched at our Ard Fheis in 1992, was distributed widely to the Irish and British governments, to politicians, media, church leaders and community groups. It was also distributed to individuals, organisations and political parties in Ireland, England and internationally. And we invited discussions regarding the document with all those interested in establishing peace in Ireland. Our peace objectives and the strategy for their achievement were outlined:

- To eradicate the causes of conflict in Ireland;
- To bring about the exercise of the right to national self-determination of the Irish people as a whole;
- To establish a peace process to bring this about.

Sinn Féin pointed out that *Towards a Lasting Peace in Ireland* was a discussion document. It was not set in stone. We also offered clarification on any of the points of contention in the document.

At all times we were willing and eager to listen and to take into consideration the views of

others on how a real peace process could be achieved, while grounding our analysis on the principles of democracy and the right to national self-determination. Throughout this period, Sinn Féin was involved in dialogue with a wide range of people. The most important of these discussions was between the president of Sinn Féin Gerry Adams and John Hume, leader of the SDLP. These talks resulted in the Hume/Adams proposals, the broad outline of which emerged in a series of joint statements issued by Mr Hume and Mr Adams. There was widespread support among Irish nationalists for the efforts of the two party leaders and both governments were kept informed of developments. The IRA leadership expressed its support... "if the political will exists or can be created, it could provide the basis for peace". This opportunity for peace was disregarded by the British government. However, it was against this backdrop that the Downing Street Declaration emerged on 15 December 1993. Its ambiguity made a definitive response difficult. Requests by us to the British government for clarification were rejected. Despite this prevarication by the British government, which unnecessarily stalled the evolving peace process, Sinn Féin commenced a process of consultation among our membership. During that period we received several papers from groups and individuals outside our membership.

These were useful and interesting, providing us with other views of the declaration. **The submissions** Two hundred and twenty eight submissions were presented to the Sinn Féin Peace Commission. There was a vast range of opinion across the 228 submissions about the cause of conflict in Ireland and on how a lasting peace can be achieved. Almost all of the submissions believed that a viable peace process was possible. The differences in the submissions arose over what were the next steps in such a process. **The Downing Street Declaration** The majority of the submissions felt that the Downing Street Declaration was an ambiguous document. Most supported our right to clarification. After five months, the British government responded in a 21-page document to the Sinn Féin request for clarification. This was a result of the most recent Sinn Féin initiative facilitated by the active and positive role of the Dublin government. The submissions presented to us helped to inform the debate within our organisation and were analysed in the context of our peace strategy. It is obvious from the views presented to us that

people had diverse opinions on the role of the Downing Street Declaration in the peace process. Those who gave qualified support to the declaration included those who felt that it was a good starting point, that it could be built upon, that British sovereignty had been weakened, that the British government was conceding something new in paragraph four on self-determination and that paragraph eleven on the proposed Forum for Peace and Reconciliation provided republicans with a means to pursue their objectives with Irish nationalists. Other submissions felt that we should accept the declaration for tactical reasons in the interest of the developing peace process. Those submissions which criticised the declaration did so on the basis that it was designed to sideline the Hume/Adams initiative, that it offered nothing to nationalists, that it was drafted for the unionists while offering no constitutional guarantee to nationalists, that it was not a foundation stone for lasting peace and that it was designed to isolate republicans. **The peace process** There was one theme which was prominent throughout both the submissions and the five hearings — the belief that a viable peace process was possible. Some submissions focused on the role of the parties, the gaps which needed to be filled

and the issues which needed to be addressed in order to advance the peace process. **The British government** There were a number of submissions which focussed on the need for the British government to withdraw its support for the unionist veto in order to advance the peace process. Some submissions reflected the fears of the nationalist community regarding British intentions in Ireland and the links between the loyalist death squads and the British. There were many nationalists, particularly at the hearings in Belfast and Derry, who felt that they had no rights in the Six-County state and that nationalist rights and the unionist veto could not co-exist. They did not trust the British government. There were submissions which argued for the need to address the structures and institutions of conflict i.e. policing, demilitarisation, harassment etc. **The Dublin government** The positive attitude and involvement of the Dublin government in seeking to develop and then promote a peace process was welcomed. A number of submissions took the view that the Forum for Peace and Reconciliation was a good idea, although concern was expressed at the preconditions on

participation which were being applied. A number of submissions expressed concern at what they viewed as Dublin's support for the unionist veto in the Six Counties and the obstacle and dangers that creates. **The IRA** Of the 228 submissions, 26 submissions, just over eleven per cent, specifically mentioned the need to create a process of demilitarisation involving all of the parties to the conflict. A number of submissions, 85 or 37%, believed that Sinn Féin should encourage the IRA to call a unilateral cease-fire or a cessation of offensive military operations, or to initiate a three month cease-fire to enter negotiations. Some called on the IRA to take up the offer made by John Major at the launch of the declaration. **The Irish Peace Initiative** There were submissions which focussed on the Hume/Adams proposals and the potential which they held. Some contributors to the oral hearings expressed disappointment that Hume/Adams was disregarded by the British government, as they felt that it had the dynamic to resolve this conflict. Others felt that the Hume/Adams initiative should be made public. There were views expressed on the importance of a nationalist consensus and the need for the Dublin government to continue

to take a proactive role in the peace process. **The unionists** A majority of submissions which addressed the unionists took the view that the declaration had repeatedly reaffirmed the unionist veto and that this guaranteed that the unionists would remain inflexible and opposed to any change in the status quo and the existing structures and institutions. Some submissions from the unionist community felt that the reluctance to consider any new arrangements is seen as a major stumbling block. It was also said that the British government should take a more pro-active role in creating the conditions for political change. Submissions from unionists expressed the view that the concept of national self determination frightens unionists and that republicans must engage in dialogue with unionists. Others argued that both communities share a responsibility for injustices suffered and both communities will have to take courageous decisions. **Loyalist death squads** A number of submissions argued that the loyalist death squads are not reactive but are working to their own political agenda. It was also felt that they must be involved in any political settlement.

Women in the peace process Submissions from women's groups and from individual women felt that women should be centrally involved in the peace process as equals and that this should be reflected publicly. There was a feeling expressed that the peace process is dominated by men and that women are being sidelined. Other submissions argued that women should be involved in promoting discussion on structures, a Bill of Rights and a new constitution which would have equal rights for all, including women. **International assistance** Submissions in this area argued that the international community has an

important role to play in conflict resolution in Ireland. This was argued for in specific terms in the form of mediators, intermediaries and guarantors. Other submissions felt in general terms that the Dublin government should harness the goodwill of the international community in support of the peace process. **Summary** There were a number of opinions expressed in the submissions on conflict resolution which we feel are of interest and need further debate and discussion. These are:

- The need for the British government to recognise that there must be political change and to adopt a policy to allow such change occur;
- The need to achieve a total demilitarisation;
- The need to remove the unionist veto;
- The need to address the issue of consent of all sections of the Irish people;
- The need to debate and discuss the steps needed to develop the peace process;
- The need to address the grievances of the northern nationalist community, including discrimination, collusion and Irish language rights;
- The need for republicans to outline their vision of a united Ireland;
- The need for women to play a central role in the peace process;
- The need for republicans and nationalists to persuade the unionists that they have nothing to fear from a united Ireland;
- The need to involve the international community in the peace process;
- The need for republicans, nationalists and democrats to agree a strategy for the achieving of national self-determination.



● There has been widespread support among Irish nationalists for the efforts of Sinn Féin to establish a peace process

Dúirt Siad

- Does the declaration recognise the experiences of injustice and discrimination that the Twinbrook community have suffered over the last 25 years? — The Lynx Project on paragraph one of the declaration.
- The British government is for the first time recognising that its failure to agree 'a lasting and satisfactory settlement of relationships', has been the cause of ongoing conflict in Ireland. — Community worker Séamus Heaney.
- The document continually refers to peace, with little reference to justice. — Seán O Ceillechair.
- The recurring theme throughout the document is that change will only take place with the consent of a majority of people in the state, in other words the unionist/Protestant majority. In reality this means returning to and supporting the system which created the conflict. — Trade unionist Gerry Campbell.
- The only authentic framework for peace in this country is a time-specified British withdrawal of armed forces and of political control. — Rosaleen Murphy.
- The ending of divisions can only come about through the agreement and co-operation of the people. — Creggan Community Care.
- An irrelevant platitude. — Kevin Boland on paragraph three of the declaration.
- To recruit and arm a police force from one section of the community to police another section of another community is nothing short of a calculated insult to the intelligence. — The Campaign for Decent Wages who highlighted the fact that policing was not mentioned in the declaration.
- The declaration does go further than any previous British government statement. — Michael Farrell.
- There is nothing to encourage unionists who have a veto over constitutional change to enter into serious negotiations that will address the causes of the conflict and the sectarian privilege that underpins the unionist ideology. — Roger Cole of Labour Left.
- The right of the Irish people to national self-determination is denied and the unionist veto over the future of the people is further cemented. — Falls Community Council.
- History and bitter experience have shown nationalists that unionists do not understand the concept of democracy except in their own narrow terms. — Lower Ormeau Residents Action Group.
- For as long as unionists are guaranteed that veto there is no obligation on them to change their policies or for any political progress to be made in the Six Counties and Ireland as a whole. — Community worker Michael Doherty.
- Everyone has a right to be ruled democratically but this has never been conceded by the British. — Des Wilson.
- The Six Counties is an unstable constitutional entity in which normal participatory democracy cannot develop. — Fianna Fáil member, John Reddington.
- The joint declaration effectively recognises that Northern Ireland is in nation limbo capable of being incorporated in a British or Irish state. — Cormac O Dulacháin.
- Major's nod to Hume/Adams. — Patrick Donnelly on the parts of paragraph four of the declaration which deal with national self-determination.
- It lays down the conditions under which Northern Ireland may leave the union and become part of the Irish state. — Patrick Donnelly on the good points of the Declaration.
- It is a right that is not granted by the British. It is a right that always existed and indeed pre-existed the partition of the island. — Private submission CEN 27 on national self-determination.
- The Northern Irish people should not be required to submit to an arrogant diktat, whose terms they had no hand in composing. — Green Party spokesperson on the Six Counties, Vincent MacDowell.
- Your real task is to persuade and convince the unionist community that a united Ireland is in their best interest. — William Rutherford.
- Will Britain be a persuader for Irish unity and will it bring about balanced constitutional accommodation for nationalists in the meantime as An Taoiseach states the republic will for unionists? — Brendan Murray.
- The end of the present form of British involvement in Ireland. — Fr Gerry Reynolds.
- The main issue now for the Republican Movement is not getting the Brits out of Ireland but convincing those who look upon themselves as British that their true destiny lies in an Irish socialist republic. — Springfield Inter-Community Development Project



● The Hume/Adams Initiative, which was virtually disregarded by the British, was seen by many as having the dynamic to resolve the conflict

Reviews

Mad dogs and the midday sun

■ POL MAC STE

FROM BOILING HEAT to a pleasant sunny day, Ireland changed from looking below par to a little above ordinary. After two forgettable games and relief in qualification they have to return to the scene of their nightmare, Orlando. They qualified but also drew the booby prize.

Tactics, and touchline bans, in the absence of excitement on the pitch contributed to most of the talking points. Against Mexico, as opposed to FIFA, the heat wasn't the only factor in defeat but it contributed in determining tactics which demanded a higher workrate than is the norm of late.

In the Italian game, the back pass gave players a breather, possession was won back quickly. In Orlando, this didn't happen. Bonner repeatedly gave the ball away to a team better at playing 'keep ball' in extreme conditions. The midfield suffered in the heat trying vainly to carry out its exacting workrate. That said, Ireland created three clearcut chances which were shamefully wasted, chances which could have put them in a commanding position. Mexico's first goal just before half time left a team designed not to concede chasing the game. Consolation to many was that Ireland finished strongly — imagine how the game could have gone if they had started as they finished.

Against Norway, Ireland showed an ability to vary their game from the long ball seen in New York and Orlando to a passing style more suited to the heat and as competent as that seen from other participants in the competition, especially opposing a side whose forte

is pressurising. Norway, who couldn't adapt to this tactic, are on their way home.

Regardless of who they play in Orlando, Ireland will have to avoid the long ball, hold possession and conserve their energy. Hopefully their opponents will be either Belgium or Holland, northern European teams without the advantage of playing regularly in stifling heat. Let's hope the lessons from Orlando have been absorbed.

Outside of Group E, the Group of Terminal Boredom, games have caught the imagination for the right reasons. Brazil and Argentina have continued to impress with their message to the African pretenders that this will not be their year (egg on my face if Nigeria come good). Strangely, pretournament favourites Colombia were the first to go, losing to a mediocre but well-organised US side.

Of the Europeans, Belgium look strongest, although Italy's spirit and determination now seems sufficiently upbeat to present their case in not being overlooked. Germany, unless they can make some tactical changes — namely moving Matthaus from sweeper back into midfield — make a poor image in comparison to four years

ago. Holland, playing Wouters out of his favoured central position, lack conviction although Belgium's Preud'homme denied them an early place in the second round. A convincing win over Morocco could kick-start their campaign.

Off the pitch, however, things were a little more interesting.

Charges of ungentlemanly conduct and the overall behaviour of the Irish dur-

ing the Mexico match have been thrown at the manager and the entire squad by FIFA, the world governing body for football. Fines and touchline bans were handed out with vague charges. Charlton himself said he hadn't been told what the charges are. Is he still waiting for clarification?

FIFA claim that Charlton manhandled and verbally abused the FIFA official

at the game; video evidence clearly proved the opposite. When presented with this the spokesperson changed the subject to the behaviour of the entire squad on the bench, saying they should be seated at all times (celebrate sitting down) and referred to Charlton's conduct as not that of an "English gentleman". The part I failed to hear was the bit about mad dogs and the midday sun.

The trouble stems more from Charlton's snubbing of FIFA-organised pre-World Cup events and a desire to make an example of an out-

spoken critic of their ill-thought directives on water and treatment to injured players. A FIFA spokesperson said it was disappointing that Charlton missed a seminar for managers in New York during February. "We feel it is important for managers to be there and understand our guidelines."

Regardless of the charges, it's FIFA's behaviour which has been ungentlemanly. Their concern has been to deflect, rather than answer, criticism by accusing the Irish of being whingers and complainers, like the bosses calling the union shopsteward a trouble-maker. Charlton and the Irish squad as a whole have been treated with the naughty boy syndrome as an example to others — don't step out of line if you know what's good for you! A little bit totalitarian, don't you think?

To FIFA, the concept of football is one of filling stadia, huge advertising and ever-expanding markets. Sadly, for them money is more important than creating conditions where players can demonstrate their talents to the full. In fact they are willing to put people at risk for their own selfish reasons.

Football is an emotional and animated game. Players, coaches and fans alike react in different ways, some calm, some highly-charged. It's part of what gives the game its appeal. If sport didn't have its characters or its controversies it wouldn't be worth the bother.



● Paul McGrath rising above Norway's mediocrity

Cats' chorus falls silent

■ BY SÉAMUS O CAOMHANAIGH

THERE was a distinct smell of cooked goose (or was it cat?) around Croke Park last Sunday evening as Leinster and All-Ireland Champions Kilkenny lost out against an inspired Offaly team. The Cats' used up all their lives last year in the Leinster Final it would appear.

Offaly hurled like men desperate to erase some recent bitter memories and determined that this time there would be no last minute Houdini act from their arch rivals. Yet Kilkenny started the stronger and, playing into a stiff breeze, they were a point ahead, 1-3 to 0-5, before the faithful county really got their show on the road. A powerful shot from Billy Dooley buried the sliothar in the Kilkenny net and this proved to be the spark that ignited the Offaly challenge. Five points swept over the bar and one between the posts before the break, leaving seven points between the sides but with the wind in their favour in the second half, the Cats were expect-

ed by friend and foe alike to be on the prowl with a vengeance.

On the resumption of play the champions again made the brighter start but it proved to be a false dawn. Despite the early scores conceded, Offaly were fashioning a coffin for their opponents and it fell to Joe Dooley to nail the lid on. A superb goal in the tenth minute of the second half from him followed by a point from Michael Duignan really put the pigeon among the Cats. You could sense Offaly growing more confident and the unease seeping into Kilkenny's play. They tried very hard, as Kilkenny teams invariably do, but to no avail and Brian Whelehan must take a large share of the credit for

an outstanding defensive display on behalf of Offaly.

The late goals from PJ Carey and Eamon Morrissey had "consolation" scrawled all over them, doing nothing except putting a respectable look on the scoreboard — the game was up long before the umpire raised the green flag for those goals. This was a sweet, sweet victory for Offaly and one they thoroughly deserve, both for this display on the day and the hard lines they suffered in the Leinster final last year.

The curtain raiser in Headquarters was Wexford vs Laois. Laois, for some obscure reason, decided to confer the freedom of Croke Park on Wexford and accordingly paid a heavy price for their generosity. Having racked up a 17 point win against Dublin, Wexford surpassed themselves with an 18 point margin this time around, with Martin Storey particularly prominent with 8 points to his credit. Martin seems to be

concentrating on hurling this weather as opposed to swimming (diving) and boxing. So, a facile win for Wexford and despite the ritual disclaimers, Eamonn Cregan must be fancying his team's chances in the Leinster Final.

In football, Páirc Uí Chaoimh was the place to be as Cork hung onto their Munster title, but the Cork dressing room afterwards was a scene of relief rather than euphoria I would imagine, considering the nature of the win.

Any Leaside celebrations will be tempered with the knowledge that Cork must achieve a higher level of consistency when they face Tipperary in the Munster Final. In an undistinguished first half, Kerry held Cork to a draw despite playing against the wind (and the rain). The second period saw the Kingdom take a few years off the lives of their supporters as they proceeded to kick wide after wide, pass the ball when a score was on and generally take any option provided it was the wrong one. Perhaps

they've been watching video nasties of the Dublin forwards trying to score. However, as Cork were playing like they'd all been on the batter up to the throw in it didn't seem to matter all that much.

Someone must have shouted out the time to the Cork players because with less than 15 minutes left, five points down and getting fresh complexions from the wind blowing in their faces, they decided things were getting a bit serious and something had got to be done. Colin Corkery chipped away at the Kerry lead with two points and Stephen O'Brien decided to take a break from his defensive duties and get a goal courtesy of a brilliant pass from somebody called Larry Tompkins.

With the match up for grabs, Cork showed the greater wherewithal and cuteness to edge home by two points. But while Cork were deserving winners, the Cork backs were very unimpressive as a unit and the defence seemed to fall upon the shoulders of John Kerins in goal and Stephen

O'Brien. This won't do in the sterner tests that lie ahead. Final score, Cork 1-13 — Kerry 2-8.

Tipperary qualified to meet Cork in the Munster Final on 24 July easily dismissing a feeble Waterford side. But the real stuff is yet to come for Tipp and no doubt they'll be looking to improve on their showing in the final last year. Cork v Tipperary in a Munster Football Final — still looks strange, doesn't it?

In Ulster, Tyrone powered their way to a clash (and it will be a clash) with Down in their provincial final when they comfortably dealt with Donegal. A cynical Dub of my acquaintance invariably refers to Donegal as "the great one-in-a-row team".

Cruel as it may seem, 1992 would appear to be very far away for Donegal people, although not as far as 1983 for Dublin supporters!

Finally, in Connacht, Sligo did their annual impression of sacrificial lambs, the beneficiaries in 1994 being Mayo. Roll on the open draw!

World View

Peace still denied to Guatemala

■ BY DARA Mac NEILL

ACCORDING to conventional wisdom, the tiny Central American country of Guatemala has been at war for the last 40 years. In large part that war has consisted of a relentless murderous assault on the people by their own army.

Testimonies such as the one that follows, are depressingly common:

"The army burnt a nearby village and killed many of its inhabitants. Daily, bodies appeared in the river. Pairs of corpses tied back to back with barbed wire around their legs, bodies and necks. They [the army] had the custom of cutting out their tongues and some would have their testicles removed. Others would be partially burnt, their eyes gouged out and, finally, a single shot to the head."

In this manner the army have managed to slaughter in the region of 100,000 people and 'disappear' a further 50,000. At least one million internal refugees have been created, whilst some 300,000 are believed to have fled abroad. An estimated 400 villages have simply been erased from the face of the earth. Guatemala is less than twice the size of Ireland and has a population of about nine million.

In 1992 indigenous Guatemalan human rights activist Rigoberta Menchu was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. During the course of the same year the army continued to murder with impunity, carrying out approximately ten extra-judicial killings a week. This 'trivia' never made it onto the front pages of the Western 'free press'.

Had even 1% of these killings occurred in, for example, Cuba, you can be sure no effort or expense would have been spared to deliver the news. With complete objectivity, of course.

That same press, however, will never shirk a 'good news' story from Guatemala. On 24 June most papers carried reports of an apparent agreement that has been reached between the government and insurgent URNG. The agreement provides for the establishment of a human

rights commission, whose duty it will be to examine cases of human rights abuses over the last 40 years.

The establishment of such a commission has been a central demand of the URNG since the inception of the on/off peace talks some years ago. While this concession by the government is clearly welcome, anyone with even the most cursory knowledge of the country's brutal history will surely be sceptical, if not openly suspicious.

As of yet, it is not known who will form the commission, nor what powers it will possess. The establishment of a similar commission — the Truth Commission — formed a central component of the 1992 peace settlement in neighbouring El Salvador. Yet, El Salvador's death squads continue to operate, killing 37 opposition figures during the country's recent elections. Equally there have been precious few prosecutions for human rights abuses arising out of the Truth Commission's findings. And Salvador's new President, Calderon Sol, has been named frequently as both a financial

and intellectual author of dead squad murders.

It is blatantly obvious that the Guatemalan army and their ruling elite masters would have much to lose, should the proposed commission become fully effective. It is also probable that they have learnt, from the example of El Salvador, how any such commission can be hamstrung and rendered ineffectual. Yet, above all, they will savour the PR benefits that will accrue from its establishment.

The country's ruling elite is remarkably adept at playing to the media gallery. Ramiro De Leon Carpio, the current President of Guatemala, is a case in point.

Carpio came to power exactly one year ago this month. His predecessor, Jorge Serrano, fell because he became a political liability for the army. In May 1993 he suspended the constitution and declared he would rule by decree. Having already condemned a similar move by Peruvian President Fujimori, a few months previously, the US were left with no option.

They terminated aid to Guatemala, valued at approximately one million dollars a week.

By June Serrano was gone, Carpio installed, and US aid reactivated. As a former human rights ombudsman, Carpio had frequently criticised the Guatemalan military. His elevation to the presidency was thus hailed as a new beginning for the country's long-suffering population, the initiation of a return to effective civilian rule. Interestingly, alone among the chorus of congratulation was one dissenting voice — that of Rigoberta Menchu.

In essence she pointed out that it was the institutions of Guatemala that needed changing, not the personnel at the top. Furthermore in 1985, when Guatemala's military began to define increasing international opposition to outright military rule, they had been cunning enough to 'allow' elections to take place. Thus their bloody rule continued behind a very effective 'democratic' facade.

Once in office, Carpio underwent a transformation. His first budget last year allocated twice as much to the military as to either Education or Health. Guatemala has witnessed serious outbreaks of cholera and other diseases of the poor in recent years. In November 1993 Carpio told a US news programme that certain army units — which he had previously criticised — had proven to be expert counter-insurgents. Without them, he said, Guatemala would have been lost.

In the first three months of Carpio's new regime army death squads carried out 46 extra-judicial executions, while a further eight individuals were detained and subsequently 'disappeared'. However, the conventional wisdom was — and remains — that all was well with Guatemala.

The perpetrators of human rights abuses in Guatemala are easily identifiable; they wear olive green clothing. The intellectual authors are less distinguishable but, give size of the country's small ruling elite, it wouldn't require a genius to track them down. Is it possible that their identities will soon be obscured in a deluge of reports and official findings?



● At least one million internal refugees have been created in Guatemala due to the military's murderous assault on the population

A long, long way from Clare to there

■ BY MAIRTIN Mac DIARMADA

THERE ARE many thousands of Irish visitors on the far side of the Atlantic at the moment experiencing the New World for the first time. But the World Cup America they see is not so different from home and when all is said it is not the oceans that are the real barriers in our world today but the massive gulf that separates rich and poor — the developed world from the deprived.

This little book is a story from the real far side, from the world we hear very little about — the world where the majority of the human race live, a world of poverty and oppression. Last year two young Irishmen, one from Clare and one from Wexford, decided to spend a summer in Central Ameri-

ca. The Clareman kept a diary in Irish and English and it has been published in the form of a booklet.

Although only running to under 40 pages it is full of interest. Subtitled the "Bilingual (and other) adventures of John and Donal, Central America 1993" the "other" includes getting caught up

in the middle of a bank raid, climbing volcanos, being offered AKs for sale, meeting numerous "asshole" Yanks, and experiencing some strange religious services.

The lads also sampled much local brew and smoke and found themselves in some very shady joints — in at least two senses of that word. What is amazing is the number of Irish people they encountered in their travels. It is a true saying that wherever you go you meet them but these boys met the Irish in some of the most out of the way and unexpected places.



There is humour but there is also tragedy. The countries they visited — Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua between them have experienced war and genocide, hunger and oppression on a scale scarcely imaginable. That the holocaust is ultimately the responsibility

of the United States is the great truth about this region that is constantly censored — to the extent that we hear nothing of these countries except on the rarest of occasions. The author cuts through the lies and, without being preachy, tells it as it is. The diarist met many

people who told of their experiences of war, war that is still ongoing in one form or another (see article on Guatemala on this page). He and his companion were based mostly in Nicaragua and their news of the state of that country does not make for hopeful reading. Once again the dictates of US capital and foreign policy shattered people's efforts to build a better life. But in all these countries people are picking up the pieces and carrying on the fight. La lucha continua.

Make sure to add this book to your collection. All proceeds go to the Women's Pottery Co-op, based in Condego, Northern Nicaragua. ● *Ar an Taobh Eile — On the Far Side* by Seán O'Donail. Published by the author. Price £2.

Éalú go O Méith

Níl mórán bealach éalaithe fágtha ag duine ar bith atá ag iarraidh na bailitheoirí airgid d'imeachtaí urraithe a sheachaint.

Le mí anuas rug daoine orm féin d'urraíocht faoi choinne spraoi-rásaí éagsúla, siúlóid ar chnoic Bhéal Feirste agus léimneach bunjee, cibé ciall atá le bunjee.

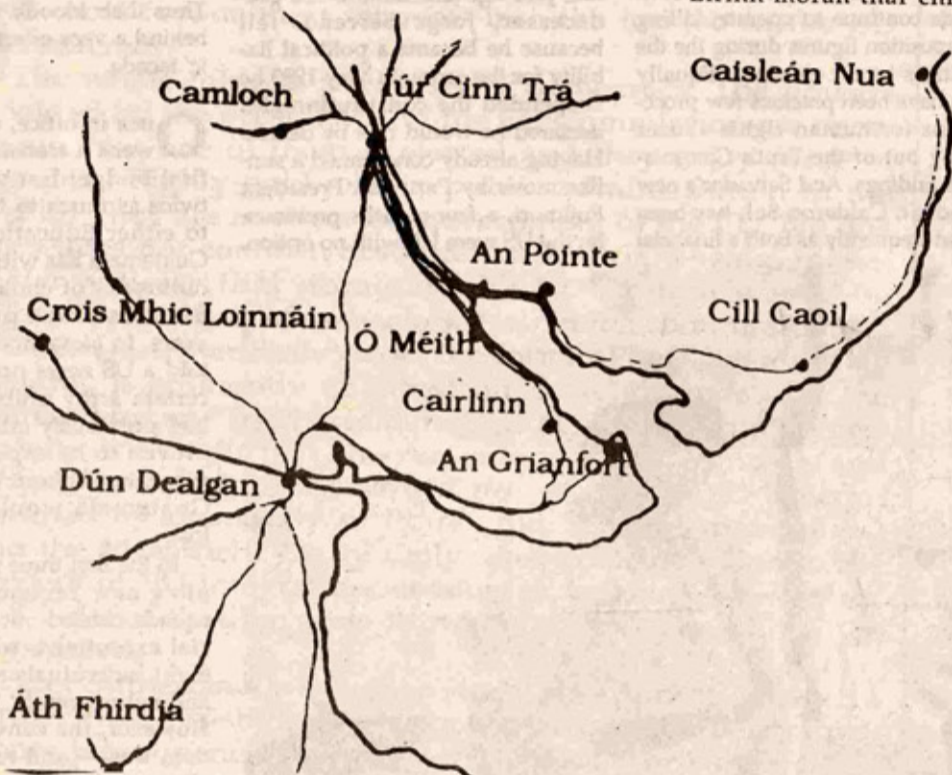
Le tamall chonacthas dom go raibh an oiread sin de na carachtair seo thart a bhí sásta brúidiúlacht a fhulaingt gur leasc liom mo ghuthán nó mo dhóras a fhreagairt ar eagla go raibh a thuilleadh de lucht na hurraíochta ar mo thóir.

Agus an dtuigeann duine ar bith an phian uilig a mbaineann le bunús na n-imeachtaí urraithe? An mbaineann sé le creideamh nó leis an dearcadh nach ndéanann a bheagán péine dochar duit?

Ní thagaimse féin leis an dearcadh sin ar chor ar bith. Má tá daoine le beart a dhéanamh 'ar son na cúise' cad chuige nach féidir leo codladh go headroma.

Caithfidh mé admháil áfach go mbíonn imeachtaí Roinn an Chultúir go mór chun tosaigh ar bhunús na ngrúpaí eile a théann i mbun imeachtaí urraithe ó thaobh pléisiúir de.

Níl mé ag rá go bhfuil siad fairfe. Leoga bíonn spraoi-rás damánta dá chuid féin acu don Ghaelscolaíocht. Ach tá na Gaeilgeoirí cliste go leor an obair a fhágáil faoi na cimit, dream atá cleachtaithe agus fiú tugtha don sórt sin íobairte.



Ach is é an dreapadh urraithe de chuid na roinne an cruthúnas nach bhfuil cuileoga ar bith ar de Brún agus a banna.

Nuair a luaitear dreapadh liom samhláim Tenzing agus Hilary ar eadáin Everest go dtí an smig i sneachta agus na Yeti ag amharc go fiosrach orthu. Chím go soiléir na daoine sin a chuireann lámh ina mbás féin nuair a théann siad i mbun sléibhte na hAlban i Mí Eanáir gan d'éadaigh orthu ach T-Léinte Chorn Domhain.

Ach níl rud ar bith ró-mhaslach Anó rófhuinniúil ag baint le dreapadh Roinn an Chultúir. Sa chéad dul síos níl sliabh ar bith in Éirinn mórán thar chnocán de

chuid Nepal agus bíonn níos mó sneachta i bhfuinneog Arnotts úm Nollag ná mar a bhíonn ar shléibhte na hÉireann sa samhradh is fuaire.

Lena chois sin roghnaítear na 'sléibhte' don dreapadh go cúramach. Déantar grinnschrúdú ar an háiseanna ólacháin, bia agus siamsa i ngar do na sléibhte sula gceadaítear do na dreapadóirí dul sa bhearna baoil.

Mar sin bhailigh slua de 60 dreapadóirí ar an O Méith, Contae Lú, Dé Sathairn seo caite, 25 Meitheamh, leis an lámh in uachtar a fháil ar na cnoic inar iomáin Cú Chulainn agus é ag glacadh sosa idir catha fuilteacha.

Cé go raibh an banna ann le hairgead a thógáil do scéimeanna na roinne creidim i ndáiríre go raibh siad ann leis na bailitheoirí airgid uilig a sheachaint. B'fhéidir nach raibh siad ann ach le háilleacht an cheantair thart ar Shliabh Fóighe a fheicáil.

Cibé ar bith, dream beag misniúil a bhí i ndreapadóirí na bliana seo. D'éirigh leo teacht le chéile d'ainneoin go raibh an chuid is mó acu ag fulaingt as tinnis cinn a shaothraigh siad i dtábhairní na tíre le linn chluiche Chorn Domhain na hÉireann Dé hAoine. Níor ghéill siad don tinneas cinn nó don díoma a lean an chailliúint in aghaidh Mheicsiceó.

Níor ghéill na dreapadóirí ach oiread don chathú gan an dreapadh a dhéanamh ar chor ar bith. Dá mbeadh ciall ar bith acu chuirfeadh siad an dreapadh ar ceal agus rachadh siad chuig an teach siamsa is gairide. B'fhurasta daoibh pictiúir a thaispeáint do dhaoine ón dreapadh deireanach le cruthú gur shaothraigh siad a

gcuid urraíochta. An aithneofa an difear idir sliabh i Maigh Eó agus ceann eile i gContae Lú? Nár chuma leat fad is go n-imeodh an bailitheoir cosa in airde ó do dhóras lena phunt ina phóca aige gan a thuilleadh urraíochta do scéim craiceáilte eile a iarraidh ort.

Ach i sean traidisiún na Apoblachtóirí ní dhearna na dreapadóirí an rud ab'fhusa. Shocraigh siad dul i mbun na gnoithe. Chuaigh cuid acu le haoibh an gháire orthu ach 'féadann tú bheith cinnte de go raibh siad briste brúite ina gcróí istigh. Ach bhí go leor den dream dúthrachtach údaí ann a mbaineann sult as an fhulaingt.

Bhain siad barr 'an tsléibhe' amach gan aon agó. Chaith siad tamall ansin ag breathnú siar ar an cheantar thart ar Loch na Cairlinne. Bhí séisiún ar leith ag comhairleoirí Shinn Féin a bhí i measc an tslua, Brendan Curran, Francie Molloy agus Mícheál Ferguson. Dúradh go raibh siad ag plé freagra Shinn Féin ar Chomhfhógra Shráid Downing agus is dóiche ná sin go raibh siad ag plé áiseanna ólacháin an cheantair.

Is ar na háiseanna sin a dhíriigh bunús an dreama a n-aird nuair a tháinig siad anuas chun terra firma arís.

D'éirigh go seoigh leis an imeacht ar fad agus níor chuir fiú trioblóidí chlann Mhic Shiacaís lena bpuball scamall ar an chraic.

Dúirt ceannaire Roinn an Chultúir Bairbre de Brún go mbeidh dreapadh eile ann ar an bhliain seo chugainn agus go mbeidh siad ag iarraidh urraíocht a fháil idir an dá linn faoi choinne puball atá ábalta an fheartainn a chur ó dhóras do Jake agus Chrissie.

Má tá puball le sparáil agat thig leat é a chur chuig Marcas Mac Ruairí, Teach Uí Chonghailé, Br Bhaile Andarsain, Béal Feirste 11.

Cúrsa Teilifíse ar fáil i mBéal Feirste

Agus tús Theilifís na Gaeilge ag teannadh linn tá Gaeil Bhéal Feirste ag déanamh a n-ullmhúchán féin chun páirt iomlán a imirt sa ré nua craoltóireachta.

Tá comhlacht teilifíse de chuid Ghaeil na cathrach Léiriú Loch Lao ag eagrú cúrsa traenála do Ghaeil a bhfuil dúil acu i ndéanamh chlár teilifíse.

Tá socrú déanta ag Léiriú Loch Lao le déantóirí neamhspleácha clár Northern Visions chun a chuid treallamh scannánaíochta a úsáid le linn an tsamhraidh chun glúin nua déantóirí a thraenáil.

Cé nach mbeidh Teilifís na Gaeilge le fáil sna Sé Chontae nuair a thagann sé ar an aer ar an bhliain seo chugainn ba mhaith le Léiriú Loch Lao bheith réidh le clár a sholáthar don tseirbhís nua.

Meastar go dtiocfaidh dhá dtrian dé na clár do Theilifís na Gaeilge ón roinn neamhspleách den tionscal scannánaíochta. Tá súil ag Léiriú Loch Lao go ndéanfar cuid de na clár seo ó thuaidh.

Arsa urlabhraí an ghrúpa:

"Dúirt Aire Ealaíona, Cultúir agus Gaeltachta na 26 Chontae Mícheál D O hUiginn ar na mallaibh gur mhian leis go mbeadh pobal Gaeilge na Sé Chontae lán pháirteach sa tseirbhís nua.

"Mar sin tá muid ag iarraidh ar an stáisiún nua ar a laghad stiúideo amháin a lonnú sna Sé Chontae.

"Bhéarfadh sin faill do Ghaeil na Sé Chontae clár a dhéanamh a mbaineann lena saol féin.

"Tá muid ag tairiscint an chúrsa seo ionas go mbeidh go leor daoine oile anseo le hinchur an phobail Ghaeilge sna Sé Chontae a chinntiú i dTeilifís na Gaeilge."

Má tá suim ag duine ar bith bheith ina Richard Attenborough óg nó más maith leat dul i gcleachtadh leis an nua theicneolaíocht teilifíse déan teagmháil le Pilib Mac Cathmhaoil ar 239303, (Béal Feirste).

Lao ar leith in Uganda

Rugadh lao ar leith in Uganda, i gcroílár na hAfraice, ar na mallaibh. Is é an 100ú lao a shaoilaigh bó Éireannach san Afraic ó cuireadh Bóthar ar bun dhá bhliain go leith ó shin. Is Gníomhaireacht Tríú Domhain Bóthar a sholáthraíonn na hacmhainní do chlanna bochta lena bhfadhbanna a réiteach. Bronnann Bóthar bearach trom le lao do chlann chomh maith leis an oiliúint agus agus an tacaíocht le

haire a thabhairt don ainmí.

Cuidíonn an bainne ón bhó le haiste bia na clainne agus díolann siad an bainne breise. Amanna s'é an bhó an chéad seans a bhí ag na clanna seo riamh chun ioncam a shaothrú. Tugann an t-ioncam faill don chlann oideachas a thabhairt dá chuid páistí.

Tugtar an chéad lao do chlann eile sa chomharsanacht leis na buntaistí a scaipeadh. San Afraic is féidir le bó amháin clann iomlán a chothú.

O cuireadh Bóthar ar bun chuir breis is 200 clann, daoine aon-aireacha, grúpaí pobail agus comhluchtaí in Éirinn bó chun na hAfraice chuig clanna bochta.

Méadaítear ar an tairbhe a mbaintear as an scéim ach an bhliain le breith gach lao úr.

Más maith leat a thuilleadh eolais ar Bóthar déan teagmháil le Peter Ireton nó Elaine Cosgrove in oifig Bóthar, 99 Sráid O Conaill, Luimneach. Fón (061) 338269/414142. Facs (061) 315833.



BALLRAÍOCHT SHINN FÉIN

Is é bunaidhm Shinn Féin aistharraingt na Breataine ó na Sé Chontae, athaontú ár dtíre agus bunadh phoblacht shóisialach dhaonlathach.

Más mian leat bheith i do bhall de Shinn Féin, nó tuilleadh eolais a fháil faoi Shinn Féin nó ár ngníomhartha agus ár bpolasaithe, líon an fhoirm thíos agus seol é chuig Sinn Féin, 44 Cearnóg Parnell, Baile Atha Cliath 1.

Ainm.....

Seoladh.....

.....

.....

News

Congressional committee calls for bail

■ BY LIAM O COILEAIN

Nineteen members of the United States Congress, who form the Ad Hoc Committee on Ireland, have signed a letter to US Attorney General Janet Reno protesting that the four Irishmen being held in San Francisco on foot of British extradition warrants are still being held without bail.

Jimmy Smyth, Kevin Barry Artt, Pól Brennan and Terry Kirby, collectively known as the H-Block Four, escaped from Long Kesh in 1983. Arrested by the FBI in the United States, they all face extradition proceedings. A verdict is currently being awaited in Jimmy Smyth's District Court case.

The congressional representatives state in their letter that they have "a number of problems with the handling of these cases by the Department of Justice", but cite the bail issue as being "of immediate concern". They specifically protest that the department has repeatedly appealed decisions by District Court Judge Barbara Caulfield to grant

Jimmy Smyth bail "despite the facts that \$1.5 million had been posted on his behalf and he had been initially free on bail for five months without violating any of the terms of his release". The committee goes on to say that no "Irish person charged with a similar offence and admitted to bail has ever violated the terms of his or her release".

"These men have committed no crimes in the US," the letter continues, "and have families and strong ties to their communities. The committee, pointing out that none of the four have more than five and a half years left to serve of their original sentences in the Six Counties, says that "given our experience in the

case of Joe Doherty, it is likely that, without bail, they could spend more than that amount of time in prison in the US and be given no credit for time served, should they eventually be extradited"

The letter is the latest round in a long fight over bail for the four Irishmen. Smyth has been released on several occasions without incident. On the first occasion he was released to help with his defence, but that was rescinded when the Justice Department appealed to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. In a controversial move, the department passed an appeal from the British government that the bail be rescinded to one of the Appeal Court judges.

Smyth has had several short-term releases due to a serious medical condition which was not receiving proper attention from the prison's health-care system. None of the other three men, including Kevin Barry Artt, arrested the same day as Smyth two years ago, have been released.



● TERRY KIRBY



● KEVIN BARRY ARTT



● PÓL BRENNAN



● JIM SMYTH

Signing up for Travellers' rights

■ BY LIAM O COILEAIN

AN END TO second-class citizenship for Ireland's Travelling community has been called for in a petition of 8,300 signatures presented to the Dublin Minister for Equality and Law Reform Mervyn Taylor.

The petition was presented at a press conference in Dublin on Thursday, 23 June, organised by the Irish Traveller Movement (ITM), an umbrella group for organisations representing Travellers and their supporters in the settled community throughout the state.

The signatures were collected nationwide, as well as from some 24 Gypsy and Traveller organisations throughout Europe and the umbrella International Romani Union. Those also endorsing the call include a large number of Irish organisations and celebrities and delegates representing 21 countries and the European parliament, collected at the First Gypsy Congress of the European Union held in Seville last month.

Thursday's conference heard that systematic second-class citizenship — quotas on numbers tolerated in any given area, children refused admission to school or relegated to separate classes, violent

reprisals on the group as a whole for transgressions by its individual members and nonadmission into public places — is something many Irish people find abhorrent abroad, yet fail to recognise in themselves and their practices at home.

The petition calls for new laws banning discrimination by both public and private bodies, tackling situations where discrimination is a result of policies pursued or conditions imposed, and positive recognition and resourcing of Travellers' way of life, culture and identity. ITM has also called for the setting up of an independent Human Rights Commission with the power to investigate cases and to recommend changes in the law, a development which they feel will benefit all groups and individuals subject to discriminatory treatment.

"Because we are such a tiny minority, 0.5%, we need other voices to say what is happening is



● Thomas McCann of the Irish Travellers' Movement speaking at the press conference to call for an end to second-class citizenship for Travellers

wrong," said Michael McDonagh of the Navan Travellers' Group.

"People use the words racism and prejudice — but do they realise the end result of that — the deaths of babies? The Travelling community has three times the infant mortality rate of the settled community. Ten per cent of all cot deaths are Traveller babies. These statistics are a direct result of discrimination."

Accepting the petition, Mervyn Taylor said that he was in the process of introducing two bills, one on equal status, the second on employment equality, which he said would tackle discrimination. He promised these would specifically

cover discrimination against the Travelling community and claimed the bills would produce "far greater progress as far as discrimination in relation to Travellers is concerned since the very foundation of this state".

The Employment Equality Bill would be published this year and the Equal Status Bill next year according to Taylor, who also mentioned his department's Task Force on the Travelling community, which has been examining Travellers' needs "and how these needs are being met or not met by official policy".

Brid O'Brien of the ITM, commenting on the minister's contribution, said that they would like to see the legislation introduced sooner. She added that when the legislation is published she would be interested to hear the minister's response to questions raised at the press conference in relation to institutionalised discrimination, such as Travellers being refused in bars, separated from settled mothers in maternity hospitals and forced to sign on at separate times from settled people.

"The state has an enormous role to play in tackling this through educating settled people in a positive way about Travelling people."

Derry Volunteers honoured

AT THE ANNUAL commemoration for the Volunteers of the IRA's Derry Brigade, Sinn Féin Ard Chomhairle member Martin McGuinness spoke of his revulsion at the comments of British Direct Ruler Patrick Mayhew following the Loughinisland killings.

This year's anniversary, on Sunday, 26 June, coincided with the anniversary of the deaths of the first three Derry IRA Volunteers who died in this phase of the struggle, Joe Coyle, Tommy McCool and Tommy Carlin.

Addressing the commemoration, McGuinness said that considering Mayhew's involvement in the Nelson case he found his television appearance "completely nauseating" and that "nationalists should not forget that those men were killed by British guns".

"The AK47 rifles used to murder six nationalists and wound

five more in Loughinisland were part of a consignment brought into the North from South Africa by Brian Nelson." McGuinness challenged the British authorities to reveal the forensic results of weapons used in recent loyalist killings which would prove this fact.

McGuinness pointed out that Nelson could have revealed the inner workings of Britain's shady dealing in Ireland, instead "Mayhew ensured that Nelson got a light sentence in return for his silence".

"There is nothing new in the

fact that the British government is using loyalist killers as their proxies, the history of British collusion with loyalist death squads stretches back 25 years. Incidents such as the 1974 Dublin/Monaghan bombings are only the tip of the iceberg.

"Those who describe such killings as reactive and 'tit-for-tat' are working to a British government agenda in failing to confront the truth."

The killings, said McGuinness, were part of a British strategy aimed at demoralising and confusing nationalists. He pointed out that recent attacks in the 26 Counties have come at a time when the Dublin government is taking an active interest in finding a resolution to the problem of partition. The British intelligence services



● Nationalists marching to remember the commitment and sacrifice of Derry Brigade Volunteers at the annual march on Sunday, 26 June

are now deploying loyalist killer squads in the South in order to scare Dublin politicians.

Concluding his speech, McGuinness paid tribute to the families of the Derry Volunteers, 49 of whom have died, and said

that no one should underestimate the commitment and sacrifice of the Volunteers who died, their families, and those republicans who have struggled against massive odds to make the dream of a united, free Ireland a reality.

Letters/Notices

Mála Poist... Mála Poist... Mála Poist... Mála Poist... Mála Poist...

Lessons from elections

A Chairde,

The results of the 26-County local government elections show significant improvements in Sinn Féin's vote. These are the most important elections for Sinn Féin, as local government is the tier of government closest to the people. It is also the easiest one for a small party like ours to make gains in, as you are dealing with small electoral areas.

Sinn Féin's thrust, North and South, is correctly focussed on the national question. However, I believe we must create a better profile for our policies and work on social and economic issues, especially in the 26 Counties. This would help us to build a real 32-County party.

As a means of starting this work, I am proposing the following:

■ That AP/RN gives more coverage to social, economic and environmental issues in the 26 Counties. We cannot moan

about the coverage we get in the media on these issues if our own paper gives them little coverage. Half a page out of 16 is just not enough!

■ That Ard Oifig would start sending out short (one page) briefing documents to PROs, councillors etc on relevant issues. For example:

What is urban renewal?
Housing figures for each county for the last ten years;
How much is the national debt?

Figures on the IDA budget and job creation;

Breakdown of EU structural funds;

■ That councillors and PROs should refer to this information and Sinn Féin policy and push them at every opportunity.

■ That all our publications should be used to highlight the economic madness of partition and the economic benefits of self-determination.

Brian Stanley,
Portlaoise,
Contae Laoise.

Shipyard walkout

A Chairde,

The coverage of the sectarian murder of shipyard worker Maurice O'Kane (AP/RN 16 June) was both shortsighted and negative. A lengthy account of the persecution of Catholic workers in Harland and Wolff was provided.

It is this history of persecution that makes the walkout of 2,000 workers in response to the murder so important. It was a positive aftermath to a very twisted act and yet AP/RN blithely skipped over it. There is no doubting the long record of sectarianism at Harland and Wolff but it is equally certain that one of the most anti-sectarian statements ever made by its workforce deserves more than the passing mention it received in your report.

Dave Murphy,
Dublin.

Devious words

A Chairde,

Please allow me, through your paper, to address the readership.

I draw your attention to the "statement by the Northern Ireland Office" in response to Sinn Féin's questions. Paragraph four states: "To join the political dialogue with the two governments, parties were not required to accept the joint declaration. They were required only to declare and demonstrate a permanent end to violence, and to abide by the democratic process."

In those words, the British government have placed Sinn Féin in the position of control and management of the armed struggle. Otherwise, how could Sinn Féin declare a permanent end to violence.

While Sinn Féin remains muted on such words they are accepting the implications of such a statement.

To counteract such treacherous and devious manipulation

of words, I would ask that the leadership of Sinn Féin spell it out loud and clear, that they are not in control of the armed struggle.

Again, I would draw their attention to the treacherous intent implicit in such words and remind them of who they are dealing with.

Ex-POW,
County Down.

Euro motion on jobs bias

A Chairde,

The European Parliament in April 1994 unanimously adopted a resolution on discrimination in employment in Northern Ireland.

This resolution confirmed what Equality campaigners have been saying — namely, that in the absence of goals and timetables, the employment situation for northern Catholics has not substantially improved under present legislation.

It also puts forward, as

human rights workers in Ireland have consistently done, suggestions for eliminating unfair employment practices and thus contributing to peace.

This European Parliament resolution has not been sufficiently discussed or treated urgently by any bodies, government or other, in Ireland. For those who want to help bring about democratic change in the North, it is essential that a European Parliament resolution be attended to and made to work.

Otherwise, we shall be doing the same thing we have done about United Nations resolutions concerning other conflicts — letting them remain a dead letter until it is too late for anything except regrets.

A copy of the resolution will be sent to anyone who wishes to have it.

Desmond Wilson,
6/7 Springhill Close,
Belfast,
BT12 7SE
Tel. 326722/Fax 233342.

Imeachtaí

BALLYMURPHY SEVEN PICKET: Every Saturday, 2-4pm, O'Connell Bridge, DUBLIN

BENEFIT GIG: Free Frank Johnson. 8pm, Friday, 1 July, Kennedy Hall, Murray Street, LONDON. Admission £3.50/£2.50

PUBLIC MEETING: "British Withdrawal

and the Search for Peace. 8pm, Wednesday, 6 July, Mansion House, DUBLIN. Speakers: Robert Ballagh, Ken Livingstone MP, Tony Moriarty and Caitriona Ruane. Organised by the Time for Peace — Time to Go Campaign

PUBLIC MEETING: "Ireland's British Problem", 7.30pm, Thursday, 7 July, Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, LONDON. Speaker: Gerry McLaughlin, Wolfe Tone Society

TYRONE VOLUNTEERS COMMEMORATIVE DAY: Wednesday, 13 July. Activities begin at 3pm with a sponsored walk from Dungannon to Galbally; 4pm Volunteer Martin Hurson Cup Final (ladies section); 5.30pm Volunteer Martin Hurson Cup Final (men's section); 7pm parade from football pitch in GALBALLY to the grave of Volunteer Martin Hurson. Marching bands and prominent speakers; 9.30pm function in Galbally. Music by A Bit Of Crack. Everyone welcome. Organised by the Tyrone National Graves Association

I nDíl Chuimhne

CARLIN, Thomas; COYLE, Brian; COYLE, Joseph; FINUCANE, John; JORDAN, Tony; MCCOOL, Thomas; McILHONE, Henry; O'NEILL, Terence; QUINN, Denis; TEER, Patrick. In proud and loving memory of Volunteers Thomas Carlin (died 27 June 1970), Brian Coyle (died 30 June 1976), Joseph Coyle (died 27 June 1970), John Finucane (died 28 June 1972), Tony Jordan (died 28 June 1972), Thomas McCool (died 27 June 1970), Henry McIlhone (died 27 June 1970), Terence O'Neill (died 1 July 1980), Denis Quinn (died 3 July 1972) and Patrick Teer (died 2 July 1974). "I leave for the guidance of other Irish revolutionaries, who may tread the path which I trod, this advice — never to treat with the enemy, never to surrender at his mercy, but to fight to a finish." — Eamonn Ceannt. Proudly remembered by their friends and comrades in the Republican Movement.

CRAIG, Gerard; RUSSELL, David (20th Ann). In proud and loving memory of Volunteers Gerard Craig and David Russell, Derry Brigade, Oglagh na hÉireann, who died on active service on 24 June 1974. Mary Queen of the Gael pray for them. From his sisters Bernadette, brother-in-law Leo and family.

FINUCANE, John (22nd Ann). In proud and loving memory of Volunteer John Finucane, who was killed on 28 June 1972. Always remembered by Martin Finucane.

FINUCANE, John (22nd Ann). In proud and loving memory of Volunteer John Finucane, who was killed on 28 June 1972. Always remembered by Dermot Finucane and all the Finucane family.

FINUCANE, John (22nd Ann). In proud and loving memory of Volunteer John Finucane, who was killed on 28 June 1972. Mary Queen of the Gael and sweet Jesus keep him in your loving care. Always remembered by George L Gilhooly and family, Springfield, Massachusetts, USA.

McILHONE, Henry (24th Ann). The Republican Movement Short Strand and Markets remember with pride Volunteer Henry McIlhone, who was killed while defending the Short Strand on 27 June 1970. Greater love hath no man than to lay down his life for his friends.

O'NEILL, Terence (14th Ann). In loving memory of my husband, Volunteer Terence (Teddy) O'Neill, who was killed on active service on 1 July 1980. St Martin pray for him. Mass offered. A golden heart stopped beating, two smiling eyes at rest, God broke my heart to prove to me he only takes the best. You had a smile for everyone, you had a heart of gold, you left me the sweetest memories the world could ever hold.

Always loved and remembered by your wife Mary.

O'NEILL, Terence (14th Ann). In loving memory of my daddy, Volunteer Terence (Teddy) O'Neill, who was killed on active service on 1 July 1980. St Martha pray for him. Lord look around your garden for a daddy with a smile, for that daddy was mine, he must stand out a mile. Pick the sweetest roses Lord and place them on his knee, kiss him gently on the cheek and tell him its from me. Always loved and remembered, by your daughter Sinéad.

O'NEILL, Terence (14th Ann). In loving memory of my son-in-law Volunteer Terence (Teddy) O'Neill, who was killed on 1 July 1980. St Anthony pray for him. Mass offered. Memories are lovely things, they last from day to day, they can never be lent, never be spent, and never be taken away. Teddy, you will be remembered always. From your father-in-law Andy.

O'NEILL, Terence (14th Ann). In loving memory of my brother-in-law, Volunteer Terence (Teddy) O'Neill, who was killed on active service on 1 July 1980. His nature was living and giving, his was one of gold, to us who loved and lost him, his memory will never grow old. Forgive us Lord if we ask why the thorn's live and the roses die. Always remembered by your sister-in-law and brother-in-law Martine, Desy and family.

O'NEILL, Terence (14th Ann). In loving memory of my brother-in-law Volunteer Terence (Teddy) O'Neill, who was killed on active service on 1 July 1980. Along the road to yesterday that leads us straight to you, are memories of happy days together we once knew. Never more than a thought away, loved and remembered. From your sister-in-law and brother-in-law Annmarie and James.

O'NEILL, Terence (14th Ann). In loving memory of my brother-in-law Volunteer Terence (Teddy) O'Neill, who was killed on active service on 1 July 1980. If anyone should ask me why I thought the world of you, I would give a million reasons and each one would be true. To those who loved and lost you, your memory will never grow old, they are more precious than silver and gold. Always loved and remembered by your brother-in-law and sister-in-law Margaret, Joe and family.

Comhbhrón

BOLGER. Deepest sympathy is extended to our friend and comrade Ken (Portlaoise) and family on the death of their uncle Seán. From Matt, Anto, Paudge and Ciarán (Portlaoise) and Gerry, Jobstown.

DOHERTY. Deepest sympathy is extended to Ann and the family and friends of Volunteer Martin Doherty, who bravely died defending innocent people from a loyalist

death squad. From Harry Duggan, Noel Gibson, Stephen Nordone, Paul Norney, Vincent Donnelly, Joe McVenny, Natalina Vella, Nicky Mullin, Seán Cruickshank and Pairic Mac Fhloinn, POWs, Frankland Prison, England.

McDOWELL. The Republican Movement Short Strand and Markets and the republican prisoners from Short Strand and Markets offer their deepest sympathies to the McDowell family on the death of their mother Agnes. Mary Queen of the Gael pray for her.

REGAN. Sincere sympathy is extended to Wacker and family on the death of his mother. From Pado, Helen and Kevin, Barry and Taffe.

REGAN. Sincere sympathy is extended to Wacker and family on the death of his mother. From Seán Mac Brádaigh.

REGAN. Sincere sympathy is extended to Wacker and family on the death of his mother. From the Russell/McDonnell Sinn Féin Cumann, Dublin Central; From Cole/Colley Sinn Féin Cumann, Coolock; From Comhairle Limistéir Atha Cliath, Sinn Féin.

Beannachtaí

CONGRATULATIONS to Paul Hughes and Seán Hick on their release from jail in Germany and we wish them and their families all the best in the future. We would also like to send a solidarity message to Donna Maguire and her family and pray for her

NEW FROM Republican Publications

25th Anniversary of the deployment of British troops on Irish streets T-Shirt Price £6.
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Michael Gaughan poster. Price £1.
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from the last three decades for £4.

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Tel: 8726932 or Fax 8733441

release in the near future. From republican prisoners, Magilligan Jail.

Mac ARTHAIGH. Wishing you all the best on your birthday Ruairí (H5, Long Kesh), 6 July. You are in our thoughts always. With lots of love from your adopted mom Ingrid and your favourite redhead Kathy.

SHERRY. Birthday greetings on 30 June to Peter (Whitemoor). Happy birthday, daddy. Lots of love from your daughters, Orla and Emma; See you soon. Thinking of you on your birthday. Love Pat; Birthday greetings, from Martin (H4), Anne Marie and family.

Buíochas

JOE CORBETT and family wish to thank all of those who sympathised with them on the death of their mother Annie. Thank you to all of those who sent Mass cards, wreaths and floral tributes. They were greatly appreciated.

THANKS to everyone who sympathised with us on the recent tragic death of Elaine. Special thanks to the republican prisoners of war in various jails who sent us cards, to Sinn Féin in the Clogher Valley and Carrickmore area, and also to the Tyrone National Graves Association. Your kindness has been a constant source of comfort and strength to us. Go raibh maith agaibh uilig. From the McMahon and Treanor families.



● Jack's lads — Not the only boys in green



Glenn Miller." He continued: "I know Lara is a funny name for a Yorkshireman, but who ever heard of an Irishman called Cascarino?" Or an English runner called Zola Budd, Michael?

But for barefaced cheek, Sue Mott in the *Sunday Times* won hands down after the Mexico defeat. "In the wake of Ireland's World Cup defeat," she wrote, "it took a swash-buckling Jeremy Bates to restore patriotic pride in the British Isles."

Since then of course, Bates, the pride of British tennis, has been vanquished, but the Green Machine motors on. Roll on the next session.

DISPARAGING sentiments about Irish team selection procedures are not confined to our former colonial masters though. One daily columnist in the Brazilian newspaper, *Jornal do Brasil* has taken a violent dislike to the Irish contingent. Claiming that Charlton selects his players by the "Hey You" method, the hack explained that this involves Charlton going into Irish pubs at random, picking out those who have "a typical soccer player's face, or that of a criminal, or

preferably a combination of both".

"He then takes them to a nearby field where they start training, many still with their pint of Guinness in their hands," the columnist, who labours under the pseudonym Verissimo continued.

Perhaps the depth of his ire is explained by a poll of international soccer correspondents, who voted the Irish as the second most likely team to win the World Cup, just three votes behind Brazil, the bookies' favourites.

AN IRISH WORLD CUP fan who works for Shorts at Adunmurry has been suspended for wearing the team's colours to work on the day of the match against Mexico. Despite the fact that colleagues have turned up in

Rangers and Linfield jerseys and T-Shirts glorifying the SAS, without censure, the fan was penalised because the top contains a tricolour, which the company has deemed contravenes the company's ban on flags and emblems.

Among the T-Shirts worn with impunity by other workers at Shorts include one reading "SAS World Tour: Gibraltar 3 - 0".

THE BRITISH government's pollution inspectorate has ordered British Nuclear Fuels Ltd to tighten up safety procedures after two recorded releases of radioactivity into the air from the deadly Sellafield plant.

has been issued directing BNFL to complete a review and report back to the inspectorate by September. The emissions occurred in March and May during maintenance work on a laboratory and alterations to a ventilation stack.

An enforcement order

DOCUMENTS detailing undercover operations against that type of person who plants large bombs in the City of London have been discovered in a women's public toilet on the South Promenade at the popular British tourist resort of Blackpool.

Was this a wry comment on the state of British intelligence or were they just dumped there?

THE MacBRIDE Principles on fair employment were passed by the House of Representatives in the US State of Ohio on Tuesday night, 28 June.

Once the principles are accepted by the Senate, Ohio will become the 17th US state to back the principles by making them law.

FORMER Crumlin Road escapee and extradition victim, Tony Sloan, this week stands accused of yet another grievous offence — shooting his own dog.

Tony was out hunting rabbits with a few friends when the incident occurred. As he was about to let off a shot his friend helpfully called out "Mind the dog!"

"What dog?" asked Tony, as he shot his faithful friend in the face.

Happily for the unfortunate animal, his master's aim was characteristically off. Four pellets lodged but apart from a few pock marks, the hound will live to tell the tale.

Dúirt Siad

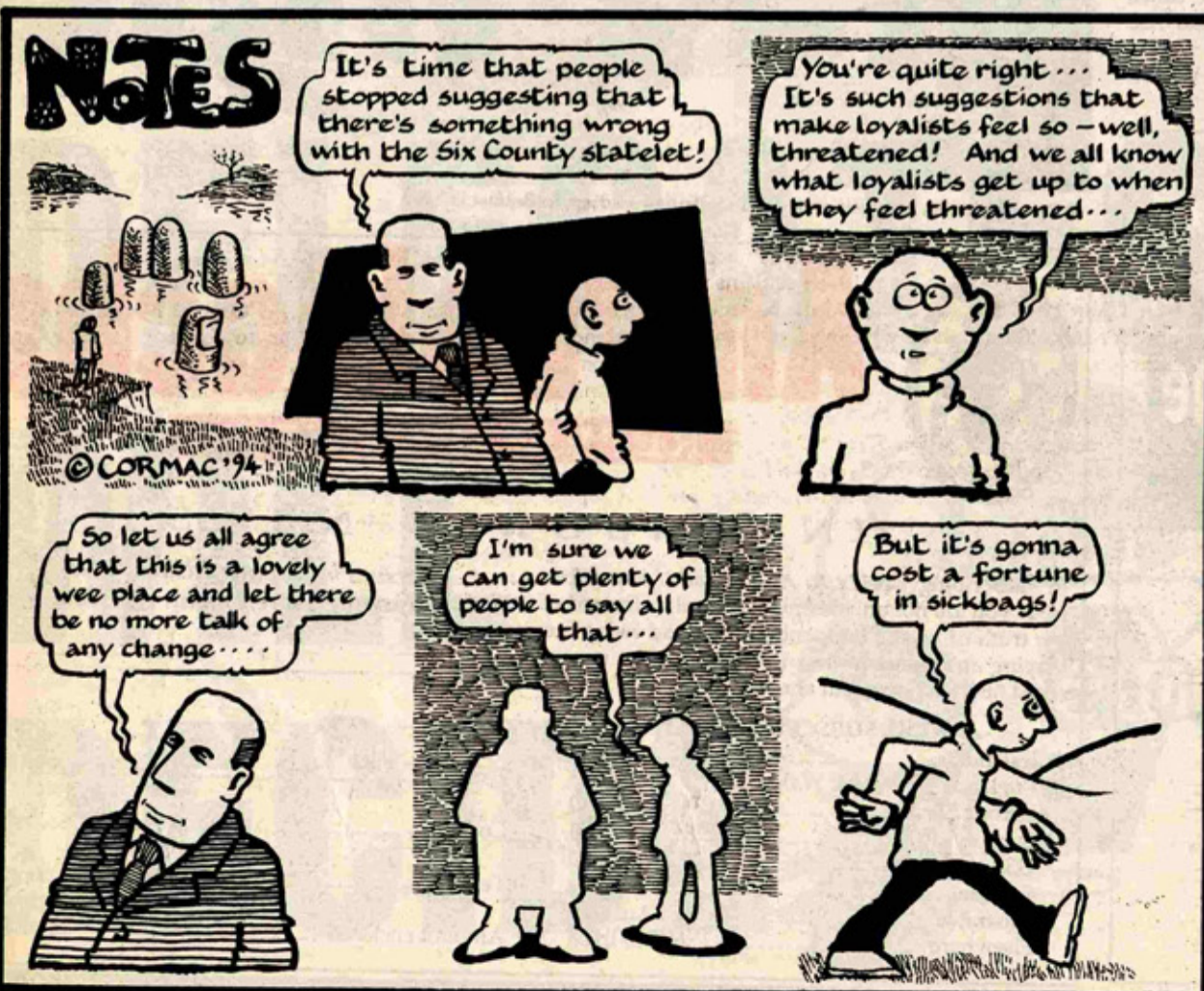
Internment must, will be opposed, because it is wrong, immoral, unjust — in fact the very antithesis of the democracy which Austin Currie and others say they hold so dear. It is also a recipe for disaster, a bureaucratic quick fix that assumes out of sight being a genuine solution because the 'usual suspects' are out of the way, once again, for the time being. — Historian and journalist Nollaig O Gadhra at the John Boyle O'Reilly Summer School in Drogheda, Irish Times, Monday, 27 June.

On a personal level I have no problem with John Major. I am not blind to his problems in Great Britain. I even have some pity for him. — Belgian Prime Minister Jean-Luc Dehaene on Britain's blocking of his candidacy for the presidency of the European Commission, Irish News, Monday, 27 June.

We are being asked for wage cuts by a management which can't even buy a bag of carrots at the right price. — Denis Smyth, chairperson of the craft union negotiators at TEAM, criticising Aer Lingus management demands in the light of disclosures that catering buyers had overpaid their suppliers by £12 million over a two-year period, Wednesday, 29 June.

In O'Connell Street the horns were blaring. They had their heroes there in the Easter Rising of 1916. But New York 1994 was what prompted these celebrations. Ireland had made it to the last 16 of the World Cup. — John Mullin in the Guardian after the deciding soccer game for Charlton's travelling circus, Wednesday, 29 June.

We have heard Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael politicians talking about power sharing in the North. If we can't agree here we cannot talk about discrimination anywhere else. — Sinn Féin member of Clones Urban District Council, Pat Treanor, challenging moves by other councillors to keep Sinn Féin out of the chair at its first meeting on Monday, 20 June. Treanor added that Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael, who combined to deny the Sinn Féin proposal of a rotating chair, were "splinter groups" of Sinn Féin.



News

'Outrageous' National Concert Hall decision

■ BY LIAM O COILEAIN

The Time For Peace — Time To Go campaign group has described as "a blow to any peaceful, nationalist campaign for Irish democracy" the decision by the National Concert Hall, supported by the High Court in Dublin, to cancel a concert organised by the body.

Time For Peace — Time To Go is a body set up to mark this year's 25th anniversary of the re-deployment of British troops in the Six Counties. It argues that a British withdrawal is central to the creation of a just and lasting peace in Ireland. The organisation had planned the gala concert, featuring traditional and classical musicians, as a major fundraiser for its campaign.

Artist and Irish National

Congress Chairperson Robert Ballagh and musician Cormac Breatnach failed in the High Court on Tuesday, 28 June, to prevent the management of the National Concert Hall from cancelling a booking for a gala concert in support of Irish nationalist demands for peace. Judge Costello accepted an affidavit from the management of the hall in which they cited an off the record briefing from the

Garda Special Branch that there would be a danger from loyalists on the night and afterwards for having staged the concert. This was despite the fact that both the plaintiffs' and defence affidavits contained a sworn statement from Garda Superintendent Eugene O'Shea, who said that security could be provided. No threats had been received from any loyalist group.

Describing the decision as "outrageous", Robert Ballagh pointed out that "this judgment was taken on the basis that the National Concert Hall's conditions of hire allow them to opt out of a contract if there is a threat of damage to the premises.

"There was, however, no threat to the National Concert Hall. The threat, if there was one, came from Garda Special Branch, who 'advised' the board of the concert hall that it would be a permanent target if the board allowed this concert of Irish music by Irish artists to go ahead. This is clearly a political decision based, not on law or conditions of hire, but on an attempt by the Garda Special Branch to suppress the political views of the Time For Peace — Time To Go campaign."

In a statement following the decision, the Time For Peace — Time To Go organisation described it as "a blow to any

peaceful, nationalist campaign for Irish democracy".

"Equally serious," it continued, "are the implications for civil liberties and the right to freedom of expression. The mere possibility of a threat from paramilitaries — and no such threat was actually made — was enough for an institution answerable to the government to cancel a contract for a musical celebration of Irish nationalism.

"Time For Peace — Time To Go will not be intimidated or suppressed by such blatant attacks on our freedom of expression or on our legitimate right to publicly mark the 25th anniversary of the redeployment of British troops on the streets of Northern Ireland."

Soldiers contradict one another on killing

ONE of the two soldiers involved in the killing of 18-year-old nationalist, Peter Paul McBride, has claimed that he aimed at the youth's lower back "as per instructions during training". The Scots Guardsman, James Fisher, later admitted during cross examination that shooting someone in the back would cause them serious injury and that this had been his intention when he shot at McBride.

Fisher (28) and his co-accused Mark Wright (21) were appearing at Belfast Crown Court this week. McBride was shot twice in the back as he ran from a footpatrol in the New Lodge Road area of Belfast on 4 September 1992. Both of the British soldiers gave conflicting reasons as to why they shot the teenager.

One said that he thought that McBride was about to throw a coffee-jar bomb at the patrol, while the other said that he thought McBride was going to shoot at the patrol. Both of these claims were made even though McBride had just been stopped, questioned and searched by a third member of the patrol.

The soldiers' commanding officer, identified only as Colonel A, defending his soldiers' actions, dismissed the prosecution's charge that Fisher and

Wright were kept away from the RUC officers who were investigating the murder.

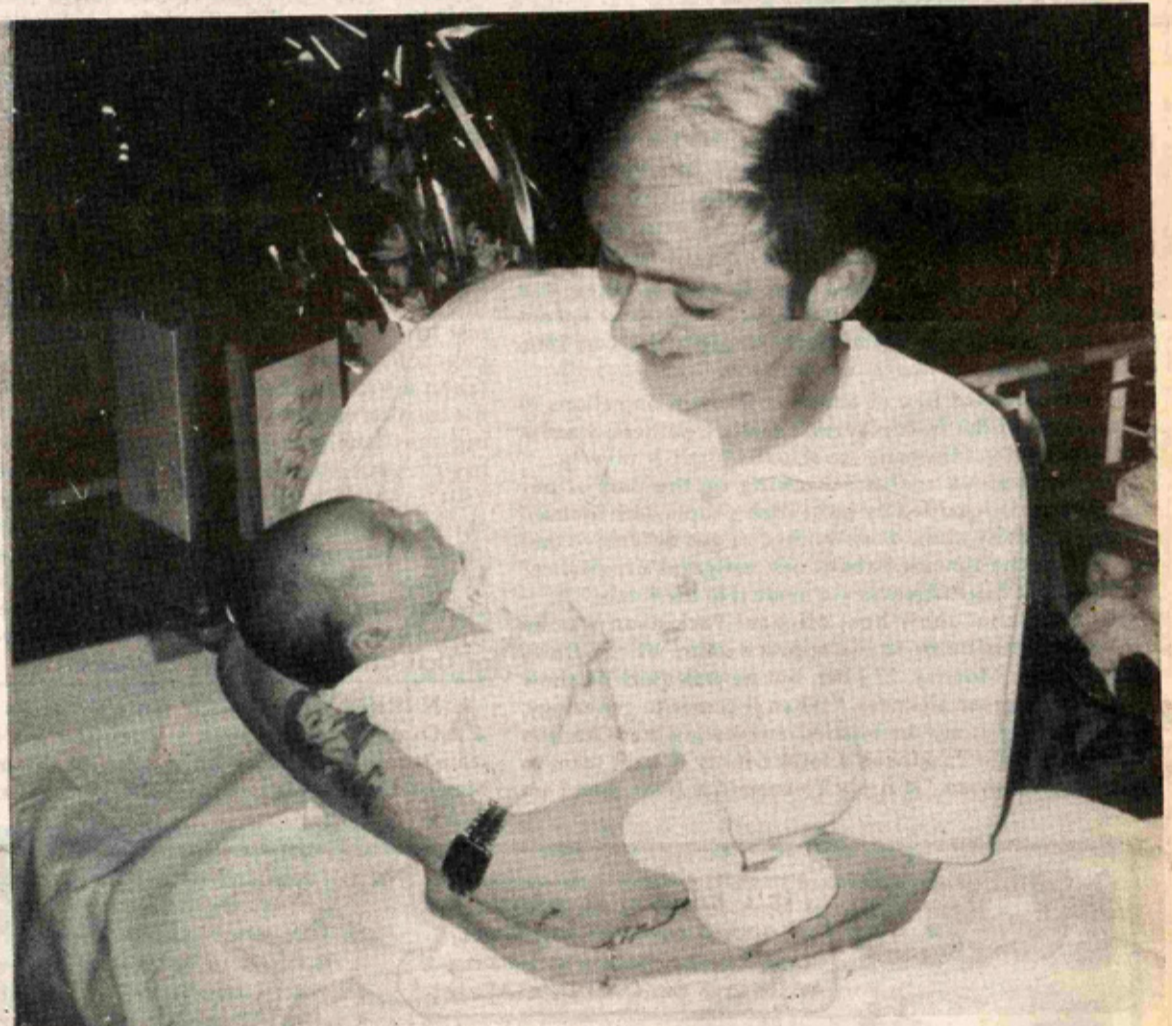
It was revealed in court during the trial that the two accused were not questioned about the murder until nearly 12 hours after the event occurred.

"This was enough time", claimed the prosecution, "to allow both men to concoct a story for their defence".

While giving his evidence Fisher denied that he shouted "Shoot the bastard!" as McBride ran away from the patrol.

However, several eyewitnesses claimed that he did shout such an instruction to his companion, Mark Wright, just before the two opened up on McBride. The two soldiers shot five times at the teenager as he fled the scene.

A verdict is expected within the next few days.



● Peter McBride, who was shot dead by British soldiers in Belfast in 1992



PUBLIC MEETING "British Withdrawal & The Search for Peace"

Mansion House, Dublin

Speakers:

ROBERT BALLAGH
KEN LIVINGSTONE, M.P.
TONY MORIARTY
CAITRIONA RUANE

Wed., 6 July, '94 8p.m.



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