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UIMH 249 EANÁIR — JANUARY 2008 <http://saoirse.info> 1.50 (£1stg, USA \$30 p.a.)

Vol Fearghal Ó hAnluain

Commemoration

Sunday, January 13,
2008, 2pm

Assemble: The Cathedral,
Monaghan
for march to Latlurgan
Cemetery

Óráid: Dan Hoban



REJECT THE EU CONSTITUTION!

AS a new year dawns all who believe in Ireland's right to national freedom must be prepared to take on the issues which 2008 brings.

Approaching the end of the first decade of the 21st Century the cause of a free Ireland has seldom faced bigger threats. The threats are twofold, the old imperialism of London in the form of continued British occupation of the Six Counties and the new imperialism of Brussels and the ongoing attempt to construct a militarised EU superstate.

2008 will see the campaign to normalise British rule in Ireland intensify. Over the past year we witnessed the staging of an England rugby game in Croke Park and the playing of the English national anthem. We also saw visits by the head of the British colonial Police Hugh Orde to former strongholds of resistance in Ballymurphy and South

Armagh, at the invitation of the Provisionals, now signed up to support and administer English, law, courts and police in Ireland.

Speaking on RTÉ radio on Christmas Eve the leader of the 26-County administration Bertie Ahern said that a visit by the Queen of England to the 26-Counties was now "inevitable". In a statement the Vice-President of Republican Sinn Féin Des Dalton pointed out: "Republican Sinn Féin will be to the forefront in opposing such a visit as we are in opposing the ongoing campaign to normalise English rule in Ireland."

Such a visit would be the culmination of the entire process of normalising the partition and British occupation of Ireland. All the efforts and resources of the British government and the 26-County administration, with the support of the EU and US are directed towards bedding down the institutions of British rule in Ireland and such a visit would be an attempt to signify to the world that British rule in Ireland had been finally accepted by the Irish people.

No such line can be drawn under Irish history, the centuries-long resistance of the Irish people to English occupation will go on, the lesson of our history is that English rule will always be actively resisted.

This message was spelled out at the annual Dáithí Ó Conaill commemoration on New Year's Day by Josephine Hayden, Ard-Rúnaí of Republican Sinn Féin: "The group of people who set up a caretaker executive in the West County Hotel, Dublin in 1986 pledged to uphold the Republican position enshrined in the Sinn Féin constitution - they never had, and never will have, any intention of selling out those who gave their lives for Ireland. They never had, or will have, any intention of



• OPPOSE THE OLD IMPERIALISM ALSO: Following a rise in Republican activity in East Tyrone the Crown Forces there are again travelling in armoured cars wearing body armour and carrying high velocity weapons (see page 7 inside).

implementing British rule in Ireland: of accepting partition or recognising the RUC as a legitimate police force in Ireland. They will not welcome the Commander in Chief of the British Forces, Queen Elizabeth of England, to our shores while her subjects in the British Army and police walk the streets of Occupied Ireland, raid homes, arrest, charge and imprison Republicans and innocent civilians."

This year will also see a 26-County referendum on the EU constitution. Since 1972 RSF have been to the forefront in opposing the creation of an EU super-state viewing it as merely a substitution of the old imperialism of London with the new imperialism of Brussels. Republican Sinn Féin reiterates its determination to spearhead the campaign for a No Vote in the coming referendum.

The EU Constitution, despite the cynical attempt to fool people by calling it a treaty, marks one of the final steps in the creation of an

undemocratic, militarised superstate. The comments of EU Commissioner Charlie McCreevy on December 3 that the Irish people would be the "laughing stock of Europe" if they reject the EU constitution exposes the arrogance and patronising attitude to the Irish people of the Dublin political elite. Neither the French nor the Dutch people were so described when they rejected the EU Constitution in 2004.

By rejecting the EU Constitution, the people of the 26 Counties far from being a laughing stock would be giving a lead as well as representing the views of people throughout the EU who are being denied an opportunity to voice their opposition to the creation of an EU superstate. In the case of the French and Dutch people their views as expressed in their respective referenda in 2004 are being ignored. This is not unique to France and Holland; the democratically expressed views of the people of the 26 Counties were

ignored in 2001 when they rejected the Nice Treaty.

Republican Sinn Féin is calling on people who are serious about building a society based on real economic and political democracy, workers rights and equitable distribution of wealth, who believe in national democracy, who support neutrality and oppose involvement in imperialist wars, to join the campaign to reject the EU Constitution.

Republican Sinn Féin will also use the coming year to mobilise and prepare for the 26-County local elections due in 2009. Republican Sinn Féin is the only political organisation which provides an unambiguous Republican platform for all those who wish to work for a free Ireland.

Republican Sinn Féin gives clear and principled leadership to those who cannot be purchased or intimidated into accepting the writ of the English Crown in Ireland.

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Seán Hoey acquitted of all charges

ON December 20 Seán Hoey, 38, of Molly Road in Jonesborough, was found not guilty at Belfast Crown Court of a total of 58 charges in connection with the bomb in Omagh in 1998.

In delivering his verdict, Mr Justice Weir referred to "a most disturbing situation exposed by the defence". The judge said he was not satisfied beyond reasonable doubt that prosecution submissions showed that all explosive devices were made by one person.

He was critical of the RUC/PSNI investigations and the evidence produced in court. It emerged during the trial that during the two investigations evidence has been tampered with, lost, and mislabelled. The car had been "mislabelled" and was eventually found in "a rusty condition" – it was of little use to the investigation such was its condition. He said members of the RUC were guilty of a "deliberate and calculated deception" and that transcripts of the trial had been sent to the British police ombudsman.

He was also very critical of the forensic testing used by the RUC. During the trial the reliability of Low Copy Number (LCN) was repeatedly questioned by Seán Hoey's legal team; LCN has been criticised for its distortion in the amplification process.

Speaking after the verdict, Seán Hoey's solicitor, Peter Corrigan, said his client was an innocent man who had been completely vindicated.

Outside the court, Seán Hoey's mother Rita said: "I want the world to know that my son Seán Hoey is innocent. The authorities north and south

have held two separate trials, but one witch-hunt."

Following the acquittal Republican Sinn Féin PRO Richard Walsh issued the following statement:

"The malicious prosecution of Seán Hoey from Jonesboro, Co. Armagh, has again shown that the Brits will stop at no lengths to punish those suspected of opposing English rule in Ireland.

"Seán Hoey was incarcerated for over four years before his final acquittal. Nearly a whole year lapsed between the conclusion of his trial and the verdict. The silence of those purporting to be the political representatives of the Nationalist community is deafening as to why an innocent man had to serve the equivalent of an eight-and-a-half year sentence on remand.

"Low Copy Number (LCN) DNA testing was also shown during the course of the trial to be a wholly discredited technique. Its validity is not recognised in the vast majority of jurisdictions, nor were the English laboratories employed by both the Six and 26-County statelets accredited. Charges proffered against others arising out of LCN DNA 'evidence' must now be withdrawn, and convictions based on it must also be urgently reviewed.

"All cases arising out of the events at Omagh like so many others have been based upon falsified and misleading



• Seán Hoey

evidence, and backed up by perjurers in both the RUC and the 26-County police."

Vice President of Republican Sinn Féin Des Dalton also issued a statement:

"The acquittal of Seán Hoey on December 20 only serves to underline the fact that British rule in Ireland has not changed. It also highlights the reality that changing the name of the British colonial police in Ireland will not change the nature or purpose of the PSNI, anymore than it did when the RIC became the RUC.

"The journalist and broadcaster Éamonn Maillie speaking on the RTÉ radio programme The Pat Kenny Show on December 21 described the RUC/PSNI's practice of holding people on remand for a number of years without trial, as was the case with Seán Hoey, as "selective internment".

"The very fact that such practices are still used by the

forces of the British state in Ireland show that despite the political spin surrounding the Stormont and St Andrews Agreements, British rule in Ireland can only be maintained by coercion and the denial of the most basic civil and human rights".

Four upcoming cases are now in doubt following the acquittal of Seán Hoey. Legal representatives for four men, Dominic McGlinchey, John Brady, Liam Hannaway and Harry Devine have written to the Public Prosecution Services (PPS) demand that all charges be withdrawn against their clients.

John Brady, Co Tyrone, is facing a charge of the attempted murder of RIR soldier Adrian Lucas in 2000 and possession of an under-car booby-trap device. His case relies heavily on LCN DNA evidence; Dominic McGlinchey is facing explosive charges following the discovery of a bomb in Ballaghy, Co Tyrone in July 2006; Liam Hannaway, Belfast, awaiting trial in relation to the discovery of ammunition and Barry Devine, awaiting trial in relation to an incendiary device recovered in Strabane, Co Tyrone in 2005.

The case against Paddy Murray, Co Armagh is also under consideration. LCN DNA tests implicated Paddy Murray in an alleged RIRA bombing campaign after the Weatherby forensic lab in England found samples on swabs taken from an incendiary device.

Gearrscéalta

Successful function held in Lurgan

A VERY successful function, organised by the Thomas Harte Cumann, Republican Sinn Féin was held in Lurgan, Co Armagh on December 7.

The proceeds of which went to the Republican prisoners. During the course of the evening prison crafts were raffled and those present were entertained by a local band.

The following statement was read on behalf of the Republican POWs in Maghaberry jail:

"On behalf of the Republican Prisoners here in Maghaberry Concentration Camp we send our best wishes to you, our families and friends. Here in this place we are mindful of our cause and know that we are Political Prisoners despite the attempts of the Brits and their fellow travellers to criminalise us. Daily they attempt to remove our political status, but we assure you that in this they will never succeed! We stand firm in our belief in the Republic, despite attempts by our former comrades to copper-fasten British rule in our country.

"We here in prison will continue to play our part in the fight for Freedom and we know that you, our comrades, will never bend a knee either to the Brits or the Provos.

"Tonight we salute you, and thank you for your continued support. We hope that your night is a great success, and would like to finish by wishing you all the compliments of the season: "Beannachtaí na Nollaig daoibh go léir. Victory to the Republican Movement! AN Phoblacht Abú!

"O/C Republican POWs, Maghaberry."

Loyalist attack on schoolboy

AN attack on a 12-year-old schoolboy in Stoneyford, Co Antrim on December 15 was linked to a loyalist campaign against a nationalist family in the area.

The incident is the latest in a series of sectarian attacks on the family, which has already forced them to leave one house in the village. "Before Thursday night it was threats and attacks on our homes but now they are trying to abduct my son and his friends," the 12-year-old's father said. "We have made countless complaints to the police and have installed all sorts of security around our home.

"This thug has already been charged with threatening my family but I was convinced to drop the charges against him to try and improve community relations in the village. He's already managed to intimidate countless Catholic families from this village. He gets arrested but always seems to get released without charge."

GAA condemns Derry bomb hoaxes

THE chairman of the GAA in Co Derry condemned those behind a series of bomb hoaxes on December 13. Séamus McCloy says the GAA community in Derry will not be put off by the threats.

The RUC/PSNI carried out searches of every ground in the city after it received telephone warnings about devices, but nothing was found. A hoax device was found in Randalstown in Co Antrim and the British colonial police who carried out searches at grounds in Coalisland, Armagh and Dungannon. On the same day a viable pipe bomb was defused at a Gaelic football pitch in Co Down. A bomb warning was made around 9pm, claiming a device had been left on the ground at the club on the Ballela Road in Banbridge, Co Down.

RUC/PSNI – true face of British occupation

THE Joe Conway Cumann, Republican Sinn Féin, Newry, Co Down said in a statement on December 12 that they wished to express their sympathy with the local John Mitchel branch of the Irish National Foresters (INF) following a fire which badly damaged their memorial hall on November 27.

The statement went on: "If this was not bad enough, they then had to endure the process of having their charred memorial hall raided for guns, ammunition and explosives over the next 48 hours. The road outside was also sealed off causing much disruption in Newry.

"For the record the INF are a non-political, non-sectarian, benevolent society. They have been subjected to the worse kind of harassment by a political, armed aggressor, namely the RUC/PSNI whose only intent is to eradicate all things Irish.

"Again we see the true face of the continual occupation of the Six Counties. We in Republican Sinn Féin call on all nationalist and Republican minded people to reject this armed militia and the Belfast executive in Stormont. It's only purpose is to copper-fasten British rule in Ireland."

Results of Dublin raffle

DECEMBER results: 1st prize ticket no 611; 2nd prize no 379; 3rd prize no 459; 4th prize no 452; 5th prize no 522; 6th prize no 404; 7th prize no 293; 8th prize no 431; 9th prize no 319; 10th prize no 444; 11th prize no 086; 12th prize no 069; 13th prize no 564.

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OUR AIMS

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

OUR HISTORY

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

For a full British withdrawal from Ireland

Gearrscéalta

Use of tasers condemned

THE revelation that Hugh Orde is to introduce Tasers in the Six Occupied Counties demonstrates that the Policing Board, which claims to hold the RUC to account, has no real powers, a spokesperson for Republican Sinn Féin said on December 9.

RSF Publicity Officer, Richard Walsh, added that all of the allegedly "less-lethal" options have been shown to be deadly weapons.

He said: "These weapons, which deliver a 50,000 volt shock, have already been linked to several deaths. Hugh Orde may make reference to 'less-lethal' force, but the fact remains that the use of Tasers can result in the death of the target."

"Given that the Six County Policing Board was not prepared to endorse the use of these weapons at this time, those who claimed that they were taking their seats on the Board to hold the RUC to account should now have the honesty to admit that these structures do not allow for this."

British police not welcome at GAA matches

IN A statement on November 27, the PRO of the Joe Conway Cumann, Sinn Féin Poblachtach, Newry, Co Down said that the Cumann wished to state their revulsion at the presence of an armoured RUC/PSNI Land Rover at the end of the Ulster Senior Football Club Championship final between Crossmaglen and St Galls of Antrim.

The statement continued: "This armed colonial police force is not wanted at our games as was shown a few months earlier at the same venue — Páirc Esler, Newry. The RUC/PSNI are only intent on antagonising people at GAA venues."

This is the same police force who recently sat and watched nationalist youths being attacked repeatedly and stabbed in Portadown by loyalist drunken thugs.

"I call again on all nationally and Republican-minded people to reject this partitionist armed wing of British occupation."

Support for Argos workers

IN A statement on December 11 the Vice-President of Republican Sinn Féin Des Dalton expressed Republican Sinn Féin's support for the workers at Argos who are locked in a pay dispute with the company.

He also denounced the company's use of 'scab labour' in an attempt to break the strike.

"Argos announced profits in 2006 exceeding 8.1 billion euro whilst profits for the first half of this year are up 50%. Despite this Argos are refusing workers a 10 % pay rise, which would bring hourly rates to 9.90."

The cost of importing strike breakers is greater for Argos than the pay increase sought by the workers. However the prize for the company in winning this battle would be to break the power of the worker's union in Argos, part of the employer's wider agenda of undermining workers rights and pay.

"The dispute at Argos comes at a time when the 26-County administration is following the British government's lead in blocking an draft EU law which would give temporary workers employed through agencies the same pay and conditions as full-time staff."

Cutbacks threat to Irish language schools

A SERIOUS threat has emerged to the future of Gaelscoileanna which are among the most successful second level schools in the 26-Counties.

The 26-County Department of Education and Science Building Unit has proposed that no new second level Gaelscoileanna be built.

Instead it proposes that where there is demand for a Gaelscoil then an all-Irish stream or a separate unit be built as part of an existing or new post primary school.

The proposal is aimed primarily at saving money but has led to fierce resistance within the 26-County Department.

The 26-County Education Department would not make any comment other than to say that no change in policy was envisaged.

Sources said there would be political uproar if the proposal was accepted and no stand-alone Gaelscoileanna were built in the future. "Having a separate unit or anad only works in a very large school," said one source.

Another said that if an all-Irish stream was attached to an ordinary second level school it would have great difficulties retaining the all-Irish atmosphere. "Inevitably the pupils from the Irish stream would end up talking English in the playground with the other students," he said.

The 26-County Education minister Mary Hanifin has already upset supporters of all-Irish education by insisting that junior infants have to be taught English at least by the start of the second term, but this has been the subject of a High Court challenge.

Although the proposal not to build any more Gaelscoileanna is virtually certain to be shot down, the fact that it was even tabled will cause alarm to Irish language activists.

There are 44 all-Irish second level schools, including four new schools in 2007, and one new school as a result of the amalgamation of two schools.

Amnesty, Vatican concern over 26-County police brutality

ACCORDING to 26-County state papers released under the 30-year rule on December 27, both Amnesty International and the Vatican raised serious concerns over police brutality and the treatment of political prisoners in the 26 Counties.

In mid-April 1977 Amnesty International wrote to then 26-County Justice Minister Patrick Cooney to express concern about the ill-treatment of political prisoners in Portlaoise prison.

In mid-June Amnesty sent two representatives to Ireland for a week to investigate conditions in Portlaoise prison as well as allegations of Garda brutality and in late August wrote again to the new Fianna Fáil administration attaching their representatives' report and requesting "an impartial investigation" on the grounds that the report justified such an enquiry.

Amnesty's secretary general Martin Ennals, in a letter to Jack Lynch, said Amnesty was concerned about the "consistency of the allegations" made to its delegates and the "detailed reference too many individual cases".

The report said that over a period of 18 months the same police officers had been mentioned as being "involved in maltreatment of suspects in reports made at different times in different parts of the country".

Amnesty was told by several lawyers that some members of the "ordinary Garda force" had been concerned about the interrogation methods employed by the Special Branch who travelled from Dublin to question people.

The report spoke of "systematic maltreatment" and said it appeared that some detectives specialised in the "use of oppressive methods of extracting statements".

In a series of articles in February 1977, the *Irish Times* claimed brutal interrogation methods had been increasingly used against people arrested on political charges. The articles alleged that a special group of gardaí, known as the "Heavy Gang", were mainly responsible.

Jack Lynch's private secretary F Murray said a person interviewed by Amnesty said he was given one cup of water during the day of his arrest, after a period of alleged maltreatment, and received nothing to eat or drink after this until the morning of his release four days later.

"It is difficult to accept that treatment like this could occur," Murray wrote. "Another serious allegation made is that after the introduction of the Emergency Powers Act, arrested persons were not allowed a solicitor until after they had signed incriminating statements. This

prisoners were being held was instrumental in brining about a resolution of the protest. In April 1977, the 26-County ambassador to the Holy See, Gerard Woods, was asked by the Vatican secretariat of state to call on his assistant. The

three categories of military overflights.

The first referred to the Clonoony Salient, an area of the 26-County State southwest of Clones in Co Monaghan. "The purpose of the flights is to facilitate the transport of men and materials, the evacuation of casualties and, in particular, the shadowing of suspect vehicles across the salient."

The second category was described as "normal" security overflights which normally came a maximum of 500 metres into 26-County airspace. They were for "photographic or infra-red reconnaissance of suspect devices or buildings close to or on the Border, in order to ensure that there are no command wires or other booby trap devices awaiting the bomb-disposal team which will tackle the suspect object".

The third category of overflights involved "the systematic aerial reconnaissance of those sections of the Border in which cross-Border incidents most frequently occur with a view to compiling a comprehensive record".

These flights were allowed two kilometres into 26-County air space and typically lasted about 30 minutes. A programme of about 60 such flights a year was being operated at that time.

Initial permission for the scheme had been given in June, 1976 by the Cosgrave government.

This permission specified that there should be no flights over or within two kilometres of 26-County army installations and that the flights would be staggered over the Border areas with no two flights over the same area in any period of about 10 days.

It was agreed that within each permitted overflight the aircraft in question might cross the Border a number of times. The memo also said that the British authorities had from time to time requested permission for so-called "hot pursuit" overflights to enable them to maintain visual contact from aircraft with suspected terrorists fleeing across the Border.

"This suggestion has always been regarded as unnecessary and unacceptable and has always been rejected," said the memo. Lynch's administration came under fierce pressure from the newly elected British prime minister Margaret Thatcher to step up its level of collaboration with the British government.

Shortly afterwards, reports appeared in Irish newspapers saying that Lynch had agreed to a range of new measures, including overflights by British military aircraft along the Border. Lynch refused to confirm or deny that a deal had been done.



• The *Irish Times* of February 15, 1977 which highlighted the activities of the 'Heavy Gang'.

allegation is made in the majority of the Amnesty cases."

Edgar Deale, secretary of the Irish Association of Civil Liberty, also wrote to Lynch seeking an independent police tribunal.

In response to Amnesty's call for a public inquiry the 26-County administration appointed a three-member committee, comprising a judge, a prominent trade unionist and a public servant. The committee was to conduct private inquiries and to report to the 26-County administration as a matter of urgency on the treatment of people in custody in recent years.

It was envisaged that the committee would form the basis of a body which would handle complaints against the 26-County police.

The 26-County administration also appointed a senior Garda to investigate allegations of ill-treatment of people in custody and to report to the 26-County Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) who would decide if there were sufficient grounds for a prosecution.

The Vatican too expressed concern about IRA hunger strikes at Portlaoise prison and the Curragh much to the annoyance and embarrassment of the 26-County Administration.

A hunger strike of about 20 political prisoners began in March 1977, and lasted 47 days. The intervention of Amnesty regarding the conditions in which the

Vatican official presented him with a note or appunto expressing concern about hunger strikes in Portlaoise and the Curragh and referring to prisoners being subjected to "extremely severe measures".

The government was also annoyed by a call for a UN inquiry into prison conditions by the bishop of Derry, Dr Edward Daly. In a confidential note to then 26-County minister for foreign affairs, Garret FitzGerald, Liam Cosgrave head of the 26-County administration said that "concern and resentment" had been voiced by a number of ministers about recent statement on prison conditions by Dr Daly, at a cabinet meeting in April 1977.

The State papers for 1977 also show that the policy of collaboration with the British forces of occupation in the Six Counties was not disrupted by a change in the 26-County administration.

The Fianna Fáil administration led by Jack Lynch agreed to an air corridor along the 26-County side of the Border which British military aircraft could use against resistance from Irish Republicans just weeks after taking office in the summer of 1977.

A memorandum entitled "Overflights by foreign military aircraft" was brought to the administration by 26-County minister for foreign affairs Michael O'Kennedy on July 25, 1977. The crucial paragraphs referred to an agreement with the British on

For The Record

SAT. DECEMBER 1: International Secretary of PANA, Ed Horgan, along with another peace activist, was arrested at Shannon Airport in the early hours of the morning for refusing to leave the airport terminal. He had contacted the Gardaí to search a US plane he believed was involved in rendition flights.

WED. DECEMBER 5: The Speaker of the United States House of representatives Nancy Pelosi, issued an invitation to 26-County Taoiseach Bertie Ahern to address the United States Congress in 2008.

The 26 Counties has slipped 11 places, to 44th position out of 56, in the league table on dealing with climatic change.

FRI. DECEMBER 7: Independent unionist MEP Jim Allister announced the formation of a new political unionist party, The Traditional Unionist Voice, opposed to power sharing at Stormont.

Ian Paisley and Martin McGuinness met with US President George Bush in Washington. They also met with US presidential candidate Hilary Clinton.

George Bush met with Israel's Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and Palestinian Mahmoud Abbas as Annapolis for peace talks.

MON. DECEMBER 10: A memorial was unveiled in Parnell Square, Dublin to the three members of the Miami Showband murdered by loyalists in 1975. Fran O'Toole, Brian McCoy and Tony Geraghty were shot dead as the band returned from the Occupied Six Counties.

TUES. DECEMBER 11: Singer/songwriter Christie Hennessy died in London from asbestosis.

A new exhibition *Strangers to Citizens: The Irish in Europe 1600-1800* opened at the National Library of Ireland, Dublin. The exhibition is open throughout 2008.

The issue of 'extraordinary rendition' has been raised with the US government on at least eight occasions according to the Irish Human Rights Commission.

The Provisionals warned against any 'backsliding' on the devolution of policing and justice powers to the Stormont Assembly after Jeffery Donaldson DUP warned that it could not happen until the "complete dismantling of the IRA structures".

Five people were killed in Gaza when about 30 tanks and armoured vehicles entered the area.

WED. DECEMBER 12: The trial opened in the special non-jury court in Dublin of two men charged with INLA membership. John O'Donoghue and James Butler are both from Waterford and deny the charge.

The Mahon Tribunal continued in Dublin with further revelations of 'donations' and 'dig-outs' to Taoiseach Bertie Ahern.

According to the Irish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (ISPCC) there was a 30% increase in children begging on the streets. Ninety-five per cent of the children begging are either Roma or Travellers.

Taoiseach Bertie Ahern dismissed claims by the Irish Human Rights Commission that the United States used Shannon airport for extraordinary rendition flights.

A new book *1916 in 1966 - Commemorating the Rising* was launched in Dublin.

A report from the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee Report on the prison Service and published on December 12, 2007 states that ending the regime of separating Republican and loyalist prisoners at Maghaberry should be ended at the earliest possible date. Separation was introduced in Maghaberry in 2003 when loyalists continually attacked Republican prisoners. The Committee said the regime was costly and other prisoners could resent the fact that the segregated prisoners were kept in "the best and most modern buildings". It made 31 recommendations in all including sharing prison hospitals with Scotland and the 26 Counties.

The details of 6,000 drivers in the Occupied Six Counties which were on two computer disks were lost in the post.

FRI. DECEMBER 14: Ballyworkan Orange Hall, Portadown, Co Armagh was damaged by fire after windows were broken and petrol poured inside.

Representatives from up to 150 countries are in Bali to negotiate an agreement aimed at tackling global warming.

EU leaders agreed to send an EU police and



• CD in aid of the Tara protest, The Mighty Gather In.

civilian administration mission to Kosovo despite strong opposition from Serbia. They also offered Serbia a fast-track procedure to join the EU if they begin to co-operate with a tribunal investigating war crimes in the former Yugoslavia. Serbian president Vojislav Kostunica said the offer was an insult.

China said that high-altitude glaciers in the remote west of the country have shrunk by up to 18% over the last five years due to global warming.

The state of New Jersey in the US voted to abolish the death penalty and replace it with life imprisonment without parole.

SAT. DECEMBER 15: A pipe bomb was thrown at Strabane RUC station.

SUN. DECEMBER 16: An Orange Hall in Moira Road, Ballinderry, Co Antrim was damaged in an arson attack.

Fine Gael politician Billy Timmons wants the Irish Human Rights Commission and the 26-County Minister for Foreign Affairs Dermot Ahern to appear before the Oireachtas Foreign Affairs Committee to clarify their contradictory stances on rendition flights through Shannon by the CIA.

A statue was unveiled in Portlaoise, Co Laois to the author and patriot James Fintan Lalor on the bi-centenary of his birth. Lalor died in prison in 1849 following an attack on the RIC barracks at Cappoquin, Co Waterford. Over 25,000 people attended his funeral.

Britain handed over responsibility for security to Iraqi forces in the last four provinces it controlled.

MON. DECEMBER 17: A man appeared in court charged with possession of a firearm and ammunition following raids by the RUC/PSNI on eight homes in west Belfast and Fermanagh over the weekend.

TUES. DECEMBER 18: Very Rev Desmond Harman, Dean of Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin died in Dublin.

Paul Goggins, British prisons' Minister confirmed that the building of a new prison at Magilligan, Co Derry to house 800 prisoners would commence within five years.

A memorial was unveiled to Jack Rooney and Hugh Watters who were killed when a loyalist car bomb exploded at the Kay's tavern, Dundalk on December 19, 1975.

Jacob Zuma replaced Thabo Mbeki as President of the ruling African National Congress (ANC), with immediate effect, after he won the election in South Africa.

At the inquest into the deaths of two men who drowned in the Grand Canal in Clondalkin, Dublin, in February 2007, the Dublin county coroner Dr Kieran Geraghty said that both men drowned while under the influence of cocaine and that 'cocaine toxicity was the most common cause of death in more than half of all inquests into drug related deaths in his court'.

Thirteen Palestinians were killed in aerial attacks by the Israeli army in the Gaza Strip.

WED. DECEMBER 19: Martin McGuinness, Provo MLA and Mark Durkan, SDLP leader, expressed concern at the failure of the RUC/PSNI to charge what they called 'dissident' Republicans over attacks on those involved in policing in the Occupied Six Counties. From 2003 to 2007 it was alleged that over 30 attacks on nationalist politicians, RUC members and members of district police boards were carried out by Republicans.

Thomas 'The Slab' Murphy, Hackballcross,

Co Louth is to be tried in the Special non-jury Court in Dublin for failing to file complete tax returns at the request of the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP). The Special Court was originally set up as a military court to try those suspected of IRA involvement.

The Irish Human Rights Commission called for the inspection of aircraft suspected of involvement in extraordinary rendition flights at Shannon airport.

The parents of Paul Quinn, murdered in Monaghan, met with the Minister for Justice in the 26-County Administration and Taoiseach Bertie Ahern in Leinster House, Dublin.

The author of a new book, *Irish Walled Towns*, commissioned by the Heritage Council, claimed that Irelands heritage will be lost if walled towns are not protected.

The UN General Assembly adopted a resolution calling for a moratorium on the death penalty.

Growth in the Irish economy in 2008 was forecast to be the slowest in 16 years, according to *Quarterly Economic Commentary*, issued by the ESRI.

THURS. DECEMBER 20: A member of the 32 County Sovereignty Movement claimed that the Provisionals and the SDLP were involved in a 'witch hunt' by calling for Republicans to be arrested and charged. He also claimed that the RUC/PSNI was waging 'a campaign of physical and verbal abuse' against Republicans.

FRI. DECEMBER 21: Several cases were in doubt after the not guilty verdict in the trial of Seán Hoey trial in relation to the Omagh bombing. The cases include those of Dominic McGlinchey, John Brady, Liam Hannaway and Harry Devine.

In a Dublin court, Dunnes Stores were found guilty of infringing Karen Millen's design rights by copying and selling a jumper and two shirts. Two other brands of the Mosaic Fashions' Group, Whistles and Coast, are taking a similar action.

The Public Prosecution Service (PPS) confirmed it is considering bringing perjury charges against two RUC members, who were found guilty by Justice Weir of "deliberate and calculated deception" during the Seán Hoey trial.

The RUC Chief Constable Hugh Orde said it was 'unlikely' that anyone will be jailed for the Omagh bombing in 1998.

Colm Murphy, Ravensdale, Co Louth launched a new legal bid to prevent his retrial on conspiracy charges connected with the bombing in Omagh in 1998. He is appealing the ruling of the High Court in Dublin which last October ruled he must again stand trial after the first trial was dismissed on appeal in 2005 where the judge ordered a retrial.

A new album *The Mighty Gather In* was launched to protest at the routing of the M3 motorway through the Hill of Tara. The 50 artists include Kila, Liam Ó Maonlaí, Lou Rhodes, Séamus Heaney and Duncan Stewart. It also includes details of an alternative route for the motorway.

No British police officer will be charged in connection with the shooting dead of Jean Charles de Menezes at Stockwell tube station, London. His family called the decision 'a scandal'.

Unseann MacEoin, Republican and author, died in Dublin.

SAT. DECEMBER 22: A house in Ballymena, Co Antrim was damaged in a petrol bomb attack. No one was injured.

Nine Romanian crewmen from the Cypriot-registered *Celtic Star* and docked in Dublin, downed tools and asked the International Transport Federation for help to collect unpaid wages and to return home. They also claim they were 'consistently overworked'.

Representatives from governments all over the world will gather in Croke Park, Dublin in May for a two week conference to agree a ban on cluster bombs.

THURS. DECEMBER 27: Benazir Bhutto was shot and killed in Pakistan in a bomb and shooting attack which left 50 of her supporters dead.

State Papers released revealed that the Fianna Fáil administration in 1977 agreed to the opening of an air corridor along the southern side of the Border which British military aircraft could use.

Other information released was that a former Trinity College student was a US intelligence agent secretly linked with the Irish administration as early as the 1950s.

Gerry Adams identified the transfer of policing and justice powers to Stormont as the most important as his party's main goals for 2008.

FRI. DECEMBER 28: According to a member of the panel of guests on the morning show *Spirit Moves* on RTE Radio 1, there are now more sectarian attacks in the Occupied Six Counties than before the Stormont Agreement. The contributor to the show said that "the peace process has not bedded down in the communities in Northern Ireland".

Two thirds of prisoners in jail in the Occupied Six Counties have numeracy and literacy problems.

The 1937 Free State Constitution came into force 70 years ago.

MON. DECEMBER 31: Waiting lists for outpatient appointments in the 26-County hospitals are still intolerably high according to figures published in the Irish Times. Overcrowding in many hospital emergency departments has worsened over the past year according to the Irish Association of Emergency Medicine.

The husband and son of Benazir Bhutto were named as her successors.

WED. JANUARY 2: Michael Mukasey, US secretary of justice announced the opening of a criminal investigation into the destruction by the CIA of videos of interrogations of 'terrorism suspects'.

Pervez Musharraf, President of Pakistan, announced a six-week postponement of elections following the assignment of Benazir Bhutto.

Two Orange Halls, at Ballylisk and Scarva Road, Tandragee, were damaged in arson attacks.

THURS. JANUARY 3: A firebomb attack on a house in Co Armagh is being seen as the most recent in a spate of attacks attributed to the LVF. The couple escaped injury when two petrol bombs were thrown at their home in Baemar Avenue, Lurgan.

Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez stated that he is to make changes to 13 of his cabinet posts, the principal one being that of the vice-president of the Republic.

FRI. JANUARY 4: The Policing Board is to seek clarification from the Lord Chief Justice over claims that senior RUC/PSNI members gave false information in the Seán Hoey trial.

Five alternative routes for the Corrib onshore gas pipeline are being assessed by Shell E&P Ireland.

Libertas, a new group campaigning against the EU Constitution/Treaty, wrote to the Standards in Public Office Commission, requesting an immediate investigation into the "illegal use" of taxpayers money, ie a website established by the Department of Foreign Affairs promoting the treaty. The website breaches the ruling of the Supreme Court in the Patricia McKenna case in 1995.

A new investigation into the RUC handling of the Omagh bomb inquiry will be headed by 'independent external advisers' according to the Policing Board.

Debenhams department store in Jervis Street, Dublin will close later in the month with the loss of 100 jobs.

SAT. JANUARY 5: Paddy Murray, Armagh claimed in the *Irish News* that he is not a police informer. He will be sentenced later in the month on kidnapping and assault charges to which he pleaded guilty.

SUN. JANUARY 6: Pakistan said it will not allow American forces to hunt al-Qaeda and Taliban militants on its soil.

Bertie Ahern claimed he was not being given a fair hearing at the Mahon Tribunal.

MON. JANUARY 7: More than 26,000 people are on waiting lists to see occupational therapists according to the HSE.

Picket for Republican prisoners in Kilkenny city

KILKENNY Republican Sinn Féin held a very successful picket in Kilkenny city on Saturday, December 8. The picket was held at the Town Hall on High St between 1pm and 2.30pm. Members of Kilkenny Republican Sinn Féin were joined by Republicans from Waterford, Wexford and Kildare.

Leaflets were handed out explaining the situation of the Republican prisoners in Maghaberry, whilst copies of the Republican paper SAOIRSE were sold. Addressing the crowd Republican Sinn Féin Vice President Des Dalton, Kildare, said that the Republican prisoners in Maghaberry were locked in a struggle to vindicate the right to political status for which Bobby Sands and his comrades died on hunger strike in 1981.

"These rights, won on the back of the sacrifice of Republican prisoners since 1917 were signed away by the Provisionals in 1998 when they signed the Stormont Agreement, the Republican

prisoners in Maghaberry are in a struggle against the latest attempt by Britain and native collaborators to criminalise Republican prisoners and by extension the historic struggle for Irish freedom," Des Dalton said.

White-line picket on Falls Road, Belfast

DESPITE adverse weather conditions, a large crowd turned out on the Falls Road in Belfast on Saturday, December 8, in support of the demands of Republican POWs in Maghaberry jail for full political status. The protest was organised by the Republican Prisoners' Action Group (RPAG).

Those present assembled along the white-line in the centre of the road with placards, and distributed several hundred leaflets to passing motorists. The leaflets outlined the conditions faced by the Republican prisoners in Maghaberry and highlighted their demands.

Many passers-by signalled their support for the prisoners. The RPAG expressed their gratitude to those who supported for the prisoners throughout the last year, and asked that people keep them in their thoughts.



• Members of Republican Sinn Féin at the political status picket in Kilkenny on December 8.

The chairperson of Kilkenny Republican Sinn Féin Ger Foran said that as long as there was British rule in Ireland it would be met by resistance: "That is the lesson of Irish history, the fact that in 2007 there are Republican prisoners

in Maghaberry and Portlaoise prisons testifies to this" he said.

Emmet Gladney, a member of the executive of Kilkenny Republican Sinn Féin said that Republican prisoners are in

British and 26-County jails: "Because they refuse to recognise British courts, British laws, accept British money or British rule in any shape or form. They are in jail because they are loyal to the 32-County Irish Republic."

Uinseann Mac Eoin

UINSEANN Ó Rathaille MacEoin, Republican, Gaeilgeoir, journalist and author architect and planner, died in Dublin on December 21, 2007. He was 87 years of age and lived life to the full.

He was a leading campaigner for the preservation of Georgian Dublin; he was a member of the Irish Georgian Society and founder of *Buidé*; was founder of *Plan* and editor from 1967 to 1974, a magazine that took on the planners and speculators for the "protection of Dublin's heritage". During his married life he and his wife bought several houses in the Mountjoy Square and Henrietta Street and preserved them.

He ran a successful

architectural business along with his business partner Aidan Kelly, who died just two months before him.

Uinseann MacEoin had strong Republican beliefs and was a member of the Wolfe Tone Society and Clann na Poblachta and was involved in the Northern Civil Rights Association.

In 1940 he was arrested and spent a year in Arbour Hill prison, Dublin. From there he was interned in the Curragh Camp where he spent three

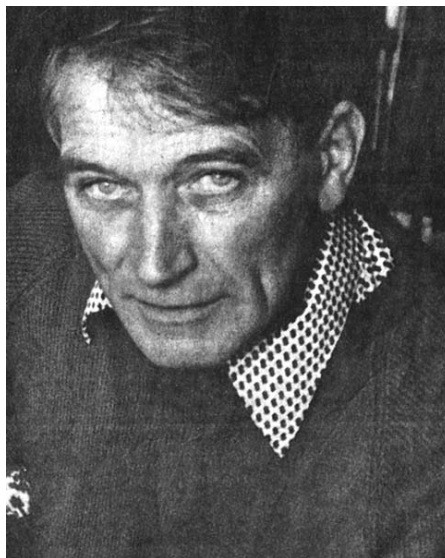
years. There he studied Irish under Máirtín Ó Cadhain. His father Malachy had been interned on the prison ship *Argenta* in 1922.

He was architect/planner of the Ballyseedy Memorial in Tralee, Co Kerry and was involved up drawing up a social and economic plan for the Republican Movement. He was also involved in Dáil Uladh in the early 1970s.

He wrote three books, *Survivors* (1980) which was based on interviews with veteran Republicans; *Harry* (1986) a biography of Harry White, the Belfast Republican and *The IRA in the Twilight Years: 1923-1948* (1997).

He is survived by his wife Margaret, sons Nuada and Ruadhán, daughter Aoife, his three grandchildren, two sisters and one brother, to whom sympathy is extended.

During the 1960s he contributed to the Planning chapter of the first EIRE NUA Social and Economic Programme of Sinn Féin which was published in 1971. He was



• Uinseann Mac Eoin

keenly interested in the Dáil Uladh concept and attended regularly at meetings in

Monaghan where it was further developed.

During the 1980-81 hunger

strikes in Long Kesh he gave over one of the Mountjoy Square houses to be a head-office for the National H-Block-Armagh Committee. Following the 1986 "split" he was one of the first to call to Dáithí Ó Conaill's house with a subscription for Republican Sinn Féin.

In the 1950s he was the architect and planner of the famous and spectacular Ballyseedy memorial outside Tralee, Co Kerry. In 1969 he viewed the location proposed for the grave of Peter Barnes and James McCormack in Mullingar cemetery on their repatriation from England and declared it entirely suitable.

SAOIRSE salutes the passing of this persistent and courageous Republican who supported the Cause throughout a long life. Northerners will note that he was born in Pomeroy, Co Tyrone and never neglected their interests. Seán Ó Brádaigh represented Republican Sinn Féin at the obsequies on December 24.

Slán abhaile, a Uinseann.

Development Fund Special Appeal

Republican Sinn Féin

We are embarking on a development and modernisation programme for our organisation. This will include recruitment, publicity, upgrading our technology, and office accommodation. This will cost a



considerable amount of money.

However, we know we can call on you for your support and we will contact all who support our aims and objectives with details of our plans and how they can help to attain our goals, in due course.

All subscriptions, large or small, can be sent to the treasurer of the Republican Sinn Féin Development Fund at Head Office or made payable to:

Republican Sinn Féin Development Fund, AIB, Capel Street, Dublin 1.

Account number: 15411-097.

All donations will be appreciated and acknowledged.



Benny Little

REPUBLICANS and local people from Cavan and adjoining counties were saddened to hear of the death of Benny Little, Drumalee, Cavan town on December 16. He was 82.

A veteran activist with continuous service for many decades, Benny and his brother John both joined the Republican Movement in 1949.

Benny was active with the committee which erected the Cavan County IRA memorial which stands in front of the Courthouse in the county town and ensured that the names of Paddy Dermody, shot dead by the 26-County Special

Branch in 1942, James Crossan, shot by B-Specials in 1958 and Ciarán Doherty TD, who died on hunger strike in Long Kesh in 1981, were included on the Roll of Honour inscribed thereon.

He was a Republican Sinn Féin candidate for Cavan Town Council in the 1960 local elections and was to the fore in all activities down the years.

He rejected the Sticky

reformism in 1969-70 and when he became aware of a similar move by the Provo leadership in 1986 he travelled to visit Ruairí Ó Brádaigh with a Cavan comrade. They sought and organised opposition to another betrayal.

A Guard of Honour of Republican Sinn Féin escorted the Tricolour-draped coffin from McMahon's funeral home to Cavan Cathedral. At the bus station several hundred GAA members lined both sides of the street and marched behind the hearse. Benny was an avid supporter of Gaelic games

and for years was a groundsman and caretaker of Breffni Park in Cavan.

The priest who officiated said: "Benny was a proud Irishman" and led the very large attendance in a decade of the Rosary as Gaeilge.

Tributes were concluded when Joe O'Neill, Bundoran, spoke at the graveside next day. Benny was predeceased by his wife Betty (neé Greenan), herself a staunch Republican.

Sincere sympathy is expressed to his brother John and to all his relatives, comrades and friends.

Solas na bhFlaitheas dá anam dílis calma.

Guth na Mumhan: Inniu is Inné

Charlie Kerins commemorated in Tralee

THE 63rd annual Charlie Kerins Memorial parade took place on first Friday in December in Tralee.

Led by a lone piper and Colour Party, the largest crowd in years assembled at the Pikeman Monument and marched to the Charlie Kerins memorial in Strand Street.

Proceedings were chaired by John Mangan. Wreaths were laid by James Scanlon on behalf of Sinn Féin Poblachtach, James McCannon on behalf of all those who gave their lives for Irish freedom and Matt Leen on behalf of our Republican prisoners.

A wonderful oration both in Irish and English was delivered by Seán Murphy in which he outlined the life and heroic sacrifice of patriot Charlie Kerins. In his short lifetime Charlie Kerins was a determined and committed Volunteer of the Irish Republican Army, who believed in the 32-County Irish Republic and stood by these principles to the very end.

It has to be noted here that a recent ad on RTÉ regarding Republican ballads carries a picture of de Valera. Let us forget: it was this quisling who brought over the English hangman Pierrepoint to execute Charlie Kerins.

John Mangan recited a decade of the Rosary, one minute's silence was observed for our late Patron Dan Keating and the lone piper played Amhráin na bhFiann to bring proceedings to a close.

TG4 are in the process of filming a documentary on Charlie Kerins so



• Charlie Kerins.

readers should be on the lookout for this.

Warning issued on increased MI5 activity

A WARNING that the British Intelligence Service MI5 is now increasingly active in the Six Counties trying to recruit men and women to give information on political organisations was given today by a member of the Ard Chomhairle of Republican Sinn Féin.

Des Long from Limerick who is also chairperson of Comhairle na Mumhan (Munster Executive of RSF) said that it has come to the attention of



• Matt Leen of Kerry Republican Sinn Féin laid a wreath on the grave of Dan Keating in Kiltallagh Cemetery, near Castlemaine on January 2, Dan's birthday (1902-2007).

the organisation that a leading figure in Belfast had been approached twice in recent times to talk to British agents. This man is well known in his area for his opposition to the so-called Stormont Agreement and he is a longtime supporter of true Republican principles he said. Tommy Crossan has no fear of his name being used by us in drawing attention to the activities of these British agents.

Des Long said: "Their recruiting tactics have become increasingly sophisticated and when they approached Tommy they said they did not want him to be a tout but that he could assist them in understanding the political situation at the moment. These soft soap tactics are now part of the weaponry of MI5 and we are asking people not to fall into this recruitment trap.

"Once in the clutches of these pinstrip suited agents of the British Crown, it is very difficult to withdraw and we all know that people have paid

with their lives because of such links to these intelligences services. We are now issuing an alert to all true Republicans to be watchful and on guard for any approaches from British agents and to report such contacts to us without delay."

Fianna Fáil north move 'a sham'

THE move by Fianna Fáil to establish their party in the Six Counties smacks of political hypocrisy and comes after 90 years of inaction on the national question, a spokesperson for Republican Sinn Féin said on December 9.

Joe Lynch from Ballinacurra Weston in Limerick, Leas-Cathairleach of Comhairle na Mumhan (Munster RSF Executive) said the move is a mere façade following decades of political hypocrisy.

He said: "Fianna Fáil is the very party that betrayed the nationalist and Republican people of the Six

Counties. For decades Fianna Fáil engaged in demonising those in the Six Counties who took part in the struggle for national self-determination. Fianna Fáil executed Republicans and imprisoned men and women who sought to engage the armed British presence in Ireland.

"Now with two new branches in Universities in the Six Counties, Fianna Fáil pretends to be an all Ireland party. The only purpose in this move is to further dilute the opposition to the ongoing British presence in Ireland.

"Fianna Fáil always engaged in 'four green fields' rhetoric and this step is simply a further example of their political opportunism. Far from aspiring to Irish unity, they are more than happy to serve British interests in the Six Counties and enforce British rule throughout Ireland. However for as long as Britain maintains an armed presence in Ireland, it will continue to be opposed by all true Republicans."

Beannachtaí

NEW Year's greetings to Billy, Jock and PJ and all CIRA prisoners in Portlaoise and Maghaberry prisons. From the Republican Movement, Wexford town.
NEW Year's greetings to Dean Coleman, POW Portlaoise jail. Love you always. From your Mam, Angela, brothers Gordon and Shaun and sister Margaret.
NEW Year's greetings to Dean Coleman POW Portlaoise jail from Joe and Nora Lynch and family.
NEW Year's greetings to Dean Coleman POW Portlaoise jail. From Noel, Annetta, Michael and Margaret Moloney, Limerick.
NEW Year's greetings to Dean Coleman POW Portlaoise jail. From Joe Denise and Rachel Lynch, Limerick.
NEW Year's greetings to all the Continuity POWs, in Portlaoise Jail and Maghaberry Jail. From Republican Sinn Féin, Limerick.
NEW Year's greetings to the Republican prisoners in Maghaberry and Portlaoise

prisons. From Pat Williams, New Jersey, USA.

NEW Year's Greetings to Irish Republican Political Prisoners in both Portlaoise and Maghaberry Prisons from Cumann na Saoirse Náisiúnta/National Irish Freedom Committee, USA.

NEW Year's greetings to the Continuity IRA prisoners in Portlaoise jail and Maghaberry prison. The men serving time for the Sovereign Irish Republic are a source of pride to all who struggle for the freedom of our people. From Comhairle na Mumhan.

NEW Year's greetings to the Continuity IRA prisoners in Portlaoise and Maghaberry prisons from Cumann Smith O'Brien/Colbert, Sinn Féin Poblachtach in West Limerick. An Phoblacht Abú.

NEW Year's Greetings to our colleagues and comrades in Portlaoise and Maghaberry. Thinking of you all the time, but more so at this time of year. From Comhairle Ath Cliath, the Carroll/O'Donovan Cumann, Dublin West Republican Sinn Féin; the Second Sunday raffie committee and the Christmas Swim Crew.

IMEACHTAÍ

SHELL TO SEA

PICKET, FINGLAS ROAD SHELL STATION
GLASNEVIN, JANUARY 19

BLOODY SUNDAY PICKET

SATURDAY JANUARY 26, 12-2pm
Island at the GPO, Dublin

CUMANN NA SAOIRSE NÁISIÚNTA THE NATIONAL IRISH FREEDOM COMMITTEE 13th ANNUAL MICHAEL FLANNERY TESTIMONIAL AWARDS DINNER

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 1, 2008
ASTORIA WORLD MANOR IN ASTORIA, NY, USA
The Honorees for the 2008 awards are:

Kenneth Tierney
Michael Flannery Spirit of Freedom Award
Michael and Mary Geraghty
The Pearl Flannery Humanities Award
Jim and Kitty Trainor
Sr. Sarah Clarke Human Rights Award

Tickets: \$75.00

For more information email:
nifcmem@optonline.net ; www.irishfreedom.net

O'SULLIVAN/ENRIGHT CUMANN

Republican Sinn Féin, Listowel, Co Kerry
Anyone wishing to join should contact 086-1204592

KERRY COMHAIRLE CEANTAIR RSF

can be contacted at:
http://www.freewebs.com/republicansinnfeinkerry/

ROGER CASEMENT/FRANCIS HUGHES CUMANN

Republican Sinn Féin, Dún Laoghaire/Rathdown
Anyone wishing to join should contact Ard-Oifig, 223
Parnell Street, Dublin 1

Mac CURTÁIN / Mac SWINEY CUMANN

Republican Sinn Féin, Cork
Anyone wishing to join should contact 086-3352006 or
visit our website www.rsfcork.com

BRUGHA/SABHAT - HURSON/SANDS CUMAINN

Republican Sinn Féin, Limerick
Anyone wishing to join should contact
www.freewebs.com/republicansinnfeinlimerick/index.htm

COMHAIRLE CEANTAIR ÁTHA CLIATH RSF

Anyone wishing to join should visit our website:
www.freewebs.com/rsfdublin

JAMES MCDAID CUMANN, REPUBLICAN SINN FÉIN

Anyone interested in joining in the Midlands, England,
should contact: Ard Oifig, 223 Parnell St, Dublin 1, Ireland,
Dublin 8729747, or saoirse@iol.ie

KEVIN COEN CUMANN

Anyone wishing to join Republican Sinn Féin in West
Roscommon contact: Joe Murphy, tel: 986 1281 861

MCNEELA/GAUGHAN/STAGG CUMANN

Republican Sinn Féin, Mayo
Anyone wishing to join contact: 087 9232 096

CUMANN AN tATHAIR Ó GRÍOFA

Republican Sinn Féin, Galway
Anyone wishing to join in contact:
Tomás at 097 2933 782 or Seán at 091 525 977

REPUBLICAN SINN FÉIN, LEITRIM

Anyone wishing to join in contact:
Micheál at 071 9641 804 or John at 086 4061454

Book about the Fenians launched in Scotland

ON 15 December the Irish in Scotland History Group held a very successful launch of Dr Máirtín Ó Catháin's book *Irish Republicanism in Scotland 1858-1916* in the Langside Hall in the south side of Glasgow.

Thanks to advanced publicity in *The Irish Post* a large turnout was guaranteed and all available copies of the book were sold. The local Irish community were well represented and included



members of Conradh na Gaeilge, Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann and Sinn Féin Poblachtach.

Dr Ó Catháin gave a very illuminating talk about the many personalities and incidents associated with the Fenian Movement in Scotland. He also made comparisons with Fenianism in Ireland and the rest of the Irish diaspora.

Following his talk there was a rapid succession of questions from the floor and a lively discussion ensued.

RUC/PSNI SEARCH HOMES IN WEST BELFAST

A Belfast Chronology

Saturday December 15, 2007. Patrick McGurk, owner of McGurk's Bar in north Belfast in which 15 people lost their lives, including his wife and daughter, when loyalist planted a no-warning bomb in

December 1971, died.

Wednesday, December 19, 2007. The RUC/PSNI carried out a number of searches in homes in the west of the city.

Thursday, December 20, 2007.

The Provisional movement applied to the High Court to have the trademark Sinn Féin declared invalid. The name was registered by Patrick O'Malley from Fermanagh, in England and Wales. They also sought an injunction restraining O'Malley's company, Sinn Féin Ltd, from trading. The hearing was adjourned to January 30. Liam Hannaway, Dunmurry,

Belfast, who was arrested at the weekend and charged with possession of a gun and ammunition with intent to endanger life, was refused bail by Belfast Magistrates Court and was remanded in custody after the RUC claimed he "posed a public risk" if granted bail.

Friday, December 22, 2007.

Michael Stone was formally arraigned before Belfast Crown Court on 14 charges relating to an attempted to an attempted attack on Stormont buildings on November 24, 2008.

Tuesday, January 1, 2008. The leader of the IRA prisoners during internment in 1974 George Gillen was buried in Belfast.

Notes from Tyrone

A CHILDREN'S Christmas party at a local GAA club in December had to be cancelled due to a security alert.

The event, at the grounds of Dungannon Clarke's GAA Club, was due to take place on December 22 but was called off as a security precaution, after police received a warning that GAA grounds across the Occupied Six Counties were being targeted.

It is believed the warning referred to clubs in Dungannon and Cookstown as well as in County Derry and Armagh. Although suspect devices were found at GAA grounds in Counties Down and Antrim, nothing was found during searches at 26 local clubs.

A pipe bomb was found at a club in Banbridge, and a device recovered from grounds in Randalstown was later declared a hoax. Grounds in Armagh were searched as were the grounds at all clubs in County Derry.

The RUC/PSNI (the loyalists bedfellows) have 'no theories' as to who is behind the series of security alerts - or what the motive may have been.

The local representative of

Sinn Féin Poblachtach condemned the attacks and urged vigilance. When loyalism is not happy it lashes out at the nearest organised Irish target and that is the GAA.

The fact that a children's party was the target of one attack shows the complete disregard for human life these British-backed thugs have. As for the statement by the Crown Forces, it is hard to believe it they don't know what's happening when they arm and supply the loyalist organisations.

Republican Sinn Féin has pointed out in the past that a leopard cannot change its spots — the loyalists are the leopards and the RUC its spots. You cannot separate them. British Crown Forces should never have been allowed into the GAA because of their track record. This could possibly be a build-up to something more sinister, hopefully not.

On December 29, three men in the Dungannon and



• Members of the British colonial police the RUC/PSNI during a house raid. Following a rise in Republican activity in East Tyrone the Crown Forces are again travelling in armoured cars wearing body armour and carrying high velocity weapons.

Cookstown area were arrested over what the RUC/PSNI called 'Republican activity'.

A spokesperson for the RUC/PSNI confirmed that the arrests were made following planned operations and searches linked to so-called dissident Republican activity in the Dungannon and Cookstown areas. East Tyrone RSF understands the men were

arrested early in the morning, and were taken to the Interrogation Unit in Antrim, where they remained in custody for 48 hours. Locals confirmed that a number of unnamed items had been removed during the searches Crown Forces harassment in the Dungannon area reached new highs following an attack on a member of the Crown Forces in Dungannon last

month. The Peeler was shot in his car as he was driving on the Circular Road in Dungannon on November 14.

Republican Sinn Féin in East Tyrone condemns this rise in harassment aimed at Irish Republicans which has resulted in a number of homes being wrecked as the result of Crown Forces raids in the area; not only raids but car

checkpoints are now regularly stopping and harassing Irish Republicans especially in the Dungannon and Coalisland areas.

Following a rise in Republican activity in East Tyrone the Crown Forces are again travelling in armoured cars wearing body armour and carrying high velocity weapons.

Wexford remembers Liam Mellows

WITH a Colour Party standing guard of honour, the annual Liam Mellows commemoration took place on Sunday morning, December 9 in Castletown Cemetery, Enniscorthy at the patriot's grave.

It was chaired by Wexford Republican Veteran Séamus Swan, who said in reference to Fianna Fáil and the Provos, "We come here today to honour this great man, unlike others who will be here later to mock him."

Séamus then called on Brendan Tobin to lay a wreath on behalf of the Rafter/Mellows Cumann, RSF, Enniscorthy and Tom Malone of the Pádraig Ó Pearaill Cumann, Wexford town to lay a wreath on behalf of the Republican Movement. He then called for a minute's silence and the dipping of the Tricolour.

The oration was delivered by former Portlaoise and Long Kesh POW Jimmy Kavanagh, in the course of which he said:

"When Liam Mellows himself chose this locality as his final resting-place he could hardly have selected a more fitting spot. Anyone who has travelled to this commemoration through the years will be only too aware of just how bleak it can be, particularly at this time of year.

"As such it serves to remind us that the event which we commemorate today took place during one of the bleakest periods in our history. The summary execution of Liam mellows and three other prominent Republican leaders — Rory O'Connor, Richard Barrett and Joe McKelvey — on December 8, 1922 epitomises as much as any other event the real tragedy of the Civil War.

"... They were singled out

because they were all vociferous in their opposition to the act of surrender implicit in the acceptance of the Treaty and were equally implacable in their defence of the Republic.

"In the Treaty debate in the Dáil, Liam Mellows said: 'We are told that we must have unity. Yes, we want unity and had unity in Ireland during the last few years but we had it only on one basis, the basis of the Republic.

"Destroy that basis and you cannot have unity. Once you take yourself off that position you place yourself in a position to pave the way for concession after concession, for compromise after compromise."

"His words are just as applicable today as they were in 1922. Just as there was no way back for those who accepted the Treaty then equally there can be nothing in the future for those who have more recently abandoned



• Members of the Colour Party at the Liam Mellows commemoration in Enniscorthy on December 9.

Republican principles but greater compromises and more and more concessions.

"If Liam Mellows were alive today he too would be labelled a dissident or an enemy of the

so-called peace process and what is more he would be proud of those titles.

"There is no doubt in my mind he would be equally proud to take his place in the

ranks of Republican Sinn Féin. In his absence we will have to turn to his example and inspiration to aid us in the ongoing struggle."

Dáithí Ó Conaill — ‘acutely missed by Republicans’

ON January 1 Republicans gathered at the Republican Plot in Glasnevin Cemetery, Dublin to mark the seventeenth anniversary of the death of Dáithí Ó Conaill.

Mick Hunt, Wexford, carrying the Tricolour led the parade to the Republican Plot where the proceedings were chaired by Des Dalton, Vice-President, Republican Sinn Féin. A decade of the Rosary was recited as Gaeilge by Peig Galligan and Cathleen Knowles McGuirk, Vice-President, Republican Sinn Féin, laid a wreath. A lament was played on the feadóg by Seán Ó Sé for the dipping of the flag. The oration was delivered by Josephine Hayden, Ard-Rúnaí, Republican Sinn Féin, during which she said:

“Seventeen years ago today we heard the shocking news that Dáithí Ó Conaill had died peacefully but suddenly at his home in Raheny Dublin. He was only 52 years of age. Today we feel his loss as keenly as we did on that day. 17 years ago Ruairí Ó Brádaigh said of Dáithí: ‘He was the ablest mind in the Republican Movement for over 20 years,’ almost 20 years later his personal and political presence is acutely missed.

“Like the people with integrity here today he stayed true to the principles of the 1916 Proclamation. He passionately believed in a united and free Ireland, and he went and fought the fight. He was not afraid to nail his colours to the mast and like many others he suffered for it and paid the ultimate price with his untimely death.

“He would be disappointed, but not surprised, if he were here today to see the way in which things have changed, for the worst, politically and in many other ways also. The country has what’s euphemistically called ‘moved on’ and ‘progressed’ but in some ways we are certainly going backwards. To allow the desecration of a historic national monument like Tara, and indeed the surrounds of Tara, it is hardly ‘moving on’. But it is part and parcel of the Free State strategy to bury Ireland’s historical past.

“The selling off of our natural resources to multinational corporations like Shell cannot be called ‘progressive’. Again the



• *The Republican Plot in Glasnevin Cemetery, Dublin, burial place of Dáithí Ó Conaill.*

destruction of Mayo is of no concern to those who gave the gas away. But thank God for the people of Erris and Mayo, and for those protesting at Tara, Lismullen and elsewhere who resist the destruction of our country.

“The drive to create a European State is well under way. Sinn Féin Poblachtach will be campaigning for a NO vote in the election and we call on everyone to exercise their franchise and defeat the creation of another superstate.

“If Europe becomes an entity on its own, with its own constitution, individual countries will have NO say in how their countries are run. Majority voting will replace consensus voting in over 50 areas and the right to reject laws that are not in the interests of the country will not be an option. The militarisation of the European state, working with NATO and the huge transfer of power to Brussels should cause all of us sleepless nights and are but just two of the most worrying aspects of the Treaty/constitution.

“The attempt at normalisation of British rule in Ireland is another example of not ‘moving on’. Some former comrades may consider it ‘moving on’ but we in Sinn Féin Poblachtach consider it a backward step. To have worked so closely with people only for them to betray you is a

hard blow. Dáithí felt this blow, not just once but twice. And still he continued, along with his good friends and comrades, to walk the path of Republicanism knowing how hard it would be to begin all over again to build a strong and dedicated Movement but free now from the native traitor.

“The group of people who set up a caretaker executive in the West County Hotel, Dublin in 1986 pledged to uphold the Republican position enshrined in the Sinn Féin constitution — they never had, and never will have, any intention of selling out those who gave their lives for Ireland. They never had, or will have, any intention of implementing British rule in Ireland; of accepting partition or recognising the RUC as a legitimate police force in Ireland. They will not welcome the Commander in Chief of the British Forces, Queen Elizabeth of England, to our shores while her subjects in the British Army and police walk the streets of Occupied Ireland, raid homes, arrest, charge and imprison Republicans and innocent civilians. They will never applaud Bush and agree with Shannon being used for extraordinary rendition flights or troop/munitions movement to Iraq. And we stand firmly beside them.

“Sectarian attacks have increased in

the British Occupied Six Counties while the Provisionals call for all young men and women to join the British police force — the RUC/PSNI. Report after report has been published on the collusion between all sections of the Crown forces, and all the way up to the British government, and the loyalist death squads, damning indictments every one of them.

“We can and do sympathise with the bereaved families of Omagh (and indeed all families bereaved during British occupation), however we can never condone the attempted jailing of innocent men or women. The case of ‘any Taig will do’ is not acceptable whether they are a target for loyalist death squads or to send to jail for something they did not do. We were glad to see the acquittal of Seán Hoey before Christmas having spent four years on remand in Maghaberry jail. We welcome home Stiofán Ó Dáiligh who served an eight-year sentence in Maghaberry and we send New Year greetings to those men who are still in there and also in Portlaoise Jail.

“Dáithí Ó Conaill was no stranger to the inside of a jail having served several sentences in Crumlin Road, Belfast, Mountjoy, Portlaoise and undertaken many hunger strikes; in 1977 he was 47 days on hunger strike in Portlaoise jail. He was also interned in the Curragh from which he escaped

along with Ruairí Ó Brádaigh in 1958. He joined Sinn Féin in Cork in 1955 and shortly after joined the IRA. He was only 18 at the time of the Brookeborough Raid in which two of his comrades, Seán Sabhat and Fergal O’Hanlon lost their lives.

“He resigned as Vice-President of the Provisional Movement in 1983 because he could see what direction the Movement was taking, the abandonment of the ÉIRE NUA policy was a strong indication that a section of the movement was pulling in another direction. He was one of the architects of ÉIRE NUA and author of *Towards a Peaceful Ireland*. In both of these his influence in and on the movement can be seen. He was a founder member of Irish Northern Aid in the US; he was part of the Republican delegation that met representatives of the British government in London in 1972 and he was also one of the Republican delegation at the Feakle talks in 1974. His influence was widespread and lasting.

“Dáithí stood not just with the Irish people but with the many peoples around the world struggling to maintain and/or establish their independence, including the Basques [who proclaimed a Republic in 1936] and the Palestinians. Injustice was injustice no matter in what country, and it had to be addressed. As James Connolly said “We will fight for our cause when words are useful with words and with arms when arms are needed.” Dáithí showed the way with words and arms. Let us continue to do the same, and in doing so his influence will live on.

“Giving the oration at Dáithí’s funeral Ruairí Ó Brádaigh said: ‘It is better to have a short life with honour than a long life without honour’ and he continued: ‘Dáithí Ó Conaill had honour every day of his life. Dáithí Ó Conaill viewed the Republican Movement not as a political party but as the main catalyst of progressive forces to achieve Irish Freedom.’ It is our job now to achieve Irish freedom. The road to Irish freedom is not an easy one, but then nothing worth having is gained easily”

The ceremony concluded with the playing of Amhrán na bhFiann by Seán Ó Sé.

Rededication of memorial stone in Saggart

ON Sunday, December 9 comrades and friends of the late Jimmy Keeney, of Donegal and Dublin, gathered in Saggart, Co Dublin to rededicate a memorial stone in his memory.

Jimmy Keeney was a dedicated Republican activist who was killed in a motorcycle accident at that spot on October 18, 1984. He had spent many years working for the Republican cause and was particularly active during the H-Block hunger strike campaigns of 1980-81. His comrades in the Republican Movement had erected a stone in his honour but it had been eroded and cracked. A new stone was acquired and erected in its place.

Speaking at the rededication, Peter Cunningham of the Wolfe Tone Cumann, Republican Sinn Féin, Tallaght, Co Dublin said:

“We have taken this opportunity to replace the plaque which had deteriorated over the years. Let us hope that this one will go one to the next generation.

“In the years prior to Jimmy’s death the Republican Movement had gone through tough times opposing British rule in Ireland.

While we had experienced the loss and the successes of the Volunteers in the field, the most harrowing was the dirty protest in the H-Blocks and Armagh Women’s jail.

“This protest followed on into a hunger strike for the five just demands. Maggie Thatcher granted and then withdrew them in typical British fashion, thinking she had broken the spirit of the prisoners. She was greatly mistaken. A new hunger strike commenced, led by Bobby Sands and only ended after the deaths of ten prisoners in 1981.

“Jimmy had become involved in 1979 and in the years before



• *Peter Cunningham*

his untimely death was always available to do whatever it took to highlight the plight of those

imprisoned.

“There are people here today who remember when going to the funeral of one of the hunger strikers they were stopped at a border checkpoint. The people in the car were asked to produce identification, which they did, except Jimmy. The only piece of paper he had on him was a receipt for the black cloth which was used for the black flags flown in Saggart and surrounding areas. The Brits accepted this for some strange reason.

“In the years after the hunger strike there was deep discussion within the Movement as to the right direction we were going or being led. The cracks began to

appear, the undercover Brits within were at their work, which led to the split in 1986.

“The biggest mass movement of people in history opposed to British rule in Ireland was split, not by the British, but by renegade Irishmen. There are still 5,000 British army personnel and a police force occupying the Six Counties, who all give their allegiance to a foreign queen.

“Jimmy was not to see this development and his opinion was missed in those debates. Let us together always remember Jimmy and his contribution in those years.”

Seán Sabhat remembered in Limerick

THE 51st annual Seán Sabhat commemoration took place in Limerick on January 6.

A large crowd formed up at Bedford Place in the city centre and, led by a colour party, marched to the Republican Plot in Mount St Lawrence Cemetery where the proceedings were chaired by Des Long, Ard Chomhairle, Sinn Féin Poblachtach.

Wreaths were laid by Joe Lynch on behalf of the Republican Movement, by Tom McCarthy on behalf of Coiste Cuimhneacháin Seán Sabhat; by Walter Dunphy on behalf of Republicans in New South Wales; and by Seán O'Neill on behalf of Republicans in South Africa.

Séamus Ó Súilleabháin, Ard Chomhairle, West Limerick said a decade of the Rosary as Gaeilge and a fine oration was delivered by Richard Walsh, National PRO, Sinn Féin Poblachtach, Derry, in the course of which he said:

"The example of Seán Sabhat has inspired many since his untimely death to achieve a free and united Ireland. Indeed, his funeral was the biggest ever seen in this city. Some 50,000 people lined the streets of Limerick to pay their respects to this fine and honourable Irish soldier.

"Having been a member of the FCA, he informed the IRA recruiting officer that he had concluded that the freedom of Ireland could never be achieved by Free State Forces. Having been accepted into *Óglaigh na hÉireann*, he later became Training Officer for Limerick, by all accounts having exceptional ability in this field. He was also an Irish language enthusiast, and regularly addressed people *as Gaeilge*.

"Seán was proud of his country and his heritage, and did all that he could to finally rid Ireland of the cancerous British presence. He recognised the right of the Irish people to use any level of controlled and disciplined force to drive the British out of Ireland. We in Republican Sinn Féin also recognise that immutable right.

"The Provos inevitably took the final step towards endorsing the RUC nearly a year ago, claiming that it was necessary to eradicate crime. It must be asked, however, what greater crime exists than Treason? The supporters of those who murdered Seán Sabhat have no right to assemble here, or to associate his name with their sordid message. Seeking collaboration with Ireland's enemies can only create more martyrs. Regardless of whether certain Provos were informers or agents in the past, they are all British agents now.

"Seán Sabhat did not approach Brookeborough Barracks with information on his comrades, nor did he approach with an application form: instead he bravely approached the Barracks armed

only with the weapons of war. His only engagement with the Brits was through military engagement to expel them from Ireland.

"We have seen already some of the inevitable effects of the Provisionals' total collaboration with the enemy: Members of Republican Sinn Féin and others opposed to the current sell-out have endured a catalogue of harassment at the hands of the British Colonial Police over the past year. There have been numerous raids on Republican homes in North Armagh, with SDLP and Provo mouthpieces Dolores Kelly and John O'Dowd condemning those arrested despite the fact that the majority were subsequently released without charge. Residents were also assaulted and mistreated – including a pregnant woman.

"In Derry, Detective Inspector Ian Magee has expressed his wish to use schoolchildren as informers for his investigation into the shooting of an RUC man in the city last November. It is hypocritical in the extreme that he would accuse those who shot Constable Doherty of endangering children in a nearby school whilst irresponsibly seeking to use them for his own ends.

"Stíofan Ó Dálaigh and his sister were arrested following a similar shooting in Dungannon, Co. Tyrone, shortly after his release from Maghaberry Gaol. It is clear that the arrests were simply acts of harassment. He had courageously fought for full political status while he was in gaol, enduring an arduous ten-month protest. Regrettably the Brits appear keen to roll-back on the concessions made to the POWs, and have even hinted at once again ending segregation. Seemingly they have still failed to grasp the lessons of the past.

"Just last month a British judge threw out a case against RUC Constable Keith McCabe who had assaulted RSF election worker Brian O'Connor in Enniskillen, Co. Fermanagh. Clearly such tactics remain acceptable when they are used against Irish Republicans. Shortly afterwards the long-awaited verdict against Seán Hoey from Jonesboro, Co. Armagh, was delivered. Having been maliciously prosecuted in relation to the Omagh bombing, it was shown that the so-called 'evidence' was either meaningless or manufactured. Two members of the British Colonial Police were shown to be liars, and we have since learned, unsurprisingly, that both perjurers remain on active service. Numerous others are charged on the basis of the utterly discredited Low Copy Number DNA.

"It was also revealed in the past week that Provo surrogates, 'Community Restorative Justice',

are responsible for reporting two-hundred alleged incidents to the RUC. They have claimed that "the community [they] represent ... felt

these people were happy to accept all that went before, including the treacherous destruction of arms at the behest of the English and their

services from Shannon in favour of Aldergrove Airport in Co. Antrim. The airline has sought to place the Six Counties outside of Ireland by



• Republican Colour Party at the Seán Sabhat commemoration in Mount St Lawrence's Cemetery, Limerick on January 6.



• Seán Sabhat

able to move forward with regards to policing." The truth, of course, is that it was their masters who were determined to move on the issue – indeed they had made the ridiculous claim that a multi-million pound MI5 spy centre in Co. Down was a step towards accountable and civic policing! But many in the Nationalist community remain implacably opposed to the Provisionals' new military wing, i.e. the RUC. There have been protests and even attacks on them in places like Derry, Belfast and Crossmaglen. In many cases it is the unbought youth of Ireland rising up against them.

"We have also seen the decimation of the Provos' ranks with the departure of those opposed to their new direction. (Of course this has been countered by recruiting those who have always sought the destruction of the Republican project.) However, whilst such resignations are welcome, it must be asked why

proxies in the Occupied Six Counties.

"The Provos' brutal murder of Paul Quinn from Cullyhanna, Co. Armagh, and their attempts to posthumously label him as a criminal, have also led to the beginning of their demise in South Armagh. People have rightly questioned why they have a military wing when they are promoters and defenders of English rule. They already have the British Colonial Police as a military adjunct to their organisation.

"As we approach the tenth anniversary of the enactment of the Stormont Agreement, we remain in a partitioned and occupied country. Despite the hype and the spin from the mainstream media and those who control it, the "Constitutional Question" has not been resolved. We do not accept the authority of Ian Paisley and Martin McGuinness to rule over us, nor do we accept the authority of Bertie Ahern or Gordon Brown.

"The true and uncompromised Republican Movement will give the lead to those disillusioned by the current surrender process. There will always be a respectable section of the Irish people to oppose English rule in Ireland, and indeed our history shows that there are those who will continue to oppose it in arms. The IRA remains very much alive under the Leadership and direction of the Continuity Army Council, and as a report inspired and backed by the British Government acknowledges "remains active, dangerous and committed."

"The people of the Mid-West have also suffered from the Paisley/McGuinness marriage with the withdrawal of Aer Lingus

offering workers foreign, rather than domestic, conditions of employment. Needless to say, this means poorer conditions of employment.

And, as has been mooted by Bertie Ahern, a British Royal visit to the 26-Counties is imminent. We, the Republican people of Ireland, pledge our opposition to any visit to our shores by British Royals so long as they continue to stake a claim in our country. "It is unsurprising that the 26-County State, which imprisoned and subsequently interned Seán Sabhat's comrades, would welcome such a visit by Elizabeth Windsor. As Dáithí Ó Conaill stated in Dublin District Court in January, 1957, the Hungarian freedom fighters were welcomed when they arrived in Austria, whereas Republican soldiers were greeted by machine guns upon their return to the 26 Counties.

"Let us secure the realisation of the dream of Seán Sabhat and Feargal O'Hanlon, and the countless others who have died for Ireland throughout the years. We will never sully their memory through compromise, constitutionalism or surrender. Their example will continue to inspire future generations.

"Our ÉIRE NUA proposals offer a viable alternative to the sectarian Stormont Agreement, giving local communities a real say in their governance. The Federal Government would protect citizens from abuse, as would a Charter of Rights. This would allow for the Irish people to work together for the good of all their fellow citizens. All that is required from the English is their permanent withdrawal from our shores!"

RSF members visit Cuba

ON Friday, October 12 we met with officials of the International Relations Department of the Central Committee of the Cuban Communist Party.

They outlined in great detail the severe economic situation Cuba has had to cope with and the effects of the US blockade. They spoke about how the country has become stronger and was moving forward, albeit slowly and not without difficulty. They outlined the difficulties ahead and the problems that need addressing.

Changes in agriculture are badly needed – in some areas the fields are ploughed with oxen and horses and grass cut with a machete – but as with the motor trade, vehicles and spare parts are like gold dust. Everything is used, reused, mended and recycled in Cuba – there is no waste in any sector. As the blockade took effect they had to become self-sufficient. I saw one man 'sanding' a table with a machete, he scraped the varnish off with the knife.

The Secretary of the Communist Party read out a speech delivered in the University of Havana in 2005 and spoke of how "Cuba is making a great effort not to destroy the effects of the Revolution. Our enemies say we have to change but they want us to change, to destroy the Revolution." The Revolution brought them a pride in themselves that they did not have when Batista ruled the country and was the "puppet" of the US, he explained:

"If we embrace capitalism we lose the Revolution. We defend our project. We always learn the best way to confront a problem is not to hide it but to confront it. Fidel is continually looking for problems so we can improve in health and education. We need to see our weakness and confront it," said the Secretary of the International Relations and continued:

"In the 90s we were forced to develop and carry out certain changes in order to survive. That led us to use some capitalist solutions but it brought problems."

He spoke of the need to address the housing problem. Again it is down to the availability of raw materials. For example when they have cement etc they use it until it runs out and then the building stops again until they get some more.

Unemployment must be addressed. Cuba has more doctors per head of population than any other country, but their access to drugs is limited. Often they did not have a tablet to give to their patients and many lives were lost that could have been saved with medicine.

Education is high on their list of priorities and they are proud of that (as they are proud of their medical system) - literacy is at 97%. Food importation is also affected by the blockade and again down the years many lives have been lost through starvation.

The representative went on "We are preparing for when Fidel will no longer be with us. But we will always be with Fidel. No one will ever substitute him. We are able to mobilise hundreds and thousands of people, we are able to face the aggression of the enemy. Military aggression is possible. We have to explain this. The top priority for Cuba is to defend Cuba."

He spoke about the treatment of Cuba by the UN and Bush's plan for Cuba when Fidel is no longer President. The contempt Bush shows toward Fidel Castro shows just how arrogant and ignorant he is. Cuba is willing to open dialogue with the United States but "only after Bush" and on an equal basis.

In answer to a lengthy question and answer session the representatives of the Communist Party addressed some issues, and said that: "The Communist Party is the outcome of all forces which emerged after the Revolution. The Party was founded on October 3, 1965 with the unity of the people. In 1976 in a referendum, the Constitution of Cuba was passed. The people of Cuba voted in favour of socialism in the 2000 referendum."

They spoke of the Miami Five (who are heroes in Cuba) who have their full backing and mentioned that "there are mercenaries paid to destroy the Revolution. The US finances groups to destabilise countries they cannot control, and they organise terrorist attacks against them just as they did against Cuba."

There were no dissenting voices heard during our trip except for a few comments on the wish for "a better standard of living", but that "would come soon" they believed as the economy was "on the way up". We did not speak to very many people outside those we met on our organised trip. However the people we met were friendly, helpful and most certainly happy and upbeat.

The camp itself was built as a school for foreign students who wished to study and other 'camp schools' followed. The students built on to the schools as well as studying. Instituto Cubano De Amistad Con Los Pobleos (ICAP) was founded in 1960 to co-ordinate the camps and in 1972 they became Solidarity Camps. Antonio Mello was one of the Cuban Revolutionaries who was one of the founders of the Students Federation and Communist Party. In the last 35 years 85,000 Brigadistas have come through the camps – between 15 and 18 Brigades every year.

Two nights before the end of the camp an International night was held. Every country made some cultural contribution and was spectacular. There was singing and dancing, some audio and video and the food prepared by many countries was indeed the miracle of the loaves and fishes and some unknown ingredients! All nations drink was drunk in copious quantities, much merriment went on all night.

The last two days were spent in Havana, visiting the Museum of the Revolution and exploring the city. This building, the Museum of the Revolution, is magnificent. It is preserved and maintained like all the other buildings, with care and attention. Inside are items associated with the Revolution; clothes, guns, photographs, statistics and a wealth of information on the Revolution itself. Outside are some aircraft, lorries, munitions and a replica of the *Granma* (the original still exists) in which Fidel, Che and 81 comrades arrived in December 2, 1956, which led to the Revolution and the overthrow of General Fulgencio Batista's regime on January 1, 1959 by the 26th of July Movement. (Shades of the Howth gun-running in Ireland.)

On the night before we left we presented Juan Carlos, the Director of the Camp, with a plaque made by the POWs in Portlaoise prison. He was delighted to receive.

Many people visited and welcomed us to the Campamento Internacional Julio Antonia Mella. They were glad of the opportunity to send a message to other nations. One such message from the

WORLD NEWS



• Margaret and Matt Mullen, Dermot Douglas and MS Mac Phaidín at the Central University of Las Villas in Cuba.

organisers, was that they were trying to "fight the war of misinformation surrounding anything to do with Cuba for the last half century".

"I hope you know now the false things they have said about us. You cannot imagine how important it is to have you here. They have tried to isolate the Cuban Revolution I want to thank you for coming here on the 40th Anniversary of Che's last combat and his murder by the Bolivian ruling classes together with CIA of USA". (*The Cuban Revolution also refers to the ongoing implementation of the ongoing social and economic programs.*)

The many people we met at the camp all had their reasons for being there but the one overriding reason was their belief in the Cuban system, their respect for the revolution and the revolutionaries. We met many ex-political prisoners who had been tortured and imprisoned for many years. Their courage was humbling, from all they suffered they still had not given up the ideals for which they were imprisoned in the first place. (*I wont identify them in case they suffer further for their visit to Cuba*). It was an honour to meet them. The brother of one man is still in jail having been abducted and kept without trial for over 20 years.

Our thanks to Juan Carlos, director of the camp, Roberto who is the Brigade organizer and Raul the work organizer for the camp, and all the staff who treated us with such respect.

New Year's message from the Miami Five

"THANK you for your words full of encouragement and brotherhood.

This year 2007 is coming to its end and in one way or another we all make an appraisal of our achievements and failures, as well as of our joys and sorrows in these last 12 months. We know that time is relative, but we cannot avoid to measure it and, within it, to trace new goals: our near and far-away dreams.

"There is something that clearly comes to view in our evaluation of this year: it is the incessant growing of the solidarity with our struggle for justice and freedom.

"Of course, we know that still we have much to do in order to reach the truth to all corners and with it to gain the door to justice, but we can count on the tenacity that each one of our friends has demonstrated, on your indestructible attachment to reason and honesty and on your immense love to the Cuban people and its Revolution.

"Most of the time my answer to your letter comes with a delay because I have so many commitments and I am involved in various projects, but you should know that you are, and you will be forever, in the hearts of the Five.

"Happy New Year 2008! We wish you health, peace and love. A strong embrace from the Five. ¡Hasta la Victoria Siempre! Greetings to friends, In solidarity," Antonio Guerrero, USP Florence, Colorado, December 31, 2007. The other four men are Gerardo Hernandez, Ramon Labanino, Fernando Gonzalez and Rene Gonzalez. Write to the Miami Five, contact details:

<http://www.freethethefive.org/writethethefive.htm>.

Ex-CIA agent admits al-Qaeda suspect tortured

A FORMER member of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) in the US who led the capture of alleged al-Qaeda member Abu Zubaydah, confirmed that Zubaydah, was tortured.

He was the first detainee in CIA custody and subjected to waterboarding, a controlled form of drowning contrary to the Army

Field Manual which forbids coercive methods including waterboarding.

On December 11, John Kiriakou said this form of 'interrogation' was 'approved at the highest levels of the US Government and was effective'. "This is a policy made at the White House, with concurrence from the National Security Council and Justice Department", he said.

Palestinian-born Abu Zubaydah was arrested in 2002 in Pakistan and transferred to a prison [possibly] in Thailand before being transferred to Guantanamo Bay where he remains.

On December 6 the CIA admitted that in 2005 it destroyed the videotapes documenting the interrogation of at least two suspects. They initially denied the existence of the tapes and then claimed that keeping them could pose a security risk to the agents involved. The

use of "enhanced interrogation techniques", which includes slaps to the face and body and sleep deprivation for up to 48 hours, well as waterboarding, were directed from the CIA HQ in Langley, Virginia. Waterboarding involves a feeling of drowning for 35 seconds – more than three times longer than most US operatives trained in waterboarding had themselves endured.

On December 18, US District Court Judge Henry Kennedy, ordered the Bush administration to explain whether the CIA violated a court order by destroying videotapes of two terrorism suspects. In 2005 the judge had ordered the government to preserve information on prisoner mistreatment at the US Naval Base in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

The Senate and House Committees agree that the US should no longer have two systems, one for the CIA and one for the military according to Jay Rockefeller. But a White House spokesperson, Tony Fratto, said George Bush would veto any Bill that included a limitation on the interrogation methods the CIA could use.

Meanwhile in Guantanamo on December 7, legal argument continued as to whether Salim Ahmed Hamdan, allegedly Osama Bin Laden's driver, should be considered 'an unlawful enemy combatant' or not. Should he be so considered this would make him subject to military commission trial on charges of 'conspiracy and material support to terrorism'.

Castro indicates he may step down

ON DECEMBER 18, Fidel Castro indicated he may stand down to make way for a younger leader. In a letter read out on national television he said:

"My essential duty is not to cling to office nor to obstruct the rise of people much younger, but to pass on experience and ideas whose modest value arises from the exceptional times in which I lived".

Fidel Castro has led Cuba since the 1959 revolution and is now 81 years of age. He has been in poor health for some time and his brother Raul has been acting president.

An election will take place this month (January) for the Cuban national assembly, which will elect the President in March. The current vice-president Carlos Lage is one of four possible names mentioned to succeed Fidel Castro. Others are Felipe Perez Roque, the foreign minister; Ricardo Alarcon, president of the national assembly and national assembly vice president Jaime Crombet.

Sentences hard blow for weakened ETA

FORTY-seven people were sentenced in Spain to prison terms ranging between two and 24 years for contact with the Basque separatist group ETA.

Five were acquitted. According to Johan Eriksson of the Institute of Foreign Policy, Sweden, the sentences will make life hard for ETA.

This was the largest trial in Spain against people connected with ETA. Just as the judge was going to give the verdict, the prosecuted supporters started singing "Eusko gudariak", the Basque soldier's song, which is often sung by ETA supporters. "Get out! And shut up!" could be heard from the judge when the prosecuted were led out. Forty-seven people were sentenced.

The sentences are important, at least symbolically, because they show that the State is determined to strangle the political channels of ETA, says Eriksson. "To sympathise and spread propaganda is tolerated in most democracies. The Spanish State has, however, received help from the post-9/11 debate. A harder climate has made stricter laws possible".

WHAT THEY SAID

I feel the direction that Provisional Sinn Féin is taking is more about appeasement of the British government and administrating (sic) in Ireland rather than working towards the end of British occupation.

— [Stormont] Assembly structures support this — at both committee and plenary level unionists have majority control. What was agreed at St Andrews cannot be delivered without unionist approval.

— Irish News (Belfast), December 3, 2007, report on the resignation from the Provos of Gerry McHugh, a Fermanagh and South Tyrone member of Stormont and a member of Fermanagh District Council. He will continue to sit in Stormont as an Independent.

Mr McHugh said [Provisional] Sinn Féin's decision to endorse policing in the North was a 'factor' in his decision.

"The fact that the PSNI is being used by mi5 for political policing here should be a major concern for everybody here," he said.

— Irish News, December 3, 2007.

Mr McHugh is not the first politician to leave [Provisional] Sinn Féin because of differences over policing. [Provisional] Sinn Féin advisor Breandan Mac Cionnaith — who rose to prominence as a spokesperson for the Garvaghy Road Residence Coalition — resigned from the party in April over policing.

Former Mid-Ulster assembly member Geraldine Dougan resigned from the party in January over policing. The same month former Newry mayor Davy Hyland resigned claiming [Provisional] Sinn Féin's shift in policing policy was the core reason for his de-selection ahead of the [Stormont] Assembly election.

— Irish News report.

A permanent memorial to the victims of the Miami Showband massacre, gunned down on one of the most shocking atrocities in the Troubles will be unveiled in Dublin tomorrow. The monument will pay tribute to the three men murdered by loyalist gunmen in Newry, Co Down, in July 1975 — Tony Geraghty, Fran O'Toole and Brian McCoy.

— Sunday Tribune, December 9, UVF men, at least two of whom were also Ulster Defense Regiment soldiers, were responsible. All were wearing UDR uniforms. The memorial in limestone, bronze and granite by Donegal artist Redmond Herrity, is outside the former National Ballroom in Parnell Square North, Dublin.

Investment is required in social housing and sufficient move-on accommodation for people to progress out of homelessness.

It is also important to recognise that social housing is not appropriate for everyone and that further long-term supported accommodation is required for those with high support needs.

— Patrick Burke, chief executive of the Simon Communities of Ireland writing in the Irish Times on the day of the launch of its 2006 Annual Review on December 11. While welcoming the governments pledge to develop 9,000 social housing units in 2008,

they said that the homeless 'were usually the last to be selected for such schemes'.

Our welfare system also needs to ensure that, once accommodation is secured, the tenant can keep up with rent payments. Finally initiatives should be developed to address barriers to education, training and employment for people who are homeless.

— Patrick Burke.

The average age of those who passed away was just 42. This compares with an average life expectancy of 78 years for Irish people. What these figures tell us is that homelessness kills and without timely and comprehensive responses it will continue to result in untimely and unnecessary deaths.

— Patrick Burke, quoted in Irish Times, December 12, 2007. Further information can be had at www.simoncommunity.com.

The decision to order policewomen to hand in their guns or risk having their pay withheld says volumes about a future for a country increasingly clouded by postwar religious and cultural conservatism.

The measure involved all 1,000 female officers who graduated from the police academy.

— Irish Times, December 14, 2007. Michael Jansen column entitled Liberties curbed in extremists' rise to power.

Women are the main victims of fundamentalists who have risen to power in postwar Iraq. Women and girls of all religious persuasions are compelled to wear the hijab or enveloping chador cloak by Shia and Sunni enforcers.

— Michael Jansen.

At least 40 women who did not adopt prescribed dress have been killed this year in Basra, once a liberal city, while women in Baghdad, who used to dress as they pleased and circulate freely, dare not leave home without covering their heads and arms.

— Michael Jansen.

In 1905, he [Edward Martyn 1857-1923] became the figurehead first president of Sinn Féin, for him a tedious public service of interminable public meetings, but opening up the political future of his country.

Of the hundreds of landlords facing the end of their way of life in late — 19th — century Ireland, it is hard to think of many that left better memorials of their time on earth than Edward Martyn.

— Irish Times, Weekend Review, December 15, 2007, review by Adrian Frazier of "The Life and Times of Edward Martyn: An Aristocratic Bohemian" by Madeline Humphreys, publ. Irish Academic Press.

"Yes we had to get the army (sic) up there to put down Michael Dwyer and his gang (sic) of insurrectionists, Lyric FM radio, Sunday afternoon, December 16, Gay Byrne's explanation of why the 'Military Road' into the Wicklow mountains was especially built by the British Army in the aftermath of the 1798 Rising.

— Lyric FM radio, December 16, 2007.

This is on playing pitches by managers and mentors and supporters and even to referees. I experienced it myself first hand during the summer. Every time these people hear Irish spoken on the pitch they just seem to lose it.

— Irish News, December 20, 2007. Irish language broadcaster Seán Bán Breathnach, speaking as he reversed his decision to resign from his position as GAA cultural and Irish officer. He resigned on December 17 at a meeting in Galway blaming growing hostility to the use of the Irish language



• Homeless man walking the streets of Dublin (see quote December 11, 2007).

within the association.

This to me is racism. Racism is not all about colour but it is also about language as well.

— Seán Bán Breathnach

A key portion of the prosecution case against [Seán] Hoey was founded on DNA profiling gleaned from minute samples, presented in court. Some molecules, the court heard, were as small as a millionth part of a grain of salt.

— Irish Times, December 21, 2007.

"Do not waste time trying to impress a jury when there isn't one, the judge remarked to Mr [Orlando] Pownell [QC] pointedly. On another occasion he advised him to "adapt to his ways" rather than have the judge do the yielding.

The early days of the trial saw a British army witness concede in court that some evidence may have been "forensically altered".

— Irish Times. The court was the non-jury Diplock type.

The judge who yesterday freed the man charged with the Omagh bombing has accused the police of "deliberate and calculated deception".

Mr Justice Weir described to Belfast Crown Court "a most disturbing situation" whereby two officers had "beefed up" their statements concerning the atrocity.

Had evidence not been available to "gainstay" the "lies" of these two police witnesses the court could have been deceived, he said.

— Irish Times.

Yesterday's verdict emphatically cleared Hoey. For the Omagh relatives, the police, British army and forensic services as well as the international forensic community, many clear and pertinent questions remain glaringly unanswered.

— Irish Times.

All our legislation has to be aligned with European law and our environmental policies are entirely European. If you look at your passport, you will see that it is only part Irish or part British. It is an EU passport. It is a situation which has come about since Britain and Ireland joined the EEC in 1973.

Since then a succession of other agreements have brought us ever closer to a single European state in which both countries have sacrificed national sovereignty in return for membership of a large political club.

— Patrick Murray, writing in his column entitled "In a few years we may have neither fish nor freedom" in Irish News, December 22, 2007.

The recent Lisbon Treaty means that the EU will now be represented by a single foreign

minister who will have a louder voice than his equivalent in any member state. No national parliament can challenge future EU legislation unless it has the support of eight other states and even then it can be overruled. The new EU president will be in power for 30 months at a time instead of the present six-month rotation policy.

— Patrick Murray.

Kevin Skelton, whose wife Philomena died in the August 1998 bomb attack [in Omagh], said that the decision to acquit [Seán] Hoey was correct. "What else could the court have done but acquit Hoey?" said Skelton, who said the evidence in the case was weak. "Under those circumstances, what other verdict could have been given, except not guilty?"

— Sunday Business Post, December 23, 2007, article by Colm Heatley, Belfast.

It's [the Moriarty report] conclusion — that the frequency and scale of payments to Haughey, 'particularly during difficult economic times nationally, can only be said to have devalued the quality of a national democracy' — is unlikely to be forgotten.

— Sunday Business Post, December 23, 2007, article by Diarmaid Ferriter, author of the newly-published "Judging Dev". He calls Mary Harney "the first female leader of an Irish political party" ignoring the fact that Margaret Buckley was President of Sinn Féin from 1937 to 1950.

It may well be concluded that, while the Progressive Democrats seemed to win the debate about personal taxation, the real reason for economic taxation was low corporation taxes, which predated the party by 30 years.

— Diarmaid Ferriter.

Pat Leahy reports that [EU] Commissioner McCreevy warned that the plans for a common tax base "could become an issue in the debate on the forthcoming referendum" on the EU Treaty in Ireland (16/11/07)

— Sunday Business Post, December 23, 2007, letter to the Editor from A Leavy, Sutton, Dublin 13.

Gardaí refused to use the controversial DNA testing method applied in the trial of an Omagh bomb suspect because they did not think it was "robust enough" as evidence, the Irish Mail on Sunday can reveal.

— Irish Mail on Sunday, December 23, report by Ken Fox and John Lee.

A large engraved stone thought to be more than 5,000 years old has been discovered [on November 30] in a prehistoric complex currently being excavated to make way for the M3 motorway — prompting fears of a further delay to the

construction project [near Tara].

It was found in the Lismullin complex which is being excavated by the National Roads Authority (NRA) before the long-awaited Dublin-Meath motorway can be completed.

— Irish Mail on Sunday.

A prime suspect in the barbaric murder of 21-year-old Paul Quinn has threatened to shoot a South Armagh local who spoke out about the [Provisional] IRA's involvement in the killing. [Provisional] IRA activists in the area are engaged in a systematic campaign to terrorise locals into dropping support for the Quinn family.

— Irish Mail on Sunday.

While Israeli settlements and industries continue to spread on the West Bank, parents and children are denied access to a hospital in the heart of Bethlehem, and farmers are cut off from their fields, are denied access to water, see their grapes wither on the vines and watch helplessly as olive trees that are centuries old are uprooted and cut down.

She [Felicity Heathcote in RTE's *Would You Believe* series] listened as Israelis and Palestinians spoke of the wall being less about security and more about what they described as a "land-grab". They were not extremists, for they included former Chief Rabbi of Ireland, Dr David Rosen.

— Irish Times editorial December 24, 2007 headed "Hope and the town of Bethlehem".

However in the light of the European Courts ruling disallowing Swedish trade unions from enforcing local pay deals on foreign companies (*The Irish Times*, December 19th) — a ruling which may have grave consequences for the Irish labour market — I am now almost certain I shall vote NO.

— Irish Times, December 24, 2007, letter to editor from Peter Forbes, Rochford Avenue, Killocock, Co Kildare, who wrote that he had expected to vote Yes in the forthcoming Lisbon Treaty referendum.

But Elizabeth Windsor has not, and remains the only head of state of an EU country whose visit would lead to a fierce national debate.

There might not be a roaring trade in miniature Union jack flags, but the reaction will be fascinating snapshot of the Irish personality, and will be noted by media the world over.

— Irish Times, Weekend Review, December 29, 2007.

But this will be watershed season for one reason only: money.

There are many at grassroots level [in the GAA] who believe players' grants are pay-for-play in disguise, and who fear the kind of problems that have beset club rugby since the arrival of professionalism in that sport.

Whatever occurs on the field this year may yet be matched by the drama off it.

— Irish Times Weekend Review, December 29, 2007 on the strike by the Cork County footballers and hurlers over how selectors are picked.

Half a century ago, Seán MacBride was a saintly bore on the need to use wind and wave power to generate electricity. What a wry grimace might be drawn from his ghost by the "action plans" that now tumble over each other — all eminently sensible, principled, life-enhancing: just a few generations later.

— Irish Times Weekend Review, December 29, 2007. Article by Michael Viney asking will alternative energies and sustainable building prove too little too late.

The government is

considering holding the referendum on the EU reform Treaty on Friday, May 9 — Europe Day — according to political sources.

— Sunday Business Post, December 30, 2007, report by Niamh Connolly, Political Reporter.

The 2001 Nice Treaty defeat showed that you can't take the public for granted. Another EU Treaty loss would do most damage to Aheran and Fianna Fáil and add to their mounting problems.

— Sunday Business Post, December 30, 2007. Inside Politics Back Room column.

In mid-April (1977) Amnesty International wrote to [Dublin Justice Minister] Cooney to express concern about the alleged ill-treatment of some Portlaoise prisoners.

AI urged the minister to "establish and give full facilities to an independent and public inquiry" into the allegations.

— Sunday Business Post, December 30, 2007 article by Brian Maye on the 1977 26-County State Papers. Following the Amnesty intervention the hunger strike ended after 47 days.

Bishops Daly of Derry, Lennon of Kildare and Leighlin and the Papal Nuncio Alibrandi and the Vatican also intervened with the Dublin Government.

Amnesty sent two representatives to Ireland for a week in mid-June to investigate the allegations and in late August wrote again to the Irish government (Fianna Fáil had been back in power since July 5), attacking their representative report and requesting "an impartial investigation" on the grounds that the report justified such an inquiry.

— Sunday Business Post. For all the projections of good spirit, however, the [Stormont] assembly has broadly failed to find agreement on any issue of substance.

An early row centered on the failure of the DUP culture minister, Edwin Poots, to endorse the Irish language equality bill, a decision which angered many nationalists in the North.

A more substantive issue was the scrapping of the controversial 11-plus exam, which determines whether children in the North go to grammar or secondary schools.

— Sunday Business Post, December 30, 2007. Colm Heatley in Belfast. UUP plus DUP with 44 votes used their majority to vote down an Ghaeilge.

The [Giants'] Causeway row (over the awarding of a contract to build a visitors' centre to a former DUP member and friend of the Paisleys, senior and junior, rather than it going to public tender) was rivaled only by the ongoing uncertainty surrounding the future of the Long Kesh prison site outside Lisburn.

— Colm Heatley in Belfast.

The latest unionist demand for the [Provisional] IRA's army council to disband is aimed primarily at holding up that transfer (of policing powers and justice). And ensuring that local politicians, especially [Provisional] Sinn Féin ministers, cannot take control of the [RUC]/PSNI.

— Colm Heatley.

"When you look at what was on the table — for example, the Sunningdale Agreement of 1973 — and what we have ended up with 3,000 deaths later, you just wonder why."

— Irish News (Belfast) January 1, 2008, report by Margaret Canning which quotes from Luck and the Irish by Professor Roy Foster of Oxford University.

Provos Turned full Circle

A chara
I find it somewhat surprising and confusing that Crossmaglen Rangers rejected a support group the use of their GAA hall citing it was political.

They had no objections when Conor Murphy, the local Provisional MLA, invited the Chief Constable of the RUC/PSNI to a public meeting.

There they apparently discussed crime in the area. Was the murder of Paul Quinn not a crime, just as that of the murder of Fearghal Carragher.

The biggest crime being perpetrated is the continued abuse of young Irish people who do not succumb to English rule. The Provos have now turned full circle and are now as dirty as the Brits themselves.

FR

Newry, An Dún

Who does MI5 Control?

A chara
The Deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness in the Occupied Six Counties of Ireland claims that so-called dissident Republican organisations are run by MI5. I wonder who spun him this yarn; his own handlers in MI5, I suppose.

Well, Mr McGuinness, I will give you a small example of how to "Run with the hare and chase with the hound." Recently an exhibition to the renegade William Melville, founder of MI5, was held in the Thomas Ashe Hall in Tralee, Co Kerry.

Sinn Féin Poblachtach in Kerry put a picket on this exhibition and went on Radio Kerry to vehemently oppose this, while his Provo buddies in Kerry actually passed our picket and furthermore his comrade in Leinster House when asked by Donal Hickey, *Examiner* reporter, to comment on the exhibition, had nothing to say.

It seems MI5 have so much control over McGuinness and the Provos, they are afraid to offend them.

Judge for yourself whose corner MI5 hangs in.

MATT LEEN

Tralee, Co Kerry

More Unionist Than the Unionists?

A chara
After reading the coverage given to the alleged activity of so-called 'dissidents' in the *Irish News* on December 20 I began to wonder if it was a reflection of the Lundy within the north's nationalist community running scared.

This was also reflected in the editorial for that day which referred to the cause of national unity as an 'entirely hopeless cause'. Needless to say the latter three words concluded that editorial.

Is it the case of Lundy running scared or are we witnessing so-called nationalists becoming more unionist than the unionists themselves? Is the Irish News behind the charade or merely West Brits?

As for the contention that there are spies within so-called dissident

Republican groups that is possible for that is part of the job of counter-insurgency intelligence-gathering. But to imply that organisations such as the Continuity IRA are being used by the British occupation forces is beyond logic, for the Belfast Agreement is supported by the British occupiers for its maintenance of the political *status quo*. It denies the people of this island national self-determination and if Martin McGuinness contends that it is the way to national unity then he's thicker than I thought he was.

In fact Martin McGuinness's activity in latter years on behalf of the Belfast Agreement and prior to its appearance reeks more, I believe, of a person being under British intelligence direction than the so-called dissident groups.

As for the SDLP leader's comments the fact is that while Britain occupies Ireland any police force in the north has to be part of the British occupation. They are, whatever the religion or none of the members, auxiliaries of the occupation forces denial of democracy and national self-determination. In other words, Mark Durkan, the RUC/PSNI serves 'British military interests'

In conclusion, I believe that it will not be long until we see so-called nationalist newspapers calling for the re-introduction of internment. There's an idea for you, Martin.

LIAM Ó COMÁIN
Derry

Unfinished Business With British State

A chara
During the IRA Campaign from 1969-93 the East Tyrone Brigade was one of the most effective Fighting units. It was the Brigade that suffered more casualties than any other with the exception of Belfast, but it was also the Brigade that carried out more attacks than any other especially in the latter years.

East Tyrone has always been a rebel stronghold and has seen active resistance to British Rule since the "Flight of the Earls". During the 1916 Easter Rising men mobilised in the area to travel to Dublin under arms to help with the Rising. Some got through but the majority had to stand down due to security measures preventing them from travelling. East Tyrone was active in the 1920s and 50s on its home turf carrying out guerrilla attacks on the Crown Forces.

It was the war waged for Irish freedom over this past 30 years that earned it a reputation as a dangerous posting for British The East Tyrone Brigade's ability to wage a sustained campaign in the largely rural country side against the might of the British Army and its locally recruited, militia the RUC and the UDR, showed the determination, ability and down right tenacity of the Brigade and its Volunteers. In the recent stage in the fight for freedom, over 170 British soldiers were killed fighting the East Tyrone Brigade and almost 50 RUC members were killed in the same role. Large parts of the East Tyrone countryside were basically under its control with Crown Forces restricted largely to helicopter travel or convoy with air support.

The East Tyrone Brigade's operational peak was in the early 1980s, pumped full of recruits and support after the hunger strikes it was in perfect shape to do the job it was built to do, but it was the mid



80s that saw a change in fortunes for the Brigade.

By 1985 Adams and McGuinness were in control of the Movement and were leading it in their direction away from abstentionism and slowly down the constitutional path away from armed struggle. Indeed in the early 80s Adams was talking peace with Fr. Alec Reid, all this was known by the British.

While some of the leadership was taking a new direction, people in the Movement were against it. The group that was to stay true and reorganise the Movement was Republican Sinn Féin. They were opposed to the dropping of Republican principles but a number of the more militant men in the IRA were also opposed to that direction. The problem was that when the split did come there were men still in the IRA who did not agree with the Provisionals direction but stayed in the IRA because there was no other military alternative. The Provisionals had the Libyan weapons, they could say to the hardliners they were committed to maintaining the armed struggle when the opposite was true.

The British also knew this and started at this time to target areas where Adams would have trouble with support in the future. Of course the main area that needed cleansing in their eyes was East Tyrone. From the split until the IRA ceasefire the British army carried out extensive shoot-to-kill operations and backed the loyalist death squads. The result of this Campaign was that over 30 active Volunteers of the East Tyrone Brigade were slaughtered and at least 20 innocent civilians murdered in British sponsored "ethnic cleansing" of the nationalist people.

Of course this type of success for the British could not have been carried out without inside information. All the set backs suffered by the Brigade can not be pointed at one super tout in at least two of the attacks. People were removed by the British in the aftermath pointing them out as touts but this could have served to hide a man at the top. There were a lot of things wrong in East Tyrone in the mid-1980s until the Provisional ceasefire and most likely the answers will never come to light.

Loughgall, Clonoe, Coagh and many more, the families want answers and rightly so. But they should start by asking Adams why he undermined the men in the field by negotiating a surrender behind their backs and therefore setting them up for the British Death squads.

East Tyrone's rebellious nature is not likely to lie down and go away. Indeed Tommy McKearney, former East Tyrone Commander and hunger striker who lost three brothers during the Campaign, has said "the people of East Tyrone feel a deep injustice towards the British because of their shoot-to-kill operations in the late 80s".

That feeling will not disappear or go away indeed the attack last month on a member of the British Crown Forces can only be a reminder of that ill feeling and be an omen to the British that the people of East Tyrone have

unfinished business with the British State.

PACKEY CARTY
Co Tyrone

Hold Firm to Republican Ideals

A chara
The Republican struggle, that is the struggle to rid the Irish people of any outside influence on our self-determination is now moving to a new and decisive phase. The latest attempt at normalisation is nothing new. It is but the latest in a long line of 'final pushes' by the Brits and their minions, who now include the Provos.

Well, here's a wee message for our enemies home and abroad. Republicans are not to be fooled by the promise of a united Ireland 'at any cost'. Adams and McGuinness have no intention of delivering on their false promises. When former Provos finally see the light, it is a very hard pill to swallow for true Republicans, who predicted what the erstwhile Republicans were up to years ago.

Liam Mellows, only hours before his murder by previous Free State traitors, said: "By truth and honour, by principle and sacrifice alone will Ireland be free." All the above have been abandoned by our former comrades, just as they were by those who accepted the division of Ireland.

There are those who hold firm to these ideals. We must be strong in our resolve to uphold what Mellows, Pearse, Tone and Sands all died for.

"The way to freedom is a hard and bloody one."

NON SELL-OUT
REPUBLICAN
Co Derry

Famine Queen's Visit to Killarney

A chara
The lectures hosted by the National Park Services in Killarney are educational and commendable and recent one on the visit of the English Queen Victoria to Killarney in 1861 was no exception. However the lecture concentrated solely on the diaries and barely touched on the era. It gave the impression that she was warmly welcomed and that there was no protests at her visit - not so.

Allow me to put the era of the visit into context given the political and social scene in Ireland at the time. Ireland in 1861 was still in deep trauma after the horrendous effects of the artificial 'famine' - which was in face genocide. In 1845 the population of Ireland was eight and a half million, by 1850 this was reduced to approx four million. Over two million died of starvation and disease and approx three million fled to the United States, Canada and England - where thousands more died in the coffin ships and on arrival in those

countries.

England, of which Queen Victoria was sovereign head, was fully aware of and therefore complicit in, the Irish Holocaust.

It was only the potato crop that failed through blight, not grain, livestock, poultry, fish, etc. The potato crop failed throughout Europe yet Ireland was the only country that experienced such 'famine'. WHY? Ireland did not starve for potatoes but for food.

England too faced famine unless they could import vast amounts of food. It did not just take Ireland's surplus food, or enough to save England, it more.

English military - food removal - regiments were ordered to Ireland and were already in place by late 1845. Between 40 and 70 shiploads per day, from all around the Irish coastline, were removed at gunpoint by 12,000 constables, reinforced by British militia, coast guards, battalions and 200,000 soldiers.

Taking into account the records (as now exists) from numerous Irish ports it is estimated that many millions of tons of food were seized by England which included flour, mixed grains, Livestock, poultry, eggs, butter, fish pork etc, which was to cause a holocaust in Ireland. The 'famine' was no natural disaster but a situation eagerly availed of to reduce our population for callous Imperial reasons.

From the port of Tralee alone in one day records show that 5 ships removed 711 tonnes of oats and 118 of barley. To camouflage their genocide, the British imported insufficient amounts of coarse Indian maize corn while robbing the richest of food from Ireland.

Those who would have protested the visit of Queen Victoria to Killarney are heaped in lonely graves in Aghadoe and the grounds of St Mary's Cathedral etc.

When the last British soldier departs our shores and any descendant of Victoria wishes to visit Killarney, let him/her first apologise for the artificial famine and visit the mass graves of the victims. If such a visit be contemplated now (without those provisos) then one protestor, at least, will be on the streets - and knows he will not be alone.

RICHARD BEHAL
Killarney

Drug crisis Must be Addressed

A chara
The lack of urgency in attempting to tackle the drugs crisis within this state must be criticised, and it must be addressed by those responsible; we must demand that the [Dublin] government open its eyes to the extent of cocaine use in this state. Successive governments' policies on their handling of drugs have been appalling.

While communities were abandoned in the eighties and nineties to cope with the heroin crisis themselves, it was even more infuriating that anti-drug activists were subsequently targeted by the state

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instead of the parasitic drug dealers themselves.

Now we are witnessing a cocaine epidemic, with over a 1,600 per cent increase in the quantity of the drug being smuggled into the country since 2000. There is still no proper strategy in place to tackle cocaine and community activists are justifiably extremely concerned with the government's lack of urgency. The glamorisation and acceptance of cocaine as a clean, safe and sociable drug needs to be tackled. Cocaine abuse continues to result in serious health deterioration, mental and emotional problems, chronic addiction, debt, and rising violence in our society. While it is now no longer exclusively the drug of the middle-classes, everyone, particularly most well-off people seemingly oblivious to communities scourged by drugs, should examine their conscience next time they have a line of coke and realise that their actions have repercussions for communities gripped in fear by drug gangs, who are essentially parasites destroying predominantly working-class areas. Using cocaine is not merely a personal choice; it has major ramifications for society at large.

The government must devise a strategy to tackle cocaine and should adequately resource and fund treatment projects to combat Ireland's rapidly increasing poly-drug use problem. A significant proportion of addicts reporting for treatment are increasingly dabbling in cocaine. There is also a worrying development in the increase in those injecting cocaine, which can result in huge medical implications with users experiencing abscesses and wounds and even serious infection leading to amputations of limbs.

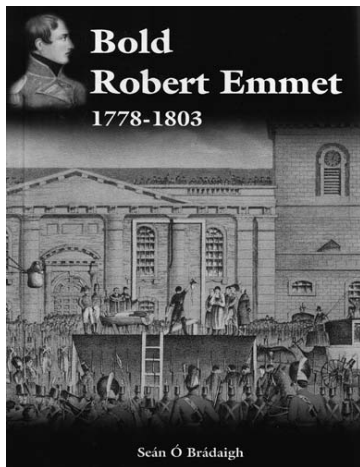
At community level, investment must be pumped into areas most at risk and vulnerable to the drugs scourge to provide social and sporting alternatives for young people. Here in Mayo as in the other rural counties, we need to insist that a much-needed survey is carried out on the drugs culture and what are its repercussions on the lives of the people who are victims of the drug culture. The people of Mayo need to become involved in the campaign against the drugs culture; this means all types of drugs.

In addition, this problem needs to be tackled on an all Ireland basis. This problem spans across the 32 counties and it needs to be handled across the 32 counties. The scourge of the drugs empire must be combated and the problem effects all the people of Ireland. There is no safe type of illegal drugs, even what people call recreational drugs; even prescription drugs are deadly if not handled properly.

It is estimated by police sources that for every one kilogram of drugs that are on our streets, that over two hundred crimes are committed. These crimes include: murder, armed robbery and other forms of violent crimes; as well as countless robberies along with many crimes that are not reported.

MICHAEL ROONEY
Co Mayo

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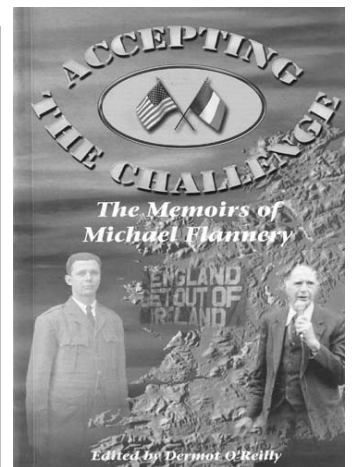
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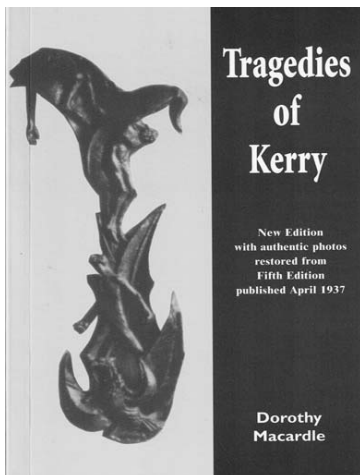
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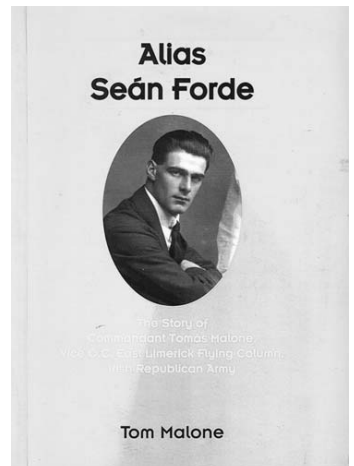
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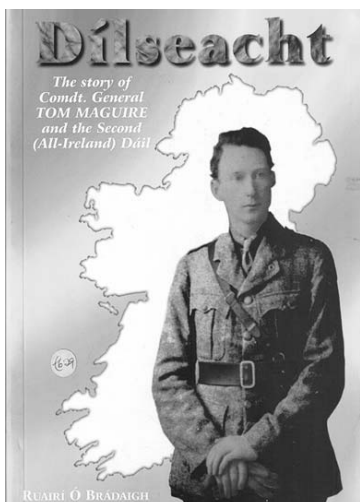
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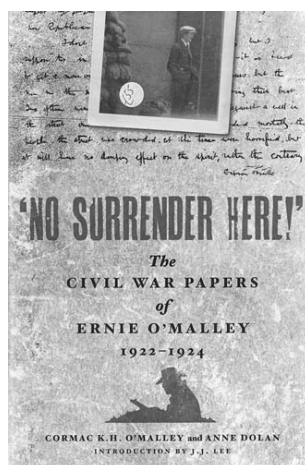
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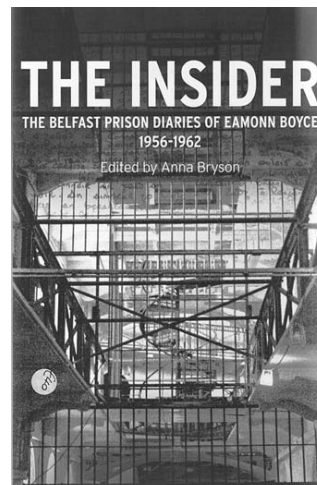
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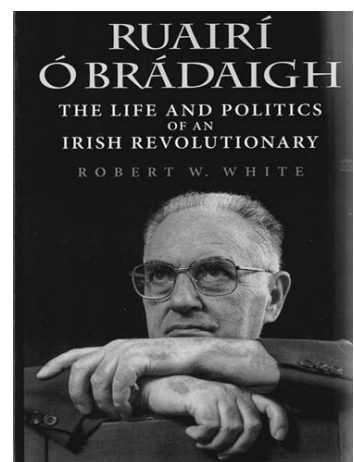
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RESISTANCE CAMPAIGN — NOT BORDER CAMPAIGN

**50
Years
Ago**

THE winter of 1957-58 was notable for the number of guerrilla operations that took place against English occupation in Ireland.

On October 31, the GOC (General Officer Commanding) British troops in the Six Counties, Lieut-General Sir Brian Kimmins announced that Occupied Ireland "could catch fire if it were allowed to as in the 1920s".

"It was not yet another Cyprus," the General said, "but it might be." The *Resistance* booklet (120 pp, published December 1957 by Irish Freedom Press) commented: "He was referring to the inability of the British authorities to liquidate the Resistance.

"If he had a little more knowledge of Irish history he would have understood the reason. The Resistance springs from the people and without their support a handful of freedom fighters could not exist three days in the conditions obtaining in Occupied Ireland."

Behind the RUC and B-Special Constabulary stood the British Army of Occupation. The latter's task, Kimmins explained this: "The police do the job but we back them up. And if there is any trouble, the police will say what they want and we will do it."

The Irish people remembered that the Black-and-Tans and the Auxiliaries were "police" too. They were all classed as members of the RIC (Royal Irish Constabulary). The people knew only too well how the Tans and the Auxies operated. They were the real terrorists.

Saying that no civilian had lost his/her life since December 12, 1956 as a result of Resistance activities, the booklet went on: "Despite this the terms 'terrorist' and 'terror groups' have been employed by news correspondents who, though not British propagandists themselves, are the actions of British propaganda.

"Neither the structure, spirit, outlook, methods of warfare or programme of the Resistance is terrorist. Their job is to combat the terrorism of foreign oppression. They are a People's Army in the real sense of the term for they are recruited from the people, are aided and sheltered by the people and fight in the interests of the people."

Apart from a civilian **Arthur Leonard** (18) and a B-Special **David Richmond** (26), both shot dead by B-men in 1955, another B-Special **Austin Stinson** (23) was seriously wounded by B-men while **Thomas Corrigan** (33) was brutally attacked and injured in the head, arms and legs by the same element.

Since the campaign proper opened, on December 26, 1956, **Charles Hilliard** (38) of Brackley, Ederney, Co Fermanagh was wounded by a B-Special patrol; five young Tyrone people, four **Buchanan** sisters and a brother were wounded by B-men as was **Mervyn Mulligan**, on January 1, 1957.

Later in the month, a B-Special shot his own son as the latter approached a roadblock between Dungannon and Coalisland, Co. Tyrone.

On February 1, 1957 Special Constable **Kenneth Elliott** of Newtownbutler, Co. Fermanagh was motor-cycling near his home at 8.15pm when he was fired on by a "police" patrol and received serious injuries.

April 8, 1957: Special Constable **Robert Henderson** (24) was shot dead in the dayroom of Trillick Barracks, County Tyrone by another B-Special.

April 1957: Special Constable **John McConnell** was shot dead in Newtownards RUC barracks by an RUC Constable.

June 9, 1957: Mrs **Margaret Martin** (42) of Belfast was wounded in the shoulder when a mixed B-Special/RUC patrol opened fire with Sten guns on her husband's car near Killeen Customs Post, County Armagh. Subsequently it was established she would be paralysed for life.

June 24, 1957: After wounding his daughter **Elizabeth** (24) in the neck and his son **Irvine** (22) in the left hand, RUC Constable **Thomas McK Holmes**, aged 54, Maytown, Bessbrook, Co. Armagh, shot himself dead.

June 5, 1957: A B-Special patrol fired on the



• British armoured car in Strabane, Co Tyrone in 1969. Similar vehicles were used in Occupied Ireland in 1957.

car of Mr. **James Hay**, Strabane on the Swatragh-Maghera road.

July 1957: Special Constable **Joseph Ewing** (21), Cullybackey, Co Antrim, received a bullet wound in his leg when an automatic weapon was discharged while he was on duty on the Dungannon-Moy road.

August 14, 1957: **Robert Brown** (25), Crossgar, Co. Down, was shot dead by a member of the Ulster Special Constabulary on the Kilmore-Crossgar Road.

September 21, 1957: While motoring home at about midnight, **Kevin John McManus** (35) of Lisnaskea, Co Fermanagh, was seriously wounded after being fired on by a B-Special patrol.

November 13, 1957: John Collins (45) a motorist of Clanrye Avenue, Newry, was wounded about the head after being fired on by a B-Special patrol on the Armagh-Newry Road at 9.30pm.

Resistance continued: "The Ulster Special Constabulary was established on a full military basis, but it lacks the discipline essential to an army. It has changed little since a *Manchester Guardian* special correspondence described it thus in 1921.

"The Unionists have an important ally — they have a coercive police force of their own." The writer went on to say: "Some of them, the 'A' class become regular RIC, the rest 'B' and 'C' classes parade their districts at night with arms, harassing, threatening, beating and occasionally killing their Catholic neighbours and burning their homes."

"Matters are not quite that bad yet in Occupied Ireland. But if they aren't, it certainly is not the fault of the B-Specials, the Stormont Government or the British authorities. These shootings by road patrols are a regular occurrence."

During August and again in December 1957, a "manifesto to the people of Occupied Ireland" was posted up throughout the Six Counties. In October leaflets were distributed. These three documents, which give a flavour of the times, can be read in the "Resistance" booklet.

In November two middle-aged Belfast men were jailed for posting a Resistance manifesto in Bangor, Co. Down on August 11.

Thomas O'Malley (55) of Norfolk Street was sentenced to six years imprisonment while **Patrick J Collins** (48) of Hawthorne Street got four years for the same "crime". Stormont Lord Justice McDermott said in passing sentence: "I will pass sentence which will show people who are minded to do the same sort of thing that they will have to pay for it..."

"You were endeavouring to get support for the campaign, and in that way you set yourself on the side of the force of violence".

Thomas O'Malley was the father of a family of five. Patrick Collins was father of a family of three.

The "evidence" introduced in this noteworthy example of British justice in Ireland was that the hands of the two men were sticky when examined in the RUC Barracks.

In a series of attacks during the second week of October, Irish freedom fighters in Occupied Ireland hit Roslea Barracks, ambushed an RUC-Commando detachment one mile outside the town, destroyed British Imperial Post Office installations at Enniskillen and an Ulster Transport Authority Bus Depot at Armagh and fired at a Labour Exchange in Coalisland.

Telephone wires were cut in a wide area of Fermanagh. Roads were blocked throughout Co

Armagh. Some of these operations could be described as "pin-pricks", but then is guerrilla warfare not known as "The War of the Flea" as the title of a famous book tells us. If enough fleas bite the dog, they will eventually bring him down.

A whole convoy of RUC Commandos, British troops of the King's Own Hussars and some attached B-Specials drove into an ambush outside Roslea at 70mph in the early morning of October 11. An armoured scout car and some jeeps were put out of action and the convoy of twelve vehicles was engaged by gunfire as well as a road-mine. British forces replied with machine guns using tracer bullets.

Simultaneously, an RUC patrol car moving out from Roslea after the barrack attack crashed and was upended in a ditch when the ambush mines went off. The driver lost control when he heard the explosions.

On October 24 the British Army Camp at Magilligan on the northern top of Co. Derry was attacked and installations of Lough Foyle fortifications were destroyed. In Derry city on October 16 an RUC patrol vehicle was attacked but the ambush could not be carried through because a civilian moved into the line of fire.

At Killeel, Co Down a B-Special training hall and a British Army Cadet training centre were destroyed by explosions on October 24.

During the month **Eamonn Timony** of Derry city was sentenced to 10 years on arms charges. He was already serving a four-year term and still faced another charge.

David Ignatius Donnelly an 18-year-old student of Glenview Terrace, Omagh, was sentenced to 10 years for "membership of an illegal organisation". **John Aloysius McHugh** (27), of Beragh, Co. Tyrone, was sentenced to eight years on a charge of blowing up a B-Special hut at Coole, near Baragh.

Seven others who pleaded before the court and were alleged to have made statements to the RUC were sentenced to terms from four to six years. Lord Justice McDermott in sentencing the men threatened not only flogging and long jail terms but also the death penalty. Col Topping said the RUC had been given the use of 30 armoured vehicles by the British Army.

Elsewhere McDermott said that people found in possession of explosives could find themselves in the dock or "on the scaffold". An IRA veteran of the 1920s, **Robert Savage** (64) of Newry was sent to Belfast jail for one month for carrying the Irish Tricolour through the town at the head of an Easter parade earlier in the year.

The pace was hotting up. The British troops commander in the Six Counties, General Kimmins told his men in Palace Barracks, Holywood, Co. Down: "There are people who dislike us intensely, especially this British army, and are out to do mischief."

"That is why you have to be particularly careful on guard duties, which are heavy. Remember this: you are not there just as a formality, but because there are ill-disposed people who might want to have a go."

He was telling the "officers and men" of the Duke of Wellington's Regiment about conditions in Occupied Ireland. It was much like Malaya which they had just returned from, "there was plenty of rain" here. And there was an insurrection to be put down in both countries.

Early in November an explosion at the boundary wall of the RUC Training depo in

Enniskillen, rocked the centre of the town. In Armagh city, an RUC foot patrol was held up at gunpoint and disarmed, the guerrillas seizing a Sterling sub-machine gun and a revolver and ammunition.

On December 1 a heavy armoured car was badly damaged and put out of action. Its occupants were removed to hospital by an accompanying vehicle. Peter Albert McGovern, Swanlinbar composed a ballad about the attack which took place at Cassidy's Cross near Kinawley, Co Fermanagh.

It was also made the occasion of a British ambush of an armoured patrol car at Dresternan on the Roslea-Lisnaskea road. After the Cassidy's Cross ambush the RUC put out a statement saying "a Land Rover had escaped damage". This lighter vehicle appeared on the scene after the damaged armoured vehicle had been towed away.

"County Inspector Reid," Stormont reported, "was on the scene." This was not true. He was photographed beside the fake Land Rover much later.

On December 6 the British Customs post at Belleek was demolished in an explosion. The echo was heard at Belturbet, Co Cavan, 40 miles away, having crossed Lower Lough Erne, Enniskillen and Upper Lough Erne.

That evening also the Havies bridge, seven miles from Enniskillen in the direction of Derrylin, was destroyed in another explosion.

That first week in December 1957, Col Topping, Stormont Home Affairs Minister, admitted in a public address that the campaign could go on indefinitely. He dropped his previous claims that it was entirely a cross-border exercise.

Throughout the winter of 1957-58, the campaign went on all over the Six Occupied Counties. Local units struck in North Antrim, South Derry, Derry city, East Tyrone, West Tyrone, Fermanagh, North Armagh, South Armagh and South Down. The local active service units in East Tyrone and North Armagh were particularly active.

This Six-County wide activity remained so for the first three years — 1956-59.

It was not simply a "Border Campaign". It was a campaign of Resistance to British rule or a Resistance Campaign.

In the 1950s and 60s the hostile description for it was "the campaign of violence", violence being, of course, the use of illegitimate or excessive force.

Then about 1970 the term "Border Campaign" was invented by the Brits which inferred that all military operations by the freedom fighters originated in the 26 Counties, that the population of the Six Counties was totally Unionist or passive nationalist.

Such terminology was seized upon by collaborationist elements in the 26 Counties and is being pushed ever since. Similarly, the later campaign from 1969 on is being described as the "Troubles", a harmless term which minimises and de-politicises the longest and most heroic campaign yet against English rule in Ireland.

One has only to consult the daily newspapers if 1956-59 to get the evidence which demolishes the description "Border Campaign". The manifesto circulated on December 12, 1957 sought to rally the nationalists and appeal to the unionists. It concluded as follows: "We must recover for the Irish people possession of the natural resources of our country. We must win for the Irish people ownership and control of our nation. We must secure for the Irish people democracy, unity and sovereignty. To achieve these objects we must end forever interference in our affairs by an outside power. We must drive from our shores the forces of this outside Power. We must establish national independence.

"That is the task the Resistance has set itself. With the help of the Irish people we must reach our goal. ALL BRITISH FORCES MUST WITHDRAW FROM IRELAND NOW".

The Resistance booklet's final words were: "It says all that need be said at this time about the struggle from freedom in Ireland today. The remaining chapters will be written in the years to come.

December 1957."

(More next month. Refs. *Resistance: the Story of the struggle in British Occupied Ireland* by J McGarrity (Published by Irish Freedom Press — available from 223 Parnell Street, Dublin 1); *An t-Éireannach Aontaithe/The United Irishman*, December 1957 and January 1958.)

Fenian Notes

From our Washington Correspondent



THE United States of America is in an underlying state of panic, some of it real and some projected by circumstances one never saw coming.

America is drifting, trying to find itself and rekindle its once vaunted values revered internationally, but all its potential leaders are leading in circles by virtue of their campaign rhetoric.

In High School history class an idealistic America was given to us to study, that as taught sounds pretty good but in the real world I have been looking for it all my life.

That is revolutionary America which encourages world dissent and rebellion against tyrants. That is the America I will follow because it always intended to be seeking right and justice.

It was once called Revolutionary America, a respected name, the creation by those who established a country to fight tyranny and to encourage others to do the same regardless of who the tyrant was. It was a quest for the truth.

One thing the American Revolution established is that an alleged democratic nation may in time end up a tyrant unless it is monitored by its own dissenting people who are the honest brokers of the direction the nation should take.

America's tyrant was Britain, a nation at that time alleging some democratic tendencies and having a self-portrayal as being the bastion of civilization.

But in truth Britain practised brutality on its colonies in America, Ireland and beyond. The natives did not matter.

America needs to restudy British brutality as it morphs into Britain's monster child. America was created to be different and to make a difference, but as it allowed itself to ally with the tyrant Britain over the last century, it has lost its revolutionary character and assumed the trappings of empirical Britain.

During December the United States passed a law aimed at diluting domestic freedoms. It is called the VIOLENT RADICALISATION

AND HOMEGROWN TERRORISM PREVENTION ACT OF 2007.

The act establishes a ten-member NATIONAL COMMISSION ON THE PREVENTION OF VIOLENT RADICALISATION AND HOMEGROWN TERRORISM, which will be significantly comprised of Congress members.

It will authorise the US Department of Homeland Security to create a university-based Centre of Excellence for the Study of Violent Radicalization and Home-grown Terrorism to study the social, criminal, political, psychological and economic roots of US-based radicalization and terrorism.

Is there anyone in their right mind who thinks that the United States needs another draconian law to further compromise the rights of American citizens? We already have the PATRIOT ACT which is destructive to the Bill of Rights, restricting speech, assembly and privacy for starters.

We don't even need that law because the FBI has been violating the right of American citizens and targeted aliens since its inception. Bush has instilled a climate of fear in the American people so they will ignore the fact they are surrendering their basic rights.

Congress has been reluctant to stop Bush for fear of being called soft on terrorism. The bottom line is that few real terrorists have been caught, but Americans have been exploited and harassed and are the real targets of these laws.

SUPERFLUOUS

The new act is superfluous and duplicitous and truly we do not need any more laws targeting violent radicalization and home-grown terrorism because there is an abundance of legislation outlawing terrorism associated crimes such as arson, murder and conspiracy.

The government says it does not target Americans, but that is the end result of the post 9/11 laws. American leaders who like to be seen as reacting to terrorism, but in doing so the targets have ended up being

Americans who might express radical ideas or simple dissent, all quite legal, but it draws attention to the many illegalities of Bush and his cronies and that is unacceptable.

The new act takes aim at political speech which is protected by the First Amendment of the Constitution and encouraged by the founders of the United States who qualify as terrorists under every US Draconian law.

Is it self-hating? Groups and individuals who meet to discuss how to further political or social objectives, mere ideas, are explicitly the focus of the act.

Has anyone ever heard of the right to assemble? Where is the balance? Certainly the US has the right to protect itself against violent overthrow by hostile elements, domestic and foreign, but the government does not have to entrap citizens because of their ideology. Some groups that are overtly pacifist are labelled as violent by the FBI.

The Commission for monitoring this act will be concentrating on ideology and the speech of those involved. These will be the American thought police. This, on the face of it, sounds quite offensive and undemocratic.

The Bill states that ideology-based violence is the use of political, religious and social beliefs. It is not a stretch to envision scenarios in which political dissidents could get sucked into the wide swirling vortex of ideologically based violence.

Ideology is a tricky area. Al Qaeda ideology is one of random killing for the sake of killing when the Islamic ideology forbids the justifications the radical fundamentalists use to justify random killing of innocent people. Irish Republican ideology is based on a scenario that will unite an entire people into one nation with equal rights for all.

WHETHER are the thinkers who can help us distinguish between legitimate law enforcement that enhances the protection of society, and

enforcement of politically based laws by political police which is the onset of tyranny? The US is at an impasse whereby political laws are ascendant and democracy is fading in its wake. Protest and dissent are not home-grown terrorism, but the essence of the ancient American ideal.

What is violent radicalization? The new law defines it as adopting or promoting an extremist belief system, but this is somewhat broad and vague. Attempts at social change in the United States has produced so-called radicals whose ideals bring a message that eventually prevails to a degree.

Historic US figures have been dubbed 'violent radicals' or 'home-grown terrorists' from revolutionaries like Sam Adams to abolitionists like John Brown to civil rights leaders like Malcolm X, and there are legions of those less well-known individuals who had causes and were likewise accused of being radicals and endorsing violence. They were all vindicated.

Radicalism is not a bad thing *per se*. The trade unionists were radical; Irish, Italian and Germans protesting potential US involvement in WW1 were radicals, third party political candidates were considered radical.

It goes on and on and the basis of dissent which the United States is all about historically. Since radical Americans took on the British tyrant, there has been a 'Spirit of resistance' in the United States. One group of radicals is very noteworthy.

After WW1 too many veterans of that war, just returned from the war Europe, were out of work and marched on Washington DC to demand jobs from the government they had just fought for.

For their efforts they were attacked and brutalised by the very same army they had just served. They were called violent radicals and terrorists. Someone didn't have it right.

Is the primary target real home-grown terrorists or are the draconian laws merely an excuse for leaders to pursue those who challenge the power elite's politically motivated agenda?

Violent radicalisation means the process of adopting or promoting an extremist belief system. In the 1776 era, it was the belief system of American revolutionaries which in principle is timeless and adaptable to any fight against British-type tyranny.

In the 1960s it was the civil rights movement. In the 1970s it was the supporters of those who wanted to

remove Partition in Ireland, destroy Apartheid in South Africa and promote a Palestinian state.

EXAMPLES

There are many examples of challenges to injustice branded as terrorism because the proponents refuse to conform to the rules of those who do not identify with the pursuit of basic freedoms.

The powers-that-be consider groups that are vociferous in promoting their political, religious and social beliefs as espousing a violent pursuit of their ideals. They need to evaluate each situation on a case-by-case basis because each fact situation is different.

Alleged home-grown terrorism too many times is just the exercise of the right to dissent. The pursuit of dissenters takes law enforcement away from preventing terrorism in the United States such as 9/11 or the infiltration into the US of spies from other countries, friends and foe alike.

Legitimate dissent and terrorism do not belong in the same political category because one is legal and one is not. Seeking change by dissent is not like mindless terrorism that does not have an ideal and a plan to accomplish a specific goal other than murdering those who do not agree with them.

US intelligence needs to properly define what international terrorism is, not just categorise all dissenters and freedom fighters as terrorists. Al Qaeda support groups in the US are terrorists oriented, killing in the name of some violent god, but support groups abroad who are battling injustice are not the same.

Al Qaeda wants to impose radical Islam on the world which is far different from the PLO trying to establish a Palestinian State or the IRA trying to unite and free Ireland or Nelson Mandela wanting to end Apartheid.

Causes seeking justice should not be designated as international terrorist organisations. These many anti-terror laws in the US, such as the latest one mentioned at the start, are aimed at Al Qaeda violence, but too often are imposed on the innocent as has been the case in America.

This is unacceptable. We are being drowned in a sea of unnecessary laws applied mainly for a Bush political agenda on those opposed to it.

— Peadar Mac Fhínn

Comhbhrón

DONAGHY: Deepest sympathy is extended to Sarah Murphy on the death of her sister Bernadette Donaghy. From Joe Conway Cumann, Republican Sinn Féin, Newry.

FITZSIMONS: Deepest sympathy is expressed to Peter Fitzsimons, Co Meath on the death of his brother Derek in December. From Andy Connolly, Dublin

FITZSIMONS: Deepest sympathy is expressed to Peter Fitzsimons, Co Meath on the death of his brother Derek. From Comhairle Chéige Laighean, Sinn Féin Poblachtach.

HOBAN: Deepest sympathy to Dan Hoban and family on the death of his sister Mary of Newport, Co Mayo. From Michael Geraghty, Chicago, IL, USA.

KEATING: Deepest sympathy is extended to the family of Sean Keating, Blanchardstown, who died on December 27. From Eddie and Lucy Sutcliffe, Blanchardstown.

KEATING: Deepest sympathy is extended to the Keating family on the death of Sean, From the Second Sunday raffle committee.

KEATING: Deepest sympathy is extended to the family of Sean Keating, Blanchardstown, Dublin and formally of Dundalk, who died on December 27. From the Callaghan family, Inchicore

and Blanchardstown.

LITTLE: Deepest sympathy is extended to the family of Benny Little, Cavan. From the POWs in Maghaberry Jail, Co Antrim.

Mac EOIN: The Ard Chomhairle, Sinn Féin Poblachtach extends deepest sympathy to the family of Unseann Mac Eoin, Dublin, who died in December.

Mac EOIN: The Ballyseedy Memorial Committee extends our sincere condolences to the family of Unseann Mac Eoin, a gifted architect, a wonderful writer and a great Irishman.

Mac EOIN: The Trustees of the Ballyseedy Memorial wish to extend deepest and sincerest sympathy to the Mac Eoin family on the death of Unseann, architect planner of the Ballyseedy Memorial.

MURTAGH: Deepest sympathy is extended to the Murtagh family on the death of Maureen, mother of Volunteer Colm Murtagh, Newry Brigade Oglaiha na hÉireann. From the Joe Conway Cumann, Republican Sinn Féin, Newry.

MURTAGH: We extend our deepest sympathy to the entire Murtagh family, Newry on the death of Maureen, mother of Volunteer Colm Murtagh, Newry Brigade Oglaiha na hÉireann. From the Republican Movement, Newry.

Nic CARTHAIHGH: Deepest sympathy is extended to Joan McCarthy on the sudden death of her daughter Muireann,

Stillorgan, Co Dublin on December 29. Also to her brothers Séamus and Fergal and extended family. From Cathleen Knowles McGuirk.

Nic CARTHAIHGH: Deepest sympathy is extended to Joan McCarthy on the sudden death of her daughter Muireann, Stillorgan, Co Dublin on December 29. Also to her brothers Séamus and Fergal and extended family. From Sean Ó Sé.

Ó CATHÁIN: Deepest sympathy is extended to Martin Ó Catháin, Glasgow and Derry on the death of his father on December 21, 2007. From the Francis Hughes Cumann, Sinn Féin Poblachtach, Glasgow.

Ó CATHÁIN: Deepest sympathy is extended to Martin Ó Catháin, Glasgow on the death of his father on December 21, 2007. From Stephen Coyle, Glasgow.

I gCuimhne

BLOODY SUNDAY, DERRY – 30th Anniversary. In loving memory of the 13 unarmed civilians who were gunned down by British Paratroopers in Derry during an anti-internment march in 1972. From the Cumainn, Comhairle Ceantair and Comhairle Chúige, Sinn Féin Poblachtach, Connacht.

BARRYCONNELL, Michael; HUGHES, Thomas; JOYCE, Stephen; WALSH, Michael, all of Caherlistrane, Galway and **COLLINS, Hubert** of Headford, Mayo – 85th Anniversary. Murdered by Free State troops on January 2, 1923 at Athlone, Co Westmeath. From the Cumainn, Comhairle Ceantair and Comhairle Chúige, Sinn Féin Poblachtach, Connacht.

COEN – 33rd Anniversary. In loving memory of Kevin Coen, Riverstown, Co Sligo, killed in action in January 1975 in Fermanagh. From the Cumainn, Comhairle Ceantair and Comhairle Chúige, Sinn Féin Poblachtach, Connacht.

CONWAY: In proud and loving memory of our dear friend and comrade Joe whose anniversary occurs at this time. Joe you were an inspiration to the cause that called you. Remembered with pride by the Republican Movement Newry/South Down, Armagh and north Louth.

CONWAY: In proud memory of Joe Conway whose anniversary occurs in January. A true Republican and fearless Volunteer of Oglaiha na hÉireann through his adult life. Proudly remembered by your friends and comrades in the Joe Conway Cumann, Republican Sinn Féin, Newry.

CULL – 85th Anniversary. In loving memory of Michael Cull, 4th Batt North Roscommon Brigade, IRA, killed at

Ballyconnell, Co Cavan on January 6, 1923. From the Cumainn, Comhairle Ceantair and Comhairle Chúige, Sinn Féin Poblachtach, Connacht.

DELANEY – 17th Anniversary. In loving memory of Mary Delaney, Athlone who died in January 1990. From the Cumainn, Comhairle Ceantair and Comhairle Chúige, Sinn Féin Poblachtach, Connacht.

DUFFY – 140th anniversary. In loving memory of Edward Duffy, Loughlin, Co Roscommon. Organiser for the Fenian Movement in Connacht. Unconquered and unconquerable. From the Cumainn, Comhairle Ceantair and Comhairle Chúige, Sinn Féin Poblachtach, Connacht.

DURR – 87th anniversary. In loving memory of Patrick Durr, 2nd Batt 5th Roscommon Brigade IRA, murdered by Crown Forces at Ballintubber, Co Roscommon on January 6, 1921. From the Cumainn, Comhairle Ceantair and Comhairle Chúige, Sinn Féin Poblachtach, Connacht.

FLANNERY – 85th Anniversary. In loving memory of Tom Flannery, Ballaghaderreen and East Mayo Brigade IRA, murdered by Free State Forces on January 4, 1923. From the Cumainn, Comhairle Ceantair and Comhairle Chúige, Sinn Féin Poblachtach, Connacht.

GREEN – 33rd Anniversary. In loving memory of John Francis Green, North

Armagh Brigade IRA murdered by the Crown forces at Mollysh, Castleblaney, Co Monaghan, January 1975. From the Cumainn, Comhairle Ceantair and Comhairle Chúige, Sinn Féin Poblachtach, Connacht.

McKENNA – 18th Anniversary. In loving memory of Joe McKenna, Armagh City Brigade IRA who passed away peacefully on January 22, 1990. From the Cumainn, Comhairle Ceantair and Comhairle Chúige, Sinn Féin Poblachtach, Connacht.

Ó CONAILL – 17th Anniversary. In loving memory of Dáithí Ó Conaill, Cork and Dublin who died on New Years Day 1991. From the Cumainn, Comhairle Ceantair and Comhairle Chúige, Sinn Féin Poblachtach, Connacht.

O'NEILL – 30th Anniversary; In proud and loving memory of my dear brother Vol Danny O'Neill killed on active service against Crown Forces on January 7, 1972. Always remembered by your brother and family. Muire na nGael, guigh do.

SABHAT, Séan and O'HANLON, Fearghal – 51st Anniversary. Killed in action at Brookborough, Co Fermanagh by Crown Forces on New Years Eve 1957. From the Cumainn, Comhairle Ceantair and Comhairle Chúige, Sinn Féin Poblachtach, Connacht.

See the Big Bird cross the sky?

AER Lingus and the Provos? You're right. Both based in Ireland. Both moderately successful at the things they set out to do... The question is why both companies ... Aer Lingus and Gerry Adams' Limited Intelligence Group feel the need to grovel to British and pro-British elements? Of course here in this country we have a long history ... that is a history of the phenomenon of Irishmen who are successful wanting to take their own bloody efforts and accept an award from the Brits... Think of our own

Daniel O'Donnell MBE! And there you have it. The Provos, Aer Lingus and Daniel O'Donnell... All alike and all with a love of Britain and all things British. For example: fishing rods, A.R. Many suits and of course Cliff Richard. It is complicated. Just what drives this phenomenon. The Provos for example in the famous words of Abe Lincoln managed to snatch defeat from the jaws of victory. Aer Lingus, one of the safest airlines in the world, moved lock, stock and barrel eExcept for as Gaeilge) to Belfast where

every home-baked loyalist with a screwdriver will make it a target... You fly if you want — I'll be taking the boat! And Daniel O'Donnell of course... well... his Member of the British Empire award probably stems from recent research showing Irishmen are great lovers...or something like that. Why do they do it? John Redmond? And the grandson Mick Collins? And the wee niece Cosgrave the Stater...

Cosgrave the Younger... Cosgrave the Crook... Gerry Fitt and the wee Paddy Powers... Gerry Adams and the disappeared... **A**ND the cruelest of all Daniel O'Donnell!!! (our own sons have sold their mothers for the big white mama of Westminster... Sieg Heil!) Did they all sell out just to prove their GREATNESS. Well, in Daniel's case that goes without saying. But what about the others... Peter Sutherland. Cruise O'Brien. You are asking who are the

last two names... well unless you are over 50 years of age you probably do not know. The fact is that all the names I have mentioned are remembered only by those whom they have sold out. Ireland has outlived them all. Britain is a poor paymaster. Gerry and his Limited Intelligence group are finding that out recently. When Aer Lingus moved north so did Fianna Fáil. I have a feeling that Aer Fungus and Feel and Fall will survive longer than Gerry

Adams' Limited Intelligence Group. Like all its predecessors the remnants of the Provos will be swallowed up by the beast of greed. In the meantime isn't it a moment of some pride for the O'Donnells... 400 years after the Flight of the Earls an O'Donnell has found favour with a British Monarch? Do you think it will take 400 years for the offspring of the Provos to find themselves centre stage again... They also serve who only stand and wait... — Mac Cool

Christmas swim for POWs

ONCE again the Christmas Day swim in the canal was a great success. Six swimmers and a crowd of about 50 gathered at the canal opposite the Black Horse Pub in Inchicore, Dublin.

We were down some swimmers from last year but newcomers made up the numbers. The most notable absentee was Michael Logan from Lincoln in England who travels over every year to 'jump in' and regale the crowd with a small political speech. Michael was unable to travel this year but we had visitors from England to support the men — and one man in particular!

To a few, though some jumped in twice and three times. Their stamina is to be commended. The little bit of sunshine normally enjoyed by the crowd was blocked off as a big ugly block of apartments cast its shadow over the spot where they jump in. John had the fire going as usual, with a few bevs for those not driving and minerals for those who were. Sweets and crisps were grabbed up by young and old alike.

As usual also was a heavy Special Branch presence. How they can justify spending their (treble pay) time standing at the canal taking names and addresses of men and women attending a fundraising function for Republican prisoners' dependants while stabbing, assaults and murders are being committed is astounding. The tax-payers money could indeed be better spent. Readers of SAOIRSE will remember that Santy was arrested last year, well this year he turned up again undeterred by his ordeal and once again had to give his name and address to the Special Branch.



• Six hardy swimmers braved the cold of Dublin's Grand Canal on Christmas Day.

REPUBLICAN GARDEN BUNDORAN CO DONEGAL

Special Appeal for Funds - to pay off our loan of €2,000

The committee and trustees of the Republican Garden in Bundoran, Co Donegal are pleased to announce that plans are being drawn up for the next stage of development at the garden. It is proposed that six commemorative plaques will be erected in the coming year. To date, the garden has had visitors from all over Ireland, America, Europe and beyond, and the response has been positive. In the weeks running up to Easter, the gates and railings, seats and flagpoles were all painted. New flags were erected and additional flowers and shrubs were added. This in keeping with the continued development and is only fitting considering the Republicans who are remembered there. We would like to thank everyone who contributed in any way small or big and ask anyone who wishes to make further donations to forward them to any committee member, head office or Joe O'Neill directly.

NB. DVDs and Videos of the opening ceremony are available, price €20.



The swimmers this year were: Liam Quail, Ciaran White, David Greene, Dermot Douglas, Johnny Keogh and Luke Molloy. To close John Horan took to his usual stand — the bridge on the canal — and thanked everyone for coming. He told those assembled that as long as there were British troops in Ireland, and any part of the country was under occupation, we would always have those willing to fight for our freedom and independence. He sent greetings to the political prisoners in Portlaoise and Maghaberry and congratulated them on their stand. All proceeds collected for the sponsored swim go to the POWs' dependants. The POWs for their part hand-crafted two beautiful items which were raffled among



• Winners of the raffle at the Christmas Swim for Republican prisoners' dependants..

the swimmers. The sponsored swim is organised every year by Comhairle Ceantair Átha Cliath, Sinn Féin Poblachtach. Anyone wishing to donate to the Swim can send donations c/o Comhairle Ceantair Átha Cliath, 223 Parnell Street, Dublin 1 with a cover note stating that the donation is for CABHAIR (Irish Republican Dependants Fund).



Don't sell at to Stormont or Leinster House ... Buy SAOIRSE every month!

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