

An Phoblacht

SINN FEIN WEEKLY

JUSTICE FOR THE

ROSSPORT 5

NATIONAL MARCH & RALLY

FULL DETAILS ON PAGE 9



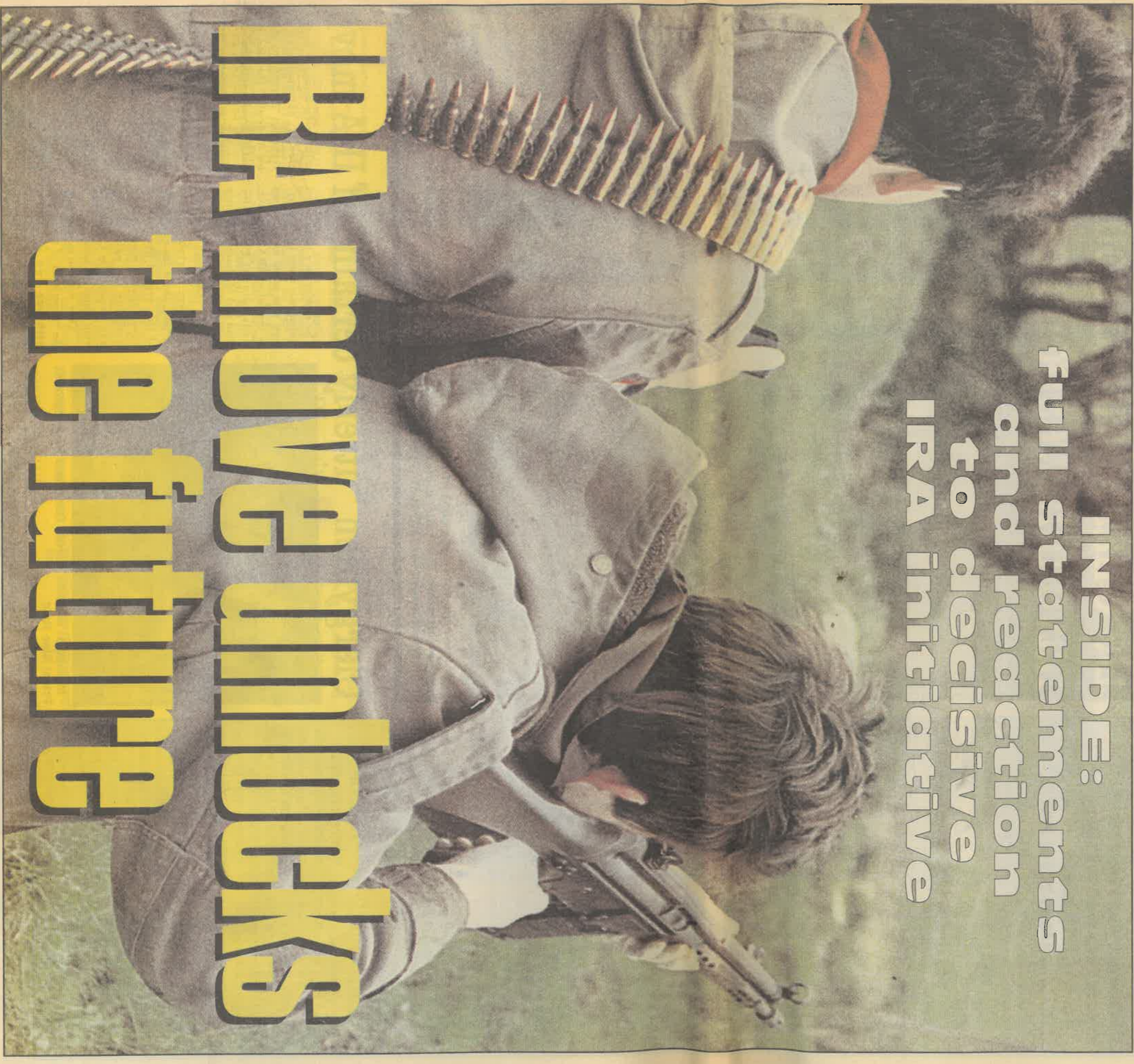
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IRA initiative

De Chastelain and independent witnesses confirm process of putting weapons beyond use completed

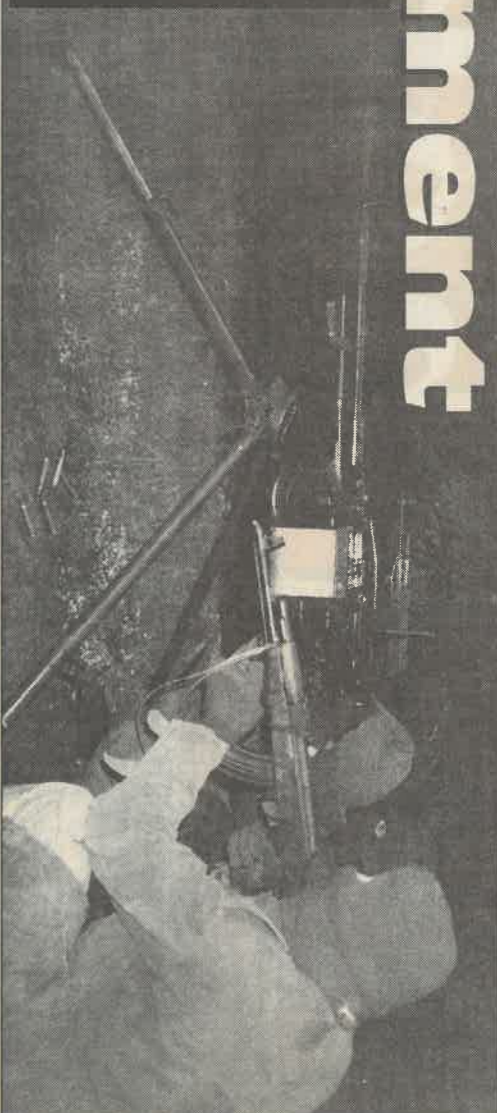
IRA Statement

In a statement issued to journalists on Monday 26 September 2005,

The Irish Republican Army said:

"The leadership of Óglaigh na hÉireann announced on July 28 that we had authorised a representative to engage with the IIICD to complete the process to verifiably put arms beyond use. The IRA leadership can now confirm that the process of putting our arms beyond use has been completed."

The statement was signed P O'Neill



De Chastelain announces IRA have put weapons beyond use

The Irish and British Governments responded positively to Monday's report from the IIICD. In a statement they said they warmly welcomed what they termed a "landmark development".

The statement continued: "Having sought to achieve this outcome for so many years, its significance now needs to be acknowledged and recognised. It is the clearest signal ever that the IRA's armed campaign is over."

"We also welcome the presence of clergymen from the Protestant and Catholic communities as independent witnesses to the decommissioning process. Their presence should enhance public confidence."

MAJOR STEP FORWARD

The governments said that in a joint statement on 28 July, they had said 'the IRA's words must be borne out by actions' and that Monday's IIICD report "represents a major step forward in this regard".

The statement went on to say that both governments believed that the Peace Process would now be best served by "the earliest practicable restoration of the devolved institutions of the Good Friday Agreement. We recognise that trust and confidence will take time to rebuild but we hope that today's developments will provide a vital stimulus. For their part the governments will do everything we can to facilitate progress."

The governments added that the IRA initiative made it "all the more urgent that loyalist paramilitary activity be brought to an end and that all loyalist arms be decommissioned".

In a separate statement Taoiseach Bertie Ahern said that it was a momentous day for the people of Ireland. He said that the IRA had moved on the arms issue and that it now intended to pursue its aims by exclusively peaceful means.

Ahern acknowledged the report from the IIICD and the statements of the independent witnesses. "We have heard from General De Chastelain and from the independent witnesses, Reverend Harold Good and Fr Alec Reid. These are men of integrity. Their words are clear. And they are very welcome."

He added that the IIICD's statement "that the IRA has met its commitment to put all its arms beyond use is of enormous consequence. It is a landmark development. It is of real historic significance."

Ahern went on to say that: "We have a duty to work now to build a better Ireland. An Ireland that is a warm home for everybody who lives here. I promise that the Irish Government will uphold the Good Friday Agreement. We want to see its full implementation. There is no going back to the bad old days. The Good Friday Agreement has delivered peace."

Directly addressing Unionists Ahern said: "I understand the fears and uncertainties of the unionist community. I understand that trust needs to be rebuilt. I know they may need time to reflect. But I urge them not to underestimate the importance of today's developments."

SEIZE THE OPPORTUNITY

He concluded by calling on everyone to "now seize the opportunity that is opening in front of us to build a better Ireland for all its people".

Separately British Prime Minister Tony Blair also welcomed General de Chastelain's statement and that of the independent witnesses. He said the British Government would implement its obligations under the Good Friday Agreement and he believed this will lead to the restoration of devolved government in the North and a more peaceful future for people there.



At a packed press conference on Monday 26 September the head of the Independent International Commission on Decommissioning (IIICD) announced that he was satisfied that the IRA had completed the process of putting its weapons beyond use.

Retired Canadian General John De

Chastelain said the IIICD had reported to the Irish and British Governments that it had observed and verified events to put the IRA's arms beyond use.

He said that the material involved included ammunition, rifles, machine guns, mortars, missiles, hand guns, explosives and explosive substances. De

Chastelain said that as far as he was aware, no photographs were taken of the process and certainly none by the commissioners. He also said it remained for the IIICD to address the issue of loyalist arms and he asked everyone with influence to use it to that end.

Clergymen "utterly certain" of IRA move



Methodist Minister Harold Good and Redemptorist Priest Alec Reid

The conference also heard statements from two clergymen who acted as witnesses to the latest IRA initiative. Redemptorist Priest Alec Reid and Methodist Minister Harold Good.

The clergymen said that they were "certain, utterly certain, about the exactitude of this report because we have spent many days watching the painstaking way General De Chastelain went about the task".

They went on to state that the "experience of seeing this with our own eyes on a

minute-to-minute basis" clearly demonstrated to them that "beyond any shadow of doubt" the IRA had put its arms beyond use.

BENCHMARK FOR

THE RESOLUTION

Harold Good concluded his statement by saying that both he and Alec Reid hoped the development "will become a benchmark for the resolution for political conflicts everywhere" and that for people in the North of Ireland "it will herald the dawn of a new peace".

Responding in detail on Monday to the announcements by General John De Chastelain and two other members of the IIKD and two independent witnesses about the IRAs historic arms initiative, Sinn Féin Gerry Adams said

it was a full and positive response to his April appeal to the IRA. He also said that it was time now for the British and Irish Governments to implement all aspects of the Good Friday Agreement as they had promised.

Addressing unionists he said he understood they would need space to absorb the import of developments and asked them to reflect upon the potential which is now created, and to see it as an opportunity.

Governments need to implement Agreement as promised

Here we carry the full text of Gerry Adams' speech.

"I consider this afternoon's announcements to be a very full and positive response to the appeal that I made in April. At that time I called upon the IRA to pursue their goals by purely peaceful and democratic means. This was in keeping with the position outlined by Sinn Féin going back over many years. I want to commend the leadership of the IRA for moving so decisively.

I know that today's announcement will be difficult for many republicans. I saw that myself as we watched the press conference of the IIKD and the two independent witnesses. This was a bold and brave leap.

I want to commend the leadership of the IRA for moving so decisively

But all us need to think beyond it. We need to think beyond the moment. It is not the leap itself but the place that it takes us all that is important. For this reason the IRA's courageous decision was the right thing to do.

Both governments now need to be focused, decisive and creative. They need to implement the Good Friday Agreement as they have promised to do. There must be progress on equality, policing, human rights, people on the run and victims. There must also be progress on other issues, including prisoners and Northern representation in the Oireachtas. There must be a proper peace dividend to tackle inequality, discrimination, deprivation and sectarianism wherever it exists. The political institutions must be restored.

I understand and appreciate that unionists need



space to absorb what all this means. I would ask them to reflect upon the potential which is now created and to see it as an opportunity.

Some unionists may fear that this is a tactical manoeuvre, or an attempt to trap them. It is not. Some unionists have expressed fears about a Plan B. There is no Plan B. There is no secret agenda. Unionists say they do not trust republicans. But they do need to trust themselves.

The IRA's decision to formally end its armed campaign and today's announcements are genuine initiatives to revive the Peace Process by conclusively resolving the concerns of unionists. Issues relating to the IRA, which were presented as difficulties for unionists, have now been definitively dealt with.

There are those who will

try to dismiss or to minimise what has been announced today. We are prepared to meet those people to discuss

I understand and appreciate that unionists need space to absorb what all this means. I would ask them to

reflect upon the potential which is now created, and to see it as an opportunity

their concerns. Our leadership will also be seeking meetings with political, church, business and civic interests to build on the progress of today's events and to discuss all these urgent and important issues.

I would appeal therefore to political leaders to respond carefully. The words of some in the past have fuelled sectarian violence against Catholics and this has been a particularly difficult summer. There were serious attempts to provoke a reaction from nationalists and republicans. There may well be other attempts in the time ahead so I call upon people to show the calm and discipline that was evident over the summer months and particularly in recent times.

This initiative has opened

up a new phase in Irish political life. This is not just about the Peace Process and conflict resolution, though that is vitally important. It is bigger than the question of arms.

It is about the future of this island, the type of country that we want to live in, the sort of society that we desire for future generations as well as this generation.

Sinn Féin is proud of our republican values. Our strategy is to bring about Irish unity and independence. And we will campaign and argue for this as we expect unionists to argue for their political vision.

But in the interest of our shared constituencies we are prepared to work with them in the political institutions to deal with the outstanding issues of the Peace Process

and the social and economic needs that face people at this time. One of the most critical issues facing us at this time is the pressing need to tackle sectarianism. The context for this is the Good Friday Agreement.

We are not naive about the hard work and the diffi-

Both governments now need to be focused, decisive and creative. They need to implement the Good Friday

Agreement as they have promised to do. There must be progress on equality, policing, human rights, people on the run and victims. There must also be progress on other issues, including prisoners and Northern representation in the Oireachtas

cuties which have yet to be overcome. But a new dynamic has been created. Republicans face into this with confidence. We appeal to unionists and others to join with us. To leave the past behind and to build a shared and peaceful future for all our people."

IRA initiative

The UUP and DUP have diverged in their responses to the latest developments

DUP MEMBERS' RESPONSES TO IRA INITIATIVE

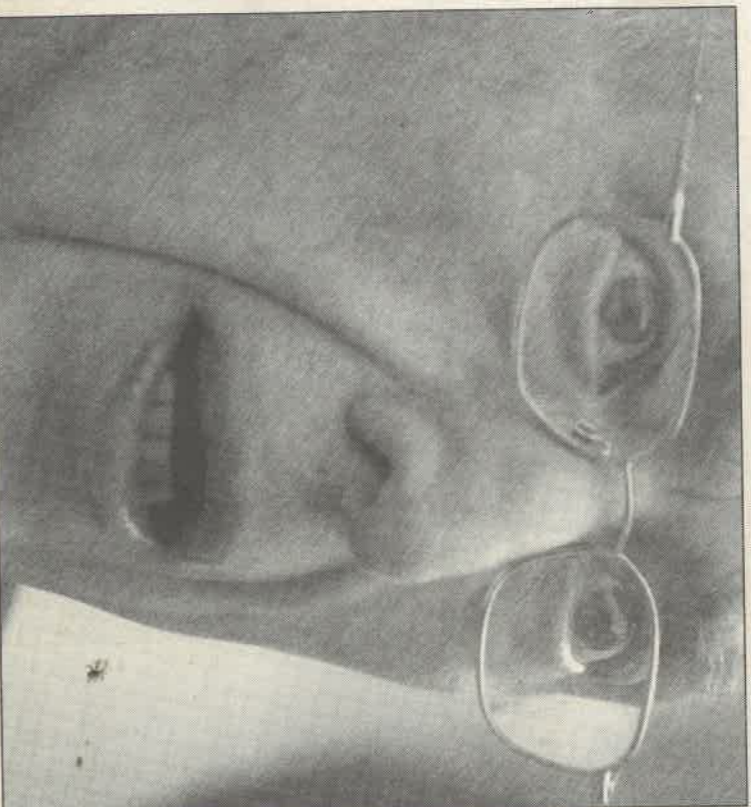
Clear differences within unionism have opened up this week in relation to the most appropriate response to the latest groundbreaking IRA initiative. The DUP leader Ian Paisley has alleged a "cover up" while the UUP sees potential for progress.

Paisley and Danny Kennedy of the UUP gave very different responses following meetings on Tuesday with General John de Chastelain of the Independent International Commission on Decommissioning (IICD).

At a press conference immediately after the IICD delivered its report Paisley said people had been "betrayed". Accusing the British and Irish government of duplicity and dishonesty and dismissing the clergymen witnesses as "appointees of the IRA" the DUP leader declared the report a "complete failure".

"This afternoon the people of Northern Ireland watched a programme which illustrates more than ever the duplicity and dishonesty of the two governments and the IRA. Instead of openness there was the cunning tactics of a cover up and a complete failure from General John de Chastelain to deal with the numerics of decommissioning", said Paisley.

That the two witnesses "were clearly under the control of the general", added nothing to the proceedings and because they were "accepted by the IRA", the clergymen "could be in no way be independent", said Paisley. He accused the British government of "bad faith" because he had promised that the process would be conducted to everyone's satisfaction and it hadn't.



• Ian Paisley



• Danny Kennedy



• Reg Empey

"The people of Ulster are not going to be forced by



• John Taylor

IRA/Sinn Féin or by the two governments, along the pathway



• Reverend Harold Good

of deceitfulness and treachery. Hidden things of darkness are surely coming to light in the extent of the shameful betrayal of truth that will be uncovered", said Paisley.

Initially the UUP seemed to be taking its cue from the Paisleyite. UUP Leader Reg Empey claimed the procedures had failed to maximise public confidence. "Unionists remain to be convinced of the republicans movement's commitment to exclusively peaceful and democratic means". The UUP would wait and see, said Empey.

UUP colleague John Taylor was marginally more forthcoming. The IRA's initiative was "major and significant" and represented "real progress". But in his eyes inclusive democracy remained in the gift of unionism. "Clearly some considerable time will be



• Fr Alec Reid

required to assure unionists that the IRA is no longer a threat to them. In the meantime Sinn Féin cannot be in government or in membership of the Policing Boards."

However by Tuesday Paisley's questioning of the independence of the two independent clergymen witnesses met with a rebuke from the UUP spokesperson Danny Kennedy and it showed a growing divergence between the two parties' evolving position on the potential contained in the IRA initiative.

Kennedy said that he accepted that Alec Reid and Harold Good had faithfully recounted what they had witnessed and that the IRA act of putting all its weapons beyond use was significant.

Kennedy said that he personally knew Harold Good and that "under no circumstances

WHITE HOUSE WELCOMES 'HISTORIC DAY'

The US government responded to the latest IRA move through a White House spokesperson who welcomed the IICD statement.

"This announcement marks an historic day for Northern Ireland and is extremely encouraging for all those who support the peace process, the rule of law, and a Northern Ireland free from sectarian violence. It also marks an opportunity for all parties to renew efforts to reach a sustainable political settlement in Northern Ireland."

The spokesmen said that President Bush commended the efforts of General

John de Chastelain and his fellow IICD commissioners, and "applauds the efforts of Sinn Féin in bringing the republican community to this moment".

He said the US now called on others engage with the IICD "to bring about total decommissioning at the earliest possible date".

The White House said the US government remained "steadfast in its support for the peace process and the work of the British and Irish Governments to achieve lasting peace and reconciliation for the people of Northern Ireland under the principles of the Good Friday Agreement".



• Sinn Féin delegation meeting the government this week

Ahern must show he's serious

A Sinn Féin delegation led by Gerry Adams met a Fianna Fáil/PD coalition delegation led by Bertie Ahern at Government Buildings on 23 September. According to the Sinn Féin negotiators it was an unremarkable meeting which went through current issues in the Peace Process. What was more interesting was the government publicity 'spin' that preceded and followed the meeting.

The day before they met Sinn Féin, government spin doctors were putting out the story that this was the first time since January that the government had met Sinn Féin. The impression was deliberately given that Sinn Féin had been left out in the cold for seven months, having been told off by the government. As was quickly pointed out by Sinn Féin, there has been a series of meetings since January, including several between Gerry Adams and Bertie Ahern.

The day after the meeting thousands of republicans from all over Ireland paraded in Dublin for Irish unity in the biggest mobilisation in the capital since the anti-war march in 2003. It was a celebratory event that also demonstrated political strength and sent out a clear message about Sinn Féin's

BY MICHEÁL
MAC DONNCHA

determination to achieve its goal of Irish re-unification. The crowd had hardly cleared from O'Connell Street when the ...the negative DUP response to this week's momentous announcement that IRA weapons have been put beyond use has been facilitated by the easy ride they have been given by the Dublin Government and media

event was attacked by Michael McDowell as an exercise in "political necrophilia". McDowell attacking a Sinn Féin event – "so what?" you say. It's not that important in itself but it does form part of a clear pattern for the past two

years. McDowell has become increasingly vocal in relation to the Peace Process. Bertie Ahern has stepped back and is quite content to allow McDowell to make the running. It has all the appearance of a typical Bertie ploy – let someone else throw the dirt so you can benefit from the damage to your opponents while escaping any negative consequences yourself. All of this is with an eye to the next General Election and is designed to limit the growth of Sinn Féin.

But the result for the Peace Process is that McDowell's words have been manna from heaven for the DUP and the Justice Minister has been extensively quoted by them in their efforts to prevent progress. The negative response from the DUP to the IRA's decision to end its armed campaign as announced on 28 July is at least partly attributable to the encouragement their negativity has received from Government Buildings in Dublin. Similarly, the negative DUP response to this week's momentous announcement that IRA weapons have been put beyond

use has been facilitated by the easy ride they have been given by the Dublin Government and media.



All this must change. Bertie Ahern must show he is serious about implementing the Good Friday Agreement. He can do so by putting McDowell out of the driving seat and asserting his own command of government policy on this issue. He must also fulfil his Government's obligations to make progress on the basis of the Agreement and on the basis of the commitment to Irish unity in the amended 1937 Constitution. His programme should include:

- Vigorously pursuing the full implementation of the Good Friday Agreement with a clear focus on the need for the unionist leadership to shoulder its responsibility to share power and work with the All-Ireland structures, and on the need for the British Government to fulfil all of its responsibilities.
- Advancing the All-Ireland agenda on all fronts by acting now to develop co-ordination and integration of infrastructure and public services on an island-wide basis, encouraging a similar process in the private sector and the voluntary and community sector.
- Fulfilling his commitment

made in 1998 to advance the issue of Six-County representation in the Oireachtas. Speaking rights in the Dáil for all Six-County MPs should be provided for without further delay.

- The repeal of the Offences Against the State Acts.
- Given the momentous and historic decisions by the IRA, the release of all remaining IRA prisoners.
- Strengthening the Human Rights Commission and having due regard to its recommendations, something that McDowell as Justice Minister has failed to do.
- Root-and-branch reform of the Garda Síochána.
- Establishing a public inquiry into the murder of Sinn Féin Councillor Eddie Fullerton.

This is not an exhaustive list but progress is overdue on all of these issues.

The question for Bertie Ahern is will he and Tony Blair allow the DUP to obstruct the Peace Process. The excuse of silent IRA weapons that has been used by unionists and the British throughout this process is now removed. Will this become a DUP-watching exer-

cise, or will the two governments move to implement those parts of the Agreement for which they are directly responsible, including the completion of British demilitarisation? As the leader of Fianna Fáil, a party which claims to be committed to Irish unity, Bertie

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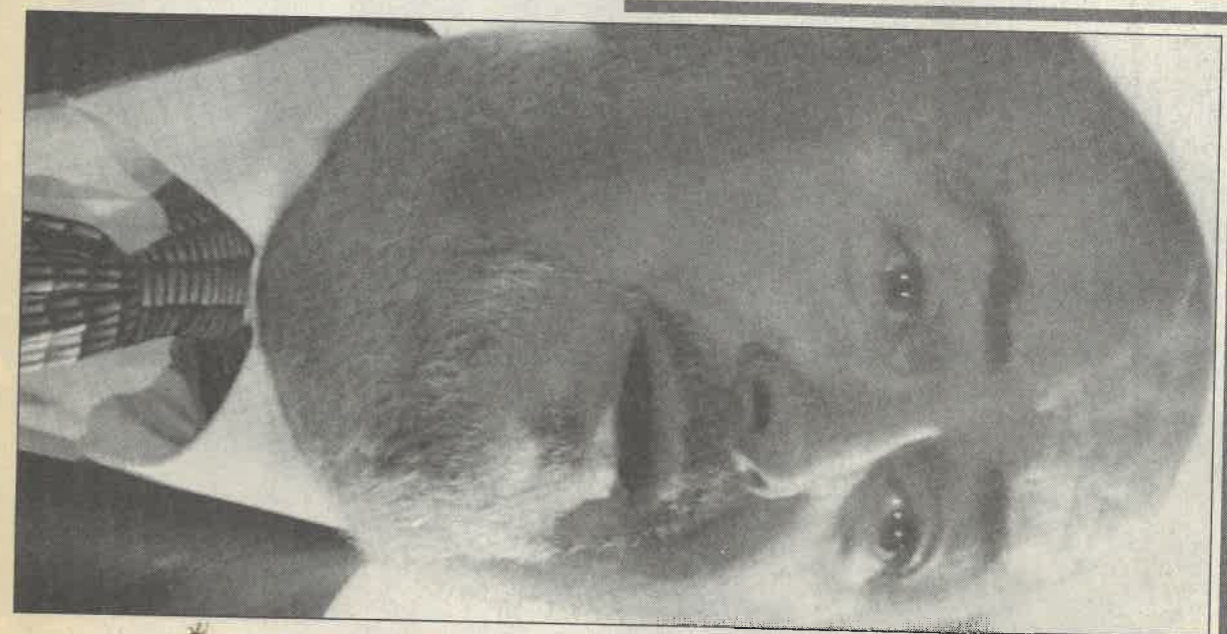
Ahern should also be setting out his strategy for its achievement. The commitment to Irish unity should be the underlying principle of his government's policy.

IRA initiative

Ó Caoiláin says Irish Government should now establish a strategy for Irish unity and repeal the Offences Against the State Act

Anti-republican agenda must no longer dominate

— Ó Caoiláin



Taoiseach says IRA did not kill Raftery

Taoiseach Bertie Ahern has said that he is satisfied that there was no official involvement by republicans in the brutal murder of a Dublin man in West Dublin in April.

"I don't think there were any instructions given by the IRA," Ahern said on Tuesday, adding: "Elements, probably of criminality, claimed they had links with republicans."

Joseph Raftery (28) was shot dead near his home in Ongar on 12 April. Members of his family met the Taoiseach on Tuesday last as part of their campaign to bring those responsible for the murder to justice.

Since the murder, several notoriously anti-republican journalists have claimed that the IRA killed Raftery while others have said that Sinn Féin members were responsible. This has been vehemently denied by Sinn Féin from the outset.



• Dáithí Doolan

Sinn Féin Dublin City Councillor Dáithí Doolan, who represents the Southeast Inner City where Raftery originally came from and where his family still lives, has been a prime target for the media smear campaign. Doolan has met members of Joseph Raftery's family on numerous occasions to try and assist them in their efforts to bring Joseph's killers to justice. He has called for anyone who knows anything about the murder to come forward and to give that information to the Garda.

Speaking in Dublin on Friday 23 September Sinn Féin President Gerry Adams MP supported Doolan's call for anyone with information to assist the Raftery family in their search for justice by co-operating with Gardaí in the investigation of the murder. He also said that he would be willing to meet with members of Joseph Raftery's family.

The South African President has compared the latest IRA move to that of South Africans in the early 1990s in its struggle for democracy

'IRA has set example to rest of world' — Mbeki

South African President Thabo Mbeki welcomed the statement by the IRA. "Today's announcement that the IRA has given up the use of armed resistance to achieve its aims can be rated as one of the most encouraging events in decades of protracting struggle in Northern Ireland," he said

Mbeki continued: "By renouncing violence, committing itself to handing in its arms and seeking political means to realise its aspirations, the IRA has clearly chosen the peace path. In this it has set an example to the rest of humankind, in much the same way that South Africans chose such a course, despite years of conflict and racism, in the early 1990s leading to the settlement of 1994 and the advent of democratic life in our country.

"Gerry Adams personally contacted and briefed me about this encouraging event and outlined what can only be viewed as a realistic path to peaceful resolution of the impasse, given the will on all sides to make peace work. We encourage all concerned in every way possible to hold fast to this historic decision and to appreciate that there is every reason why any remaining forces that would favour

violence, from any quarter, should be opposed.

"The Government and people of South Africa will offer their warmest congratulations to all those concerned in this brave and far-sighted decision. As President, I would add my personal congratulations. One can now be more optimistic than ever that the process to peace in the lovely island of Ireland will be steady and successful.

In a separate statement the African National Congress welcomed "the announcement by the Irish Republican Army of the end of its armed campaign and its intention to pursue its objectives through peaceful democratic means."

"This announcement marks an important step forward in the ongoing struggle to achieve a peaceful, just and lasting solution to the conflict within the context of the Good Friday agreement.

"The ANC commends the IRA for demonstrating resolve and leadership at an important historical moment. The ANC further urges all parties in Northern Ireland, together with the Irish and British Governments, to seize this opportunity to move forward with the Peace Process."

In welcoming developments Sinn Féin Dáil leader Caoimhghín Ó Caoiláin said it was a hugely difficult decision for republicans to make. "I know that many republicans who have fully supported the Sinn Féin peace strategy from the beginning will be feeling that yet again republicans have had to leap first. But I would urge all republicans to see this development for what it is — a brave act of faith in the ability of Irish republicans to move forward together to our goal of Irish unity and independence by peaceful means."

He said the Irish Government had a special

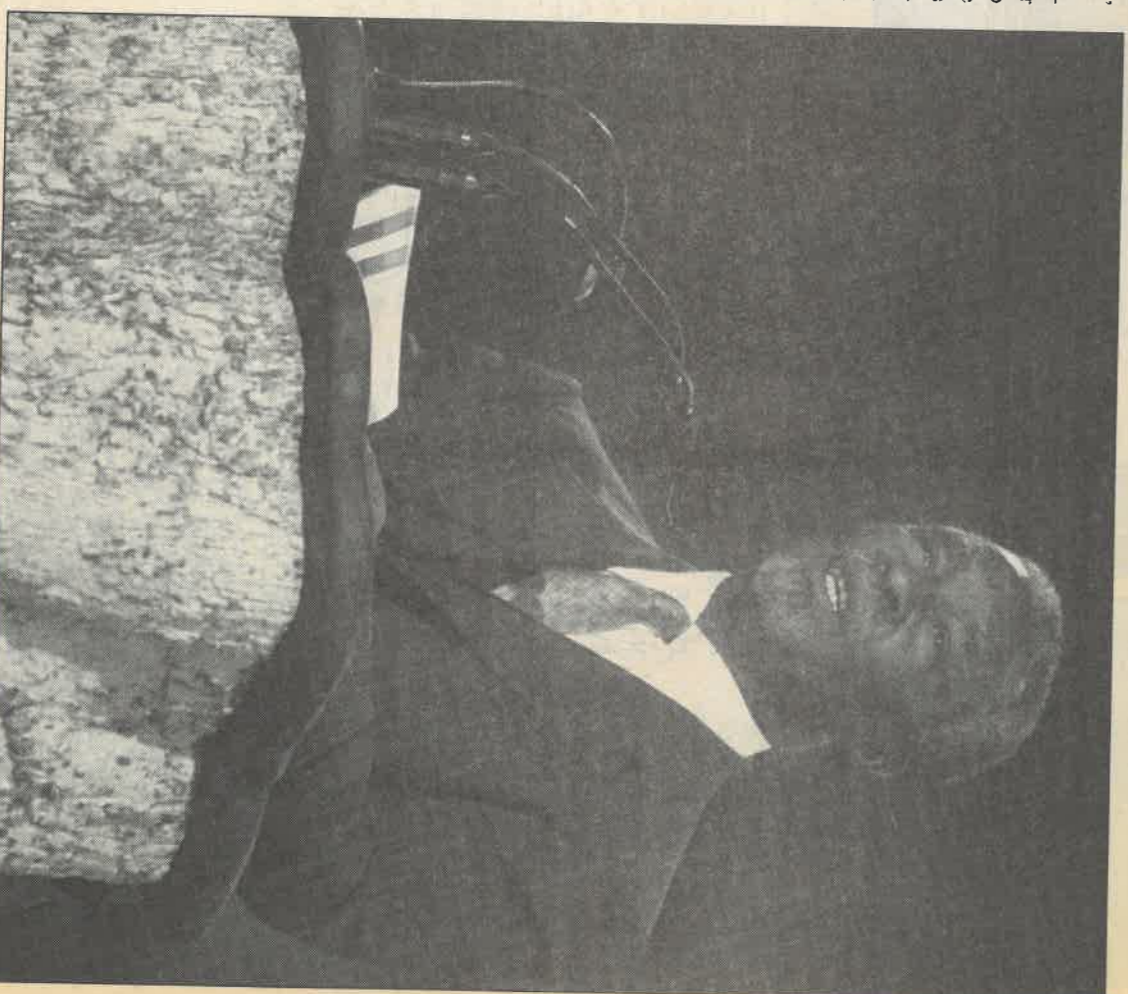
responsibility in the wake of the developments. "For too long some in this government have handled the Peace Process with one eye to the next General Election in the 26 Counties and with a desire to limit the growth of Sinn Féin. The anti-republican agenda of Michael McDowell has been allowed to dominate. This must change."

Ó Caoiláin said that Bertie Ahern needed to renew his commitment to the Good Friday Agreement and fulfil his own government's obligations. As Taoiseach he should also ensure that the British Government and the unionist parties lived up to their responsibilities in the

Peace Process

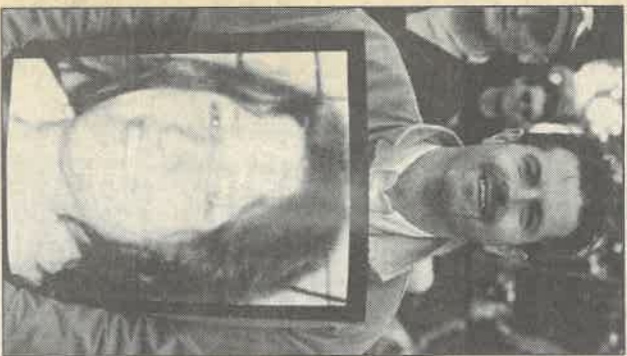
He called on Ahern to develop co-ordination and integration of infrastructure and public services on an all-Ireland basis and to advance the issue of Six-County representation in the Oireachtas. "Speaking rights in the Dáil for all Six-County MPs should be provided for without further delay."

The Sinn Féin Dáil leader also said that the Dublin Government should publish a Green Paper on Irish Unity which would set out a government strategy for Irish reunification and that the Offences Against the State Act should be repealed.



Republican activists should seize opportunity provided by latest IRA initiative

BY



JIM McVEIGH

What a week! Indeed what a year it has been for republicans. This week again the Army has taken another huge initiative, putting its weapons beyond use. Many republican activists will be looking back, reflecting upon the sacrifices made during our most difficult days of struggle, thinking of the friends we loved and lost, and perhaps looking forward with a little trepidation, asking where do we go from here? Thinking, what is my role in the time ahead?

Let me say straight away that we stand on the brink of an unprecedented opportunity in the time ahead. The Republic is at last within our grasp. In this phase ahead and we need something like a ten-year strategy to deliver this, we can at last end partition and establish a radical republican government on the island, a government of which we are the heart and soul.

Now is not the time to be paralysed by fear or doubt. We must believe in ourselves and recognise this moment, this point in our struggle, for what it is — a moment of decisive revolutionary opportunity.

When the Army decided upon its most recent course of action, or indeed any of its previous initiatives, it did so perhaps with one simple objective in mind — to create the maximum amount of goodwill for our cause here in Ireland and beyond these shores. Our job in the time ahead then is to turn that goodwill into real political muscle and support and then to use that muscle to advance more quickly toward the Republic. So what does that mean in real terms?

Every revolution needs a revolutionary party

The above quote from an Ógra poster sums up one of the essential tasks in the time ahead for every republican activist building the revolutionary party. That means joining the party, supporting it, developing it. We must open up the party to new faces and voices and all of the energy and new ideas they can bring. That means intensifying recruitment across the country. It also means that in the time ahead we need more than ever, the wise and steady guidance of older, more experienced republicans. We must invite ex-prisoners, former activists, all those people who have quietly supported us in the background for years, to play a more direct role in the party.

What about the setting up of another

A moment of revolutionary opportunity



cumann up the road or in the next village? We need a cumann, a republican presence and voice in every part of every city, every town, town land and village in every corner of this island.

Of course, none of this will simply happen or drop from the sky. Each one of us, each particular cumann or tier of leadership must plan for it. That means sitting down together and devising a plan of work, the who, what, where and when? Look beyond your present horizon and seize the opportunities that lie there.

Building a mass movement

Of course you can't have a revolution without the people and the job of the party is to help build a radical mass movement. That means making sure that at every level within the party or even place where we exist, we campaign. Campaigning must become a central focus of all of our party work.

Campaigns can take many different shapes, some are designed to mobilise large numbers of activists, others to create new ones, some are publicly driven and some are about networking or building alliances on a smaller scale. We need to do all of those things simultaneously. Every time we begin a campaign or join with others in an existing one we open up a new front, a new site of struggle, we make new friends, create more republicans, turn spectators into activists.

IRA took initiative to maximise goodwill for republican cause



We must open the party to new faces and voices

The list of possible campaigns is exhaustive. While we have set before ourselves a number of priorities, those too will constantly evolve and change. At all times we must be guided by our primary objectives. Not just the ending of partition but our absolute commitment to equality and revolutionary change.

That means in the time ahead campaigning to have our prisoners released, making the demand for truth and the end to state collusion impossible to ignore. It means placing the all-Ireland agenda at the heart of every campaign. It means pressing our demands for real demilitarisation now. It means pushing the equality agenda and demanding our rights. But it also means shifting our emphasis and prioritising other issues in keeping with our revolutionary objectives.

Campaigns

It means us spearheading and developing

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a major anti-poverty campaign. Building an anti-racism campaign. It means opposing with greater vigour, privatisation North and South and the running down of public services. It means intensifying the Rossport 5 campaign. It must mean that these issues of social justice become an ever-increasing focus of our campaigning energies.

How do we join these many campaigns up and deliver the Republic? This is also a challenge to republicans, to reach out, to make alliances with others, to identify those objectives that might unite us. Across this island there are other people, not members of our party, republicans, socialists, radical trade unionists, environmental campaigners, green party activists, community activists with whom we might make common cause. We must begin that search with greater vigour in the weeks and months ahead, we must begin to forge these alliances at a grass roots level, where it counts most.

Now it is time to build a broad-based republican labour coalition, a movement for radical change. A movement that can unite all of the most progressive forces on this island behind the demands for unity and social justice.

This is indeed a moment of decisive revolutionary opportunity. Let each and every one of us each in our way and in a spirit of comradeship seize that opportunity.

Ar aghaidh chun Phoblacht!!

UNLOCKING THE FUTURE

The root causes of IRA activity for the past three decades have been the unjust partition of Ireland, the physical, political and economic repression of the nationalist population of the occupied Six Counties, and the absence of any other credible or effective means of progress towards freedom and democracy.

The republican peace strategy, the confidence of nationalists in the North and the growing strength of the Sinn Féin mandate throughout Ireland have all altered the political landscape in recent years. There now exists a credible, alternative, peaceful strategy to attain the freedom of Ireland and to establish democracy and equality for all our people.

The intelligence, courage and flexibility of the leadership of Oglagh na hÉireann has been a crucial factor in bringing about this sea change. At every step of the way the IRA has supported and sustained the Peace Process. On numerous occasions the IRA rescued the process from total collapse. The organisation has taken initiative after initiative to move the process for-

ward. It had done so in the face of the worst type of political cynicism, lehar-gy and outright obstruction from enemies and opponents. For many republicans it seems it is the IRA which always has to jump first and without due reciprocity.

For some time now the opponents of the Peace Process have sat in the middle of the road and blocked political

progress. Again it has been republicans, as those who seek maximum change, who have acted to clear the way forward. The latest IRA initiative in putting all of its arms beyond use is a brave act of faith in the republican and nationalist people to bring the freedom struggle forward to a successful conclusion.

British occupation, oppression, discrimination, sectarianism and partition are all remnants of the painful history of Ireland. They belong in the past and a strong, united Irish republican struggle will consign them to the past. A future based on freedom, democracy and equality beckons. In its latest, decisive move, the IRA has unlocked the future.



An Phoblacht

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Bertie's brass neck

A Chara,

Last Tuesday Taoiseach Bertie Ahern took centre-stage at the launch of ex-ICTU President Donal Nevin's biography of James Connolly. Ahern is not fit even to hold a book on the great revolutionary Connolly. One can almost hear Connolly turning in his Arbour Hill grave as Bertie runs our proud and wealthy country into the ground.

Connolly gave his life for Irish freedom and worked tirelessly to achieve socialism and ensure Irish workers got a fair deal. Ahern, alongside the PDs, his neo-liberal, racist, right-wing partners, now oversecs an Ireland never wealthier, but also never more unequal. They are currently the incompetent government of a country whose health service is crumbling, whose transport is inadequate, whose education system is unfair, and which currently has a housing crisis, with anti-social behaviour increasing. All this while the capitalist class, cronies of the FF/PD regime, thrive. It is time for change, so that Connolly's dream of a united, peaceful, just and equal Ireland can be achieved.

John Flynn,

Logue/Marley Cumann,

Sinn Féin.

Street names in Cork

A Chara,

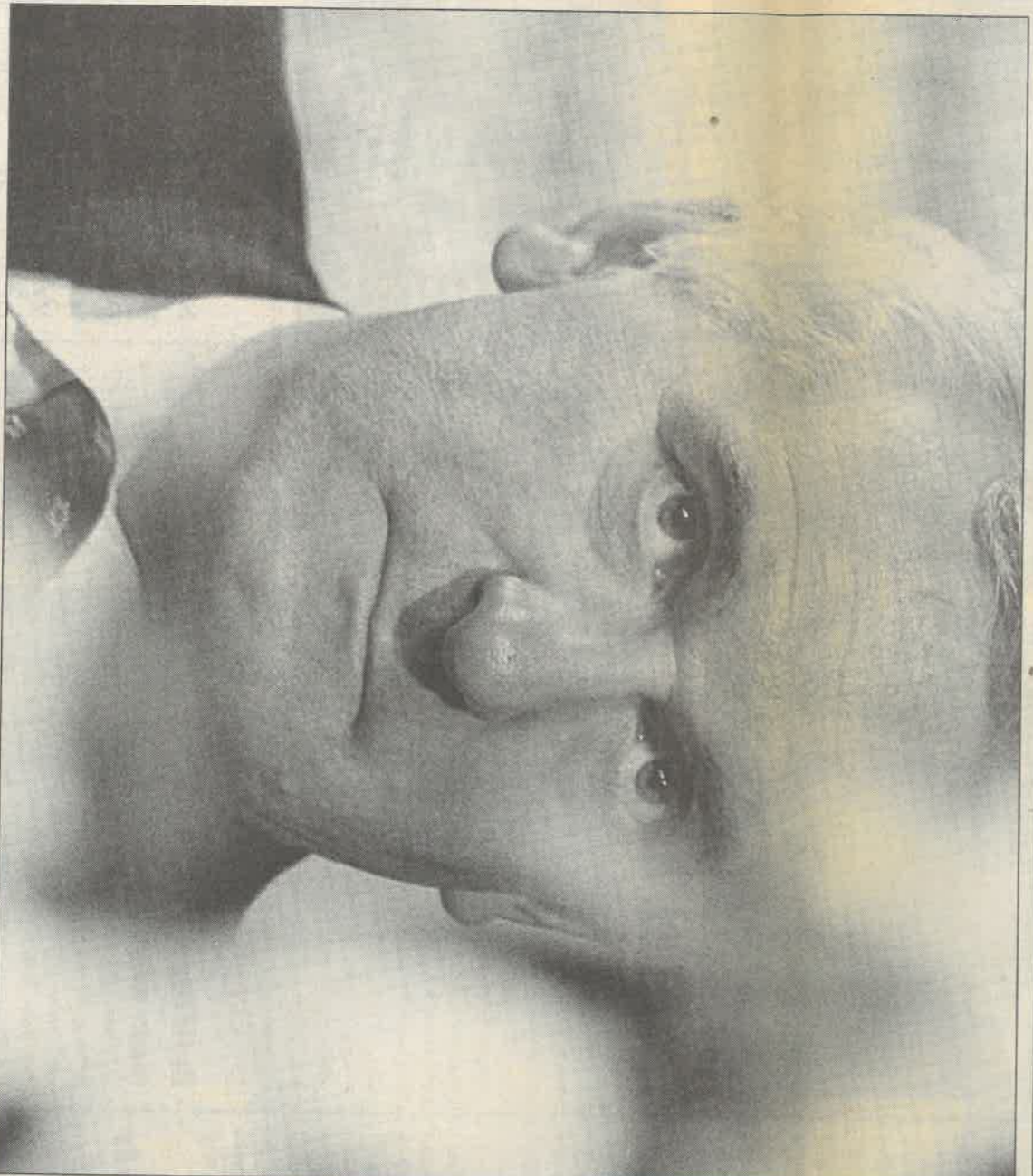
I was reading *An Phoblacht* and it gives a very good account of English street names still in existence 2005 in Dublin

I am from Cork and this year we are supposed to be celebrating the year of Culture. Up to now (nine months on in the so called Year of Culture) it still amazes me how Cork got this title with street names like Wellington Road, Victoria Cross, Victoria Avenue, Alexandra Road, Alexandra Place, Buckingham Place, Georges Quay, Washington

Mála Poist

An Phoblacht welcomes readers' letters. Letters in Irish or English should be kept short (no more than 200 words) and typed or handwritten clearly, double-spaced and on one side of the paper only. Name and address should be supplied for verification, but these will not be published if we are so requested.

Cuiréann *An Phoblacht* fáilte roimh litreacha onár léitheoirí. Scríobh i nGaeilge nó i mBéarla. Is fearr litreacha gearra (200 focal ar a méid) clóscríofa nó lámhscríofa go soiléir ar thaobh amháin den leathanach. Cuir ailm agus seoladh leis ach ní fhoilseoidimid iad seo mas é do thóil.



Need for comprehensive suicide strategy

A Chara,

The government's launch on Thursday 8 September of its National Suicide Prevention Strategy (26 Counties) is to be broadly welcomed. However, we must be sure that what is being proposed is not just a token ges-

The partitionist nature of the strategy is worrying. There has been a Six-County strategy launched previously, and there must be crossborder co-operation on this.

Secondly, suicide cannot be viewed as a stand alone issue. If you persuade a person not to kill themselves, that does not mean the job is done.

Suicidal tendencies come about normally as part of a depressive illness. If you do

not make the general health services more efficient, you cannot hope to alleviate the problem.

At present the mental health services receive 6% of the 26-County health budget. This is a shocking indictment of the disregard for these very real social problems.

Suicide and depression are nasty, unpleasant issues, so people wish to ignore them. The truth is, that is the worst thing we can do. We need a

Donaldson's foreign affairs

A Chara,

While Jeffrey Donaldson was in Colombia did he find time to visit any of the thousands of innocent Colombian peasants crammed into prisons not because they carried out heinous crimes but because they dared to oppose the right-wing paramilitaries who are controlled by a corrupt regime?

As Donaldson was not in Colombia on behalf of any humanitarian organisation maybe he intended to advise them on how to operate a proper shoot-to-kill policy or how to discriminate and exclude your neighbours from political participation? Maybe Donaldson needed to be somewhere else while Orangemen were burning and rioting?

But Jeffrey did not realise how quickly things can change. Now he has returned he has to deal with a changing political landscape. Sinn Féin commemorating 100 years with a huge rally in Dublin where thousands upon thousands of republicans called for an end to partition. Then the DUP's world falls apart when republicans put weapons beyond use.

Not to worry Jeffrey, there is another trip if you want to go. It is that small matter of the SBS men who murdered two police men in Iraq. Why not start campaigning to have those two extradited back to Iraq to serve their sentences in the country where they committed their crimes?

Misce le meas,
J Woods.

ROSSPORT 5 Men have now spent 93 days in jail



Gerry Adams at the Rosport 5 protest outside the Dáil as it reconvened on Wednesday

Rally will demand justice for Mayo men

Michéal O Seighin Statement to supporters



Sinn Féin President Gerry Adams MP and Martin Ferris TD visited Michéal Ó Seighin, one of the Rosport 5, in Cloverhill Prison last Wednesday. Later Sinn Féin TDs raised the case of the five men in the Dáil demanding that the government intervene to resolve this matter.

Addressing a Rosport 5 protest outside Leinster House on Wednesday 28 September Sinn Féin President Gerry Adams read out a statement from Michéal Ó Seighin which he received from the Mayo man earlier that day when he visited him in Clover Hill Prison. The statement read: "We have no choice. All normal people protect themselves, their families and their communities. We are being kept here by Shell. They are the only ones who can lift the injunction. We cannot agree not to protect our families or our communities. We cannot agree to anything that will make us less than citizens. We want to thank everyone who has supported us."

Adams also encouraged people to send cards to Cloverhill and said that O Seighin on behalf of himself and the other four men had also appealed for people to turn out on Saturday for the National Rally which the prisoner said was "about ensuring that Shell kicks their whole processes offshore".

An Phoblacht.com

Meanwhile Shell-to-Sea campaigners are planning for a major march and rally calling for the release of the Rosport 5 next Saturday 1 October. The rally is expected to draw activists from all over Ireland and is the culmination of a series of protests, pickets, marches, rallies and public meetings that have been taking place throughout the country since the five were imprisoned in June. A fundraising concert will also take place in the Ambassador Theatre in Dublin City Centre.

The five men have now spent 93 days in jail on the basis of an injunction by Shell removing their right to protest against the huge gas pipeline being driven through their land in West Mayo. The five say they will purge their contempt if Shell waive its injunction.

A National Day of Action took place on Wednesday evening with Shell and Statoil service stations picketed throughout the country.

Rally

The main theme of the National Rally is Justice for the Rosport 5. Floats and street theatre are expected to feature during the march which will assemble at 2pm at the Garden of Remembrance, Parnell Square from where it will proceed to Leinster House for a major rally.

Concert

On the following night, a Shell-to-Sea fundraising concert takes

place in the Ambassador Theatre at the top of O'Connell Street. Artists performing include members of Kila, the International Blues Band, Frances Black, Barry Murphy and various traditional musicians. Tickets are €20 and are available from the Dublin Sinn Féin Cúige office. Phone: 8729004 or from Ticketmaster (with additional cost).

LE CATHAL Ó MURCHU

In Dublin, all of the major routes were covered and the protests were highly visible to commuters. As with previous pickets and protests, these enjoyed good support and drew much encouragement from passing members of the public.

Leafleting campaign

Sinn Féin in Dublin has organised a leafleting campaign highlighting the campaign. At 8am every morning from Monday 26 to Friday 30 September activists are distributing leaflets on the issue at Dart stations and in the city centre. Leaflets are also distributed in the evenings.

Waterford

Activists in Waterford have picketed Shell and Statoil stations twice a week and are in the process of delivering 20,000 leaflets on the issue throughout Waterford City and County.

Day of action

A day of Action took place on Wednesday 28 September, following the reconvening of the Dáil, commencing at midday with a protest calling for the release of the Rosport 5 and highlighting the demands of the Shell-to-Sea campaign. Later a series of protests and pickets were placed at Shell and Statoil service stations all around the country.

GOVERNMENT CALLED TO ACT ON CHILD CARE

In a major new report The National Economic and Social Forum (NESF) has identified a massive deficit in the provision of early childhood care and education in the 26 Counties, despite the recent economic boom. According to the report the government has failed to ensure adequate care and education for the 10% of the population under six years of age. The NESF has proposed:

- Universal access to early childhood care and education.
- Ongoing quality development in policy, infrastructure and service provision.
- Increase of paid maternity leave to 26 weeks.
- State-funded high quality early childhood care and education session of 3.5 hours per day, five days a week for all children in the year before they go to school.
- Child and Family Centres at local level to provide integrated services to disadvantaged children and their parents.
- Responsibility for early childhood care and education to reside in one Government Department.

Welcoming the report Sinn Féin Dáil leader Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin said: "The NESF has set out a clear programme to provide universal access for all children to early childhood care and education. This includes support for children and parents in the home, in childcare facilities and in primary schools.

"This Report must not be allowed to gather dust on a shelf as the Government has done with previous key NESF recommendations. It now provides a focus for all those campaigning for the rights of children."



• Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin "Many of the NESF recommendations were also made by Sinn Féin in our document *Putting Children First* in advance of the 2005 Budget. The Budget failed miserably to address the needs of children and this makes it all the more urgent for the government to act now, in time for Budget 2006.

As the Dáil reconvened this week, a number of homeless people slept outside Leinster House as part of the No More Deaths on Our Streets campaign. The campaign started following the deaths of a number of homeless people on the streets of Dublin recently.

Homeless sleep out at Dáil



Organised by the Irish anti-poverty newspaper *Street Seen*, the sleepout is a signal to the government that campaigners intend to make homelessness a major issue for the next Dáil session. Spokesperson Mark Grehan said that homeless people had continued to suffer in recent weeks and that despite several years of economic prosperity the government was taking society in a disturbing direction. "The tax breaks granted to the equestrian community show us that horses are better treated than members of the homeless community."

JUSTICE FOR THE ROSSPORT 5

NATIONAL RALLY

Sat. 1st Oct. 2pm

Remembrance Garden of Parnell Square

www.shelltosea.com

Huge turnout for Irish unity rally

Céad SF 100

The national rally for Irish unity on Saturday 24 September, organised by Sinn Féin as part of its Céad Bliain celebrations, saw people from every corner of Ireland and abroad travel in their thousands to Dublin for one of the biggest and most colourful spectacles the capital has seen in many years.

The huge numbers and broad spectrum of areas represented was evident from the many Sinn Féin cumainn banners, themed banners, placards, floats, props, republican flute bands, pipe bands, flags, and GAA county jerseys, all of which added to the spectacular nature of this huge national pageant.

The course of the parade took participants from the Garden of Remembrance through O'Connell Street, across the River Liffey,

The huge numbers and broad spectrum of areas represented was evident from the many Sinn Féin cumainn banners, themed banners, placards, floats, props, republican flute bands, pipe bands, flags, and GAA county jerseys all of which added to the spectacular nature of this huge national pageant.

past Leinster House and back by College Green to the GPO.

The weather was slightly breezy, but rain held off for the duration of the parade and rally which attracted the attention of thousands of onlookers and Saturday shoppers, many of whom applauded the various banners, floats and bands.

The day's events kicked off with a concert at the Garden of Remembrance where Sinn Féin Dublin City Councillor Larry O'Toole acted as Fear an Tí. Attractions on stage included music from Bk McFarlane and Cruncher O'Neill. Face-painting was eagerly engaged in by many of the young people at the Garden of Remembrance before the parade began to move off at 2:30pm.

The march itself was led off by nine large flags – three greens, three white and three orange, followed by a Sinn Féin 100 Céad Bliain banner carried by Sinn



• A large Mayo contingent carried impressive banners of Irish patriots



• Belfast participants re-enacted the Falls Curfew



• Collusion and state violence highlighted

Féin elected representatives from all over Ireland.

The first section of the march consisted of a 1916 Colour Party of Dublin Ógra Shinn Féin members dressed in period uniforms representing the Irish Citizen Army, the Irish Volunteers and the

Hibernian Rifles and a 'Spirit of 1916' banner was followed by the Longstone Pipe Band from South Down.

Other sections of the huge parade included ones highlighting themes such as state violence and collusion. Bloody Sunday, the

republican Hunger Strikers, the 1798 Rebellion and the Great Lockout of 1913.

Various imaginative floats featured themes such as a replica of Free Derry corner; the murder of Aidan McAneaspie by the British Army; Tyrone republicans in a



• Actors play Jim Larkin and Dublin Metropolitan Police mock protest against British Army occupation and British military spy posts in South Armagh. Several floats featured British soldiers harassing passers by and these were particularly greeted with interest and enthusiasm by members of the public. Street theatre featured many similar themes with Tyrone and Armagh republicans making a particularly notable effort in this regard.

The huge scale of Saturday's event could be gauged by the fact that the tail end of the march had met the middle at College Green when the head had already reached the GPO.

During the rally at the GPO, chaired by Sinn Féin Chairperson and Dublin MEP Mary Lou McDonald, various entertainers, musicians and singers kept the crowd entertained as the marchers continued to arrive. Brush Shells greeted the crowd with a rock version of well known folk melodies. This was followed by the beautiful yet powerful singing voice of Mary Mullen and traditional music from Tony McMalton.

Actor Jack Moylertt recited *The Rebel* by Pádraig Mac Piarais. Mayor of Kerry Toiréasa Ferris recited a speech by assassinated Sinn Féin Vice President Máire Drumm while a man dressed only in a blanket, representing the sacrifice of the Blanketenmen of the 1980s, read from the last writings of Bobby Sands.

The main address was delivered by Sinn Féin President Gerry Adams MP. He reminded those in

The huge scale of Saturday's event could be gauged by the fact that the tail end of the march had met the middle at College Green when the head had already reached the GPO

Irish writer, republican and language activist Máirtín Cadhain. He said that Sinn Féin believed that the issue of the language was crucially important for the future of the nation. Encouraging all republicans to support and, more importantly, to learn the language he echoed the words of Cadhain: "Sí an Ghaeil a bhfuil na hÉireann agus a bhfuil na hÉireann síne Gaeilge."

Addressing the issue of mounting speculation regarding moves by the IRA and prospect for political progress Adams said: "In the opening of the diary he kept during the first two weeks of his Hunger Strike, Bobby Sands wrote: 'I stand on the threshold of another trembling world.'



• Kerry contingent



• But the Tyrone contingent was proved right



• Sinn Féin Mayors and elected representatives from around Ireland led the parade



• Ógra Colour Party in uniforms of Irish Volunteers, Cumann na mBan, Citizen Army and Hibernian Rifles



• A huge amount of young people brought colour and noise to the parade and some impressive banners



“As Sinn Féin celebrates our first 100 years, Irish republicanism stands on the threshold of great change, of difficult challenges and great opportunities, and the possibility of achieving the united, independent, free Ireland previous generations have struggled for.

“On 28 July the IRA formally ended its armed campaign. This was a hugely courageous and important decision. It has changed the political context utterly. And I believe that the IRA in the near future is going to honour its commitment to put its weapons beyond use. Such an announcement will have a huge impact on the political process. I know it will be difficult for many republicans. There will be some who are concerned about the future. But I believe that we need to face up to this opportunity in a positive mood. This is not a time to be uncertain it is a time to be confident and energised and forward looking.

This is something that in many, many ways is a potentially huge sea change, not just for us



• Gerry Adams addresses the crowd. Behind him are young people wrapped in Blankets in memory of the sacrifices in the H-Blocks

but for the entire island. I don't think republicans have absorbed what it is about. I don't think the IRA delivers, when our opponents and our ene-

and I suspect that in their heart of hearts they know that.

“We have a clear message for unionists. The days of second-class citizenship are well and truly over. At the same time let no Irish republican or nationalist underestimate our responsibility to reach out to unionism, to pro-actively listen to their concerns and to find a space that they can share with us on the basis of equality. In calling upon unionists to think beyond the moment, to think about the future, we are mindful that we need to do the same. We need to unite orange and green. We need to create a space that unionists can share with us on the basis of equality. That is a huge challenge for republicans.

“There is a lot of work to do if we are to get the process back on track and get all of the guns out of Irish politics. Sinn Féin is about taking all of the guns out of Irish politics. That includes those of the unionist paramilitaries, the British Army and PSNI. I would like to think that the two governments and others in the political estab-

“As Sinn Féin celebrates our first 100 years, Irish republicanism stands on the threshold of great change, of difficult challenges and great opportunities, and the possibility of achieving the united, independent, free Ireland previous generations have struggled for

of the Rosport 5 saying: “It is a disgrace that these five men have been locked up in Cloverhill Prison for almost 90 days for simply highlighting the fact that the pipeline bringing the oil in from the Corrib gas field is dangerous and poses a real threat to the community of Rosport. We need to be shouting from the rooftops that their detention is immoral as is the deal which saw the Irish Government hand away natural resources worth billions of Euros to a small number of multi-national corporations with no return for the Irish people. These five men should be released immediately. I want to call on everyone here today to attend the rally next weekend and to increase the pressure on Shell, Statoil and the government.”

SECTARIAN CAMPAIGN CONTINUES

As recently disclosed figures emanating from the PSNI reveal that sectarian attacks have doubled in the past year the relentless campaign of unionist violence continued across the North.

Among the targets picked by the unionists were a Catholic chapel in North Belfast which was paint bombed last week while homes in Belfast, Ballymena and Newtownabbey were targeted.

In Derry City three nationalist teenagers were beaten up.

Belfast

At around 2am on Sunday 25 September a unionist gang terrorised residents in the nationalist Carrick Hill area of North Belfast after they broke a number of windows, destroyed garages and broke into another house in the latest in a long line of sectarian attacks on the estate.

Windows and garden ornaments were smashed and it is understood the sectarian gang tried to throw a garden bench through the front window of a house.

The men escaped in a dark people carrier. Maria Flynn, whose Stanhope Drive home was damaged, said unionists returned on Sunday and told her they would "finish it off".

"We are tortured here, really crucified. They throw paint bombs, bottles and stones from the hill but these men driving into your estate, that would really scare you."



Caral Ni Chuilín

Sinn Féin Councillor Caral Ni Chuilín said local residents were terrified at the latest sinister development.

"We have these men coming into Carrick Hill with ease and trying to get into people's homes. This latest attack leads on from an incident a few weeks ago when loyalists broke open a fence between Carrick Hill and the loyalist Lower Shankill Road so that they could attack nationalist homes with golf balls and bricks."

Also St Gerard's Catholic Church, on the Antrim Road, was attacked in a paint-bomb attack in the early hours on Friday 23 September. White paint was thrown over the front doors of the church in a sectarian attack. It is the third time the church, which is not far from the

unionist White City Estate, has been targeted.

Ballymena

The son of a nationalist woman said his mother was lucky not to be hurt during a sectarian paint-bomb attack on her Ballymena home on Friday 23 September.

Three paint bombs were thrown through the front windows on the Dunajug Estate.

Newtownabbey

On Wednesday 21 September, a Catholic mother of four had to use a garden hose to extinguish a petrol bomb thrown at her Newtownabbey home at around 6.30pm.

Anna Delaney was in the kitchen of her Longlands Road home when she saw flames at the back of her home. "I ran out and had a look to see if anyone was about and used the hose to put the fire out. I was shaking like a leaf and worried about the kids."

Ms Delaney said she believes unionists were responsible.



Briège Meehan

Speaking to *An Phoblacht* Newtownabbey Sinn Féin Councillor Briège Meehan said the attack was an attempt to kill those in the house and she hopes this is not the start of an orchestrated campaign against the nationalist community.

"We have been trying to curb sectarian tensions in the area in fact only last week Fr Dan White postponed Cemetery Sunday at Carmoney Cemetery because he did not want to bring a large number of people into the area at a time when unionist gangs are intent on causing trouble."

Derry City

Three teenage boys were attacked by up to eight unionists as they walked along Prehen Park on the outskirts of Derry on Wednesday 21 September. One teenager was knocked to the ground and kicked about the body before the gang was disturbed and ran off towards Victoria Road.

Tyrone

A Catholic care worker had white paint poured on her car as she tended to a pensioner in Ballyheather Road near Ballymagory, between Derry and Strabane on Wednesday 21 September in a sectarian attack. A note containing sectarian comments was found on the windshield.

Unionists launched a series of sectarian attacks against Tyrone GAA supporters returning from the All-Ireland Final on Sunday 25 September

A two-year-old boy was hit in the face with a bottle after a mob attacked the car in which he was travelling, while in separate attacks in County Derry a number of people were squirted with petrol by a youth wielding a water pistol.

UNIONIST GANGS

Also a seven-year-old boy needed hospital treatment and a 12-year-old girl was treated for shock after cars and buses flying Tyrone flags were attacked in Armagh and Cookstown.

The two-year-old who was injured was travelling in a car, which was flying a Tyrone flag, with his mother and grandmother.

er when a bottle smashed one of its windows at around 9pm on Sunday. The incident happened in Hospital Street, Omagh.

The boy needed treatment for cuts to his head. Shortly after the attack a car pulled up alongside the family and warned them they would face "more of the same" if they didn't take the flag down.

In Campsie, County Derry a woman carrying a Tyrone flag was squirted with petrol by a unionist youth wielding a water pistol. In the same area, a woman reported that a youth wearing a Glasgow Rangers football top and balaclava jumped in front of her car and pointed a water pistol at her

The West's Awake Importance of rail

REPORT SUPPORTS RE-OPENING OF WESTERN RAIL CORRIDOR

BY



NOEL CAMPBELL

As next month's expected government announcement on the future of the Western Rail Corridor nears, it was brought home to Minister Dick Roche

exactly how important the re-opening of the rail network is for the region.

The Minister for Environment, Heritage and Local Government officially launched the Border, Midland and Western Regional Foresight Report in Ballaghaderreen, County Roscommon recently. If Minister Roche took the time to read the comprehensive report, he could not have missed the inclusion of the opening of the WRC as one of the regional assembly's Priority Projects.

Intense pressure put on the government from community groups, businesses and political parties, including Sinn Féin, especially over the past three years, has forced the coalition to publicly announce that it is

committed to the opening of the line but fell short of declaring a timeframe. Speculation about the future of the WRC is now focused on what sections of the track are to be prioritised initially.

Speaking to *An Phoblacht*, a spokesperson for the community campaign West on Track, which fed into the BMW Report, said it was highly unlikely that the project would only proceed from Ennis to Athlone or to Tuam, while long-fingered Mayo in the short term and postponing Sligo indefinitely. It has become increasingly difficult for the government to justify stalling the re-opening of the Western Rail Network. Such stalling has pointed up the regional neglect

that has become Fianna Fáil/PD Government policy.

Mayo Sinn Féin County Councillor Gerry Murray said that the government's dependence on road as opposed to environmentally safer transport modes like rail is costing the taxpayer. He points to the fact that one mile of M50 costs €100m while according to Iannróid Éireann estimates, 68 miles of new railway would cost €168m.

It is understood a major conference on the WRC, to be attended by elected representatives from the BMW region, will take place in Dublin in early October. The government is finding it increasingly more difficult to renege on this commitment.

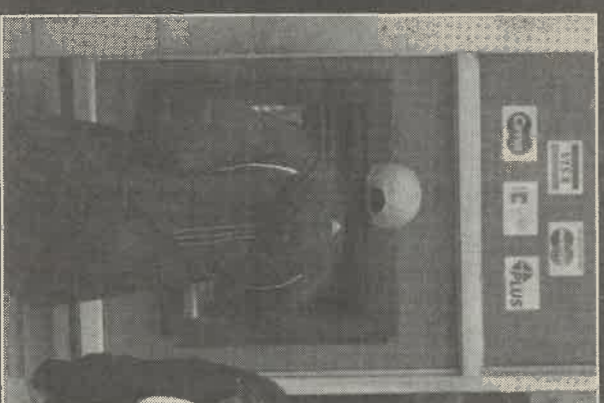
All-Ireland bank regulation needed

BY ROBBIE SMYTH

Small businesses lost €255 million between January 2001 and 2004 because Irish banks failed to pass on interest cuts to their business customers. This was one of the startling findings of a Competition Authority report published last week that called for substantial reform of the 26-County financial services sector.

The Competition Authority found that the Irish banking sector is uncompetitive and its 1.9 million customers are being locked into unattractive terms and conditions controlling their accounts.

The Authority called on the Finance Minister to intervene to tackle a banking system that competes only for first-time customers leaving long-term customers trapped and loaded with expensive restrictions and charges on



their accounts. AIB and BoI have over 70% of the retail market between them.

These bank accounts are vital for Irish workers, whose wages

are paid directly into their current accounts and out of which they pay mortgages, utility bills and often credit cards. They are forced to take on these expensive accounts just to be able to do the basic everyday things.

The Competition Authority found that most bank customers who initially open current accounts end up getting credit cards, bank loans and mortgages from the same banks and that few customers ever switch to rival banks.

Earlier this year the Office of Fair Trading agreed to investigate banks' charges in the Six Counties. Given that the same banks are involved on both sides of the border, the time has clearly come for an all-Ireland banking market with effective empowered regulation to ensure that customers across the island get a fair deal.

ATTACK TYRONE FANS

while another man claimed the same thing happened to him.

A 12-year old girl was treated for shock.

Hospital treatment

A seven-year-old boy needed hospital treatment for facial injuries after stones were thrown at a 15-seater bus at Edenaveys

on the Newry Road in Armagh. A 12-year old girl was treated for shock.

An *Phoblacht* has learned that sectarian attacks against Tyrone football fans in Cookstown were orchestrated by a number of unionists questioned last month by the PSNI about the killing of GAA official

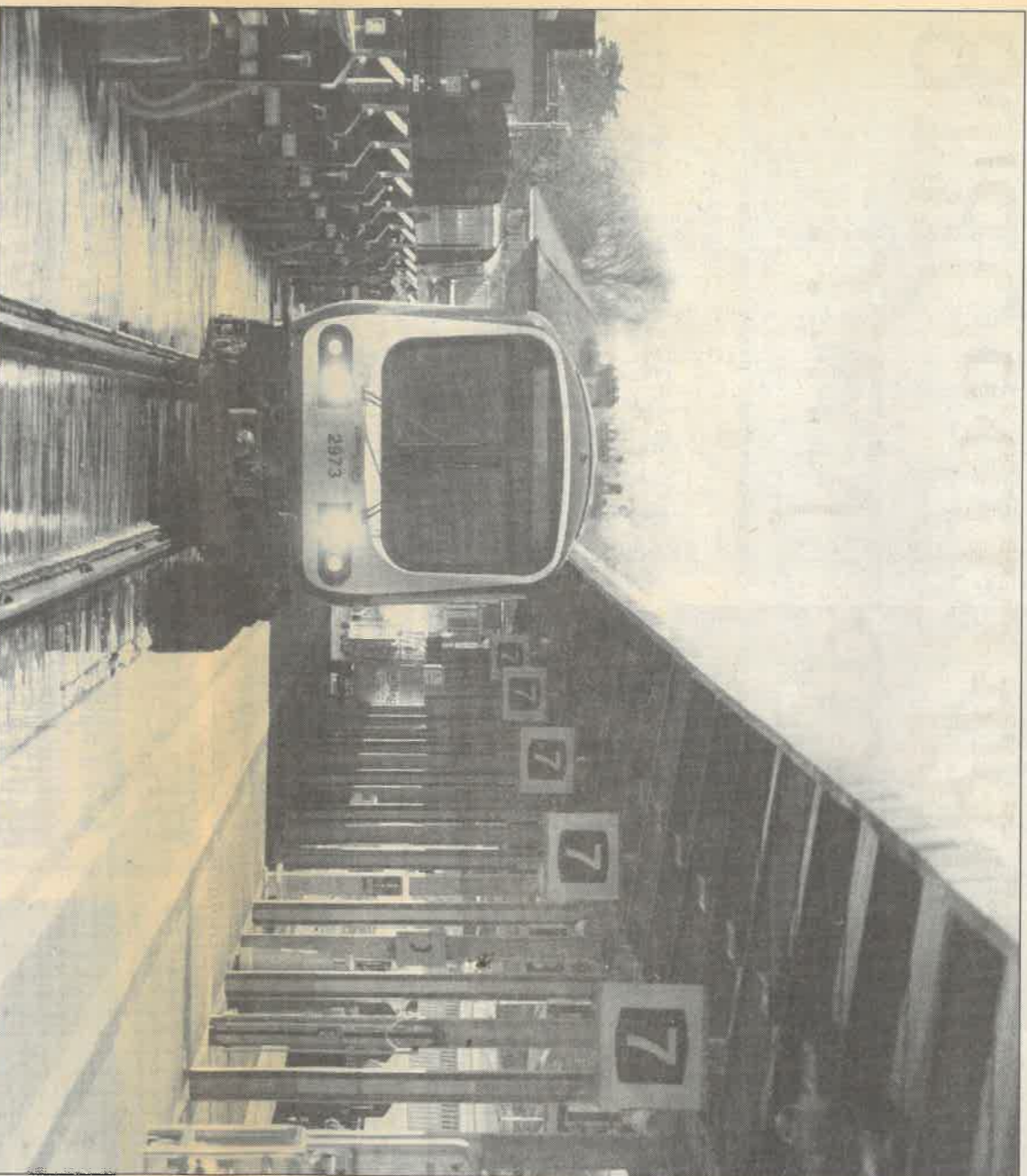
Seán Brown in 1997. The LVF was responsible for killing the Bellaghy Wolfe Tones' official after they kidnapped him as he locked up at the club.

A car was set alight in the largely unionist Old Town area and cars displaying Tyrone GAA flags and travelling through the area were attacked. A number of

vehicles were damaged.

Also on Sunday a Tyrone family had their car attacked by unionists on the forecourt of a garage on the outskirts of Dungannon. The family from Beragh, were left shaken after a group of loyalists smashed up their car, breaking a number of windows.

network underlined in new report



NEWS in brief

Large crowd at Kerry Céad event

A crowd of over 300 attended Sinn Féin 100th anniversary celebrations in Listowel, County Kerry on 16 September.

The audience was captivated by Martin McGuinness's account of the campaign of sectarian violence endured by nationalists in various parts of the Six Counties over the summer.

McGuinness also spoke of the profound significance of the IRA's July statement, and the sea-change it signalled for politics in Ireland.

Micheál Mac Donncha, spoke powerfully and movingly on the historic connections between Kerry and the Irish

republican struggle over the past century. He drew loud applause when he recollected the sweet moment when Sinn Féin's solitary TD in Leinster House was joined by four others and vividly described the venom reserved for North Kerry TD Martin Ferris by the settled clones of establishment TDs. He looked forward to seeing the Sinn Féin Leinster House team further strengthened in the next General Election in the 26 Counties.

The speakers were joined on the platform by Kerry County Councillor Robert Beasley, and Listowel UDC Councillor Anthony Curtin as well as Martin Ferris TD.

Re-union for Colombia 3 walkers



Walkers, many of whom have supported the Colombia 3 sponsored walks all over the country over the last four years, recently gathered in Cadamstown for a walk which had been organised by Eileen Shiels and Maureen Fanning, before the return of the Colombia 3. The walk became a re-union as much as a commemorative event of all the good times that people had enjoyed on earlier and often arduous walks. In the campaign to Bring home the Colombia 3

BY JUSTIN MORAN

describing it as 'elitist, militarist, corporate and anti-democratic'.

The motion, proposed by the Union of Rail, Maritime and Transport workers received the support of the major British trade unions.

Nurses reject Benchmarking

More than 300 members of the Irish Nurses' Organisation, meeting in special delegate conference in Dublin on Tuesday, voted to reject the proposed Terms of Reference for the second benchmarking exercise.

This means the INO's major demands, including a 35-hour week, pay parity with other healthcare professionals and equality of pay between social care workers and Registered Nurses in Intellectual Disability will be pursued directly with employers.

It is a major blow to the Government's commitment to benchmarking and Social Partnership.

Delegates also discussed the next phase of the INO's Enough is Enough campaign which has successfully highlighted overcrowding in A&E wards and turned the senior on embattled Health Minister Mary Harney justinmoran@anphoblacht.com

Gun to head of Irish Ferries workers

The Seamen's Union of Ireland has described a redundancy package offered to Irish Ferries workers as nothing less than 'holding a gun to the head of Irish workers.'

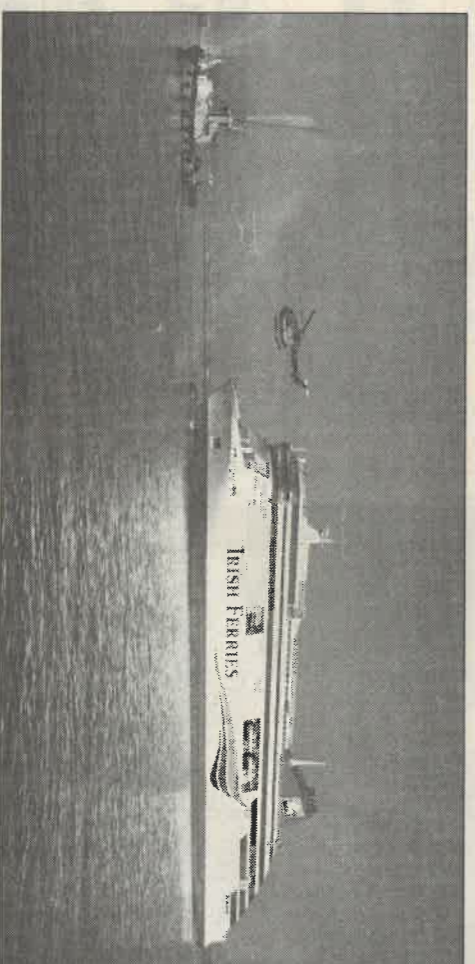
Union General Secretary Bob Carrick explained workers were being presented with a form offering a number of options, but that if they refused to accept either severance or a cut in wage and conditions, redundancy would be compulsory.

"There has been a huge level of uptake of the proposed redundancy package," Mr Carrick admitted. "People are frightened of the implications if they don't take it. The proposed pay rates are absolutely unacceptable but if workers are forced to take compulsory severance they are not entitled to mortgage protection. The company is holding a gun to the heads of Irish workers."

There are implications for the Seamen's Union itself as Irish Ferries provides the overwhelming majority of the union's membership.

Government intervention

The government has also stepped into the dispute with the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment referring the



redundancy package to the Attorney General to obtain clarity on whether Irish Ferries is entitled to a subsidy to help pay for the package. It is thought that Department officials believe that since the redundancies relate to replacing workers, rather than jobs actually being lost, Irish Ferries might not be entitled to the €6 and €7 million it is claiming.

"I would hope the Government will not assist the company in any way in the sell-out of Irish jobs," said Bob Carrick, a comment echoed by SIPTU President Jack O'Connor.

British TUC opposes EU Constitution

The British Trade Union Congress has overwhelmingly rejected the proposed EU Constitution.

REVIEWS

The Squad is reviewed by MATT TREACY while ARAN FOLEY takes a wry look at Channel 4's much hyped documentary on the Northern Bank job.



• The 'Squad'

DISPATCHES FROM DISNEYLAND



TV Review
Dispatches
Channel Four

Last Thursday's *Dispatches* on Channel 4 purported to be an investigation into the so-called Northern Bank job. Dramatic reconstructions were used along with breathless talkovers and the usual suspects were rolled out to say "Yes it was the IRA what done it". As usual there was nothing offered in the way of proof and like so much of this type of politically-motivated journalism it was a case of the wish being the mother of the thought.

The IRA are on record denying any involvement in the robbery and any objective viewer would have to conclude that the *Dispatches* programme failed to contradict that denial in any meaningful way.

ery of a large quantity of Northern Bank notes in Cork, however no attempt is made to analyse this. The fact is that Northern Bank notes were being recalled at the time. Anyone with this type of currency 'snuck under the mattress' would have been under pressure to convert it. This is a far more likely explanation for the presence of large numbers of these notes at any given place.

I think that the only thing of note about this programme is that Michael McDowell was prepared to come on it and engage in politically-motivated speculation. Given the man this is not surprising, but in his capacity as Minister for Justice it is disgraceful. Perhaps the most telling quote from the programme was "When the Northern Bank Job went down the Northern Peace Process died" While I don't accept that, the question must be asked, quite bono?

BY ARAN FOLEY

GRIPPING READ

Parts of this book read like a fictional thriller. IRA men and British agents stalking one another on the streets of Dublin, with the occasional brief encounter in strange places like 'Kidds Back' off Wicklow Street and the Cairo Café in Grafton Street.

It was a war of subterfuge and stealth. British agents, for the most part Irishmen, attempted to identify and track down members of IRA GHQ, the Dublin Brigade and Volunteers like Seán Treacy and Dan Breen who had come to the city. In response the IRA set up what became known as 'The Squad', formally established at a meeting in 46 Parnell Square on 19 September 1919.

Officially the unit remained a part of the Dublin Brigade under Dick McKee from Finglas, but they were separate from the Battalion structure and directly under the command of Collins, McKee and Mulcahy. It was an effective arrangement. One that made it, by and large, secure from enemy infiltration and surveillance and thereby more effective.

Dependent on a vast network of sympathisers who ranged from Dublin Castle detectives to women working in lodging houses, the Squad was able to identify enemy agents and assassinate them. No less than any other killings the details of these, as recounted in Ryle Dwyer's book, are gruesome.

The author must be congratulated on his use of the accounts of participants that starkly convey the manner in which enemies of the Republic were dispatched. Particularly gripping are the accounts of 21 November or Bloody Sunday, when the Dublin IRA, with the

Book Review
The Squad and the Intelligence Operations
of Michael Collins
T Ryle Dwyer
Mercier Press
Price €12.95

Squad at the forefront, went out to execute 35 British operatives. Around 50 were shot and 12 killed. But while not completely successful it dealt a massive blow to the British system of

terror and espionage.

Ryle Dwyer also cites statistics which prove that far from being a spent force by the time of the Truce, the IRA was inflicting increasingly higher numbers of casualties. In the second half of 1920 174 Crown personnel were killed and 310 wounded. In the first six months of 1921 the corresponding figures were 317 and 638.

The book, as previously referred to, is mainly based on statements made by republican



• Michael Collins

reviews@anphoblacht.com

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WASHINGTON



WASHINGTON

Opposition to Iraq war continues to grow

Tens of thousands of anti-war demonstrators have staged rallies in Washington, demanding the withdrawal of US and British troops from Iraq.

There were similar demonstrations in London, Copenhagen, Damascus, Helsinki, Paris, Rome, Seoul, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Seattle.

In London, police said 10,000 people converged on Hyde Park though organisers said there were 100,000. Violent clashes between insurgents and British

troops in the southern Iraqi city of Basra has increased the focus on Britain's role in the war.

In Washington, protestors from around the US criticised mounting US and Iraqi casualties and contrasted the spending on the war effort with that on recovery for areas battered by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Among the demonstrators in Washington were 60 former US soldiers recently returned from Iraq, holding signs saying 'Bring Them Home Now!' and

wearing their desert camouflage uniforms. Roughly 147,000 US troops are in Iraq. Since the war began in March 2003 to Saturday 24 September, 1,911 US soldiers have been killed and 14,641 wounded.

Two of the key speakers in Washington were Cindy Sheehan, whose 24-year-old son Casey was killed in Iraq last year, and British MP George Galloway.

Sheehan breathed new life into the anti-war movement in August when she camped outside the George

Bush's ranch in Crawford, Texas, demanding to speak to the US President.

Opinion polls in the past week have shown that support among the American public for the Iraq war is at its lowest point ever.

The latest anti-war activities occurred on the same weekend as the autumn meetings of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank, which drew several hundred activists who criticised the organisation's policies as detrimental to the world's poor.

NEWS IN BRIEF

IMF agrees debt cancellation

The International Monetary Fund has agreed to cancel the debt owed to it by some of the world's poorest countries. The deal, to erase €45 billion of debt, was agreed at a summit of the G8 leading industrialised nations in July, but needed the approval of the leading institutes.

Coup plotters seek asylum in Colombia

Four generals and five colonels who participated in the 2002 coup against Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez have applied for political asylum in Colombia. The army officers evaded the courts just as they were to be processed for the rebellion.

Saharawi

prisoners in coma

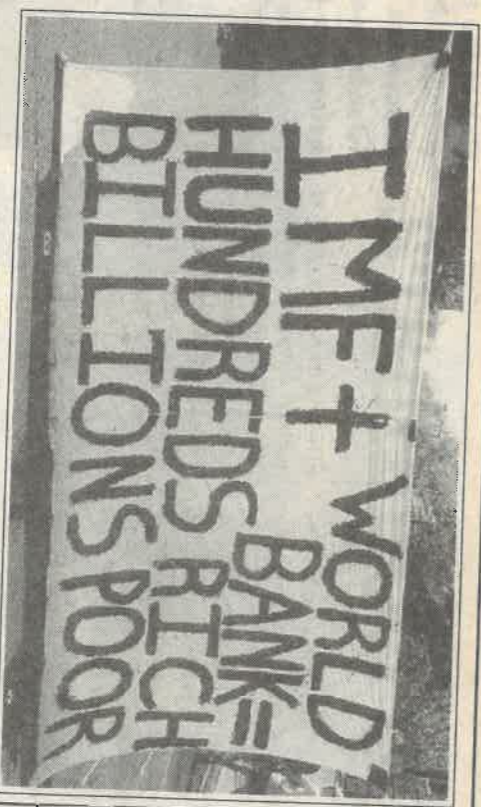
Thirty-seven Saharawi political prisoners, who oppose Moroccan occupation of their homeland, remain on hunger strike and their situation continues to deteriorate. Six of them have now gone into a coma.

Meanwhile, the Saharawi cause was

Puerto Rican activist killed

Filiberto Ojeda Rios, a Puerto Rican nationalist on the run for 15 years has died after a gunfight with FBI agents on Saturday 24 September.

In 1992, he was convicted in



ignored once again during the UN summit in New York, as the Moroccan representative to the international forum referred to the Saharawi refugees in Algeria as "Moroccan citizens". Only the Algerian representative defended the validity of Plan Baker to implement a self-determination referendum in the area.

absentia for the 1983 robbery of \$7m from a bank depot in the US state of Connecticut — the US considers the robbery an act of domestic terrorism because it allegedly was carried out by nationalists from the self-governing US commonwealth. Ojeda Rios, leader of the Macheteros (or Cane Cutters) nationalist movement, went on the run in 1990 while awaiting trial for the robbery.

The US seized Puerto Rico during the Spanish-American War of 1898. Puerto Ricans are US citizens but cannot vote in US Presidential elections and do not pay US income tax.



Gregor Gysi



Oscar Lafontaine

Left advance in German elections

BY FOIN O BROIN

Germany's newly-formed Left Party achieved an historic breakthrough in last week's Federal elections taking 54 seats in the German parliament. This is the first time that the left has broken through the country's 5% threshold to secure parliamentary representation since German reunification.

The PDS-Left Party is an electoral coalition bringing together the mainly East German Democratic Socialists of Gregor Gysi's PDS, with disgruntled social democrats and left currents from the West led by former SPD Finance Minister Oscar Lafontaine.

The result will see a real left opposition for the first time in the Bundestag, as the Left Party overtook the Greens to become Germany's fourth Christian force, after the Christian Democrats, The Social Democrats and the Liberals.

Campaigning on a platform of defending public services, opposing the European Constitution, and arguing for an expansionist industrial strategy to overcome Germany's current high unemployment rate, the Left Party's 8.7% is a major breakthrough.

Meanwhile, both Angela

Merkel's CDU and Schroder's SPD failed to get an outright majority. Nor do their respective coalition partners, the Liberals and Greens respectively, give either leader a working parliamentary majority.

As a result Germany has been plunged into a political crisis, as the party's have until 18 October to form a workable coalition.

This week Schroder offered the Christian Democrats the prospect of a so-called Grand Coalition with rotating Chancellors, but so far this has been rejected by Merkel's Christian Democrats. Other possible options include the Liberals joining a Green-Social Democratic coalition, something which they have rejected, or the equally unlikely scenario of the Greens joining with the Liberals and CDU.

As the political bargaining continues behind the scenes, there is little doubt that the PDS-Left Party has built a credible base from which to build an even more important position in German national politics.

Dímhíleatú

Am do na Breatainaigh a ndualgaisí a chomhlíonadh

Scoir armlíon na Breataine

With the IRA delivering on commitments made in relation to the weapons issue and the end of its armed campaign, the ball is firmly in the court of the British Government and unionists to deliver on their obligations under the Good Friday Agreement.

One of these, which impinges on the lives of many communities in the Six Counties, is for the British military garrison to demilitarise and dismantle its facilities allowing local people to live free from harassment and intrusion in their daily lives.

Anois go bhfuil beart chun na gléasanna troda a chur as feidhm déanta ag na hOglaigh, anois dtíonn an cheist ar gharrasún na Breataine sa tír seo agus ar a ndualgaisí síúd chun tús a chur le dímhíleatú. Mar a sheasann sé anois, tá na Sé Chontae ar ceann de na críocha is míleairthe ar domhan go

LE **CATHAL Ó MURCHÚ**
háirithe nuair a áirítear an méid bunáiteanna míleata atá tógtha acu. Tá Deisceart Ard Mhacha loitithe go mór ag na bunáiteanna seo ach go háirithe le tír fhairne agus beairtí ollmhóra i gCros Mhic Liomáin.

Stof Focal	gléasanna troda	weapons
dímhíleatú	demilitarisation	demilitarisation
críocha	territories	territories
míleairthe	militarised	militarised
bunáiteanna míleata	military installations	military installations
tír fhairne	watchtowers	watchtowers
Reisimint Ríoga na hÉireann	Royal Irish Regiment	Royal Irish Regiment
a scoireadh	to disband	to disband
próiseas dímhíleairthe	demilitarisation process	demilitarisation process
cur i gcrích	to complete	to complete
amchlár sócráithe	fixed timetable	fixed timetable
Forsal Stándaia an Choróin	Crown Security Forces	Crown Security Forces
ionadaí seiceála	checkpoints	checkpoints
lárthreacht mhór mhíleata	major military presence	major military presence
Sos Comhairle na n-Oglaigh	the IRA Ceasefire	the IRA Ceasefire
patról rialta	regular patrols	regular patrols
ag faire	watching	watching
ag spiadoireacht	spying	spying
ceantreacha náisiúnaacha	nationalist areas	nationalist areas

Turas go Conamara

BY PROINSIAS MACFHEARGHUSA
Mí Meitheimh seo chaite, d'fhíng mé féin, mo bhean chéile agus mo mhac (sé bhliana d'aois) siar. Bhí uaim tigh an Phiaraisigh a fheiscint i Rós Muc, agus shíl mé más rud é go raibh an t-áin agaim, go rachamid amach chuig Inis Mór, an t-oileán is mó de na trí oileán Araim, chomh maith.

Ar an mbealach amach ó cathrach na Gaillimhe, agus é ar intinn agaim an bád a fháil ó Rós a Mhí go gCill Rómán don tráthóna, chonac mo mhac an fógra ar thaobh an bhótar ag mealladh taistealaí chuig an t-eitealán beag bideach a theans chuig an t-oileán - an t-Aer Araim, mar a ghlaogheann mo mhacair.

Chun an fhúinne a insint, cé go raibh mé féin ar Inis Mór cupla uair roimhe seo ba é seo an chéad uair dom eitilt chuige, agus charfídh mé ará go raibh begáin inní orm taistail san eitealáin a chuirleadh ar fáil dúnn. Nuair a thosaigh an t-



Bhí sé fógraithe ag Rialtas na Breataine go ndéanfadh siad laghdú suntae ar an ngarrasún Breataineach sna Sé Chontae tar éis a d'fhógair Óglaigh na hÉireann go raibh siad ag seasamh síos. Ón ngarasún 12,000 saighdiúir atá lonnaithe sna Sé Chontae, tá sé beartaithe é seo a laghdú síos go 5,000 saighdiúir. Tá sé beartaithe Reisimint Ríoga na hÉireann a scoireadh go huille is go hionlán. Chomh maith le sin tá sé beartaithe ag Tony Blair formhór na nbunáiteanna míleata a tharraingt síos. Leis an méid seo beartaithe táthar ag fanacht fós ar an próiseas dímhíleairthe a chur i gcrích agus níl aon amchlár sócráithe i draobh seo a dhéanamh go fóill.

In ainneoin an méid atá ar eolas ag an bpobal, tá Forsal Stándaia an Choróin fós i mbun na Breataine seiceála i ndeisceart Ard Mhacha agus ag cur isteach ar mhuintir na háite ansin. Tá lárthreacht mhór mhíleata acu ansin. Mar a tharla sé tá seo méadaithe ón am a fógráidh Sos Comhairle na n-Oglaigh sna naochadair. Feicear patról rialta le airm agus póilíní ann ag sídíl ar cos ar fud na háite. Bíonn torann ard na héileacaptar le cloisteach go minic bíodh sé i lár an lae nó i lár na hoíche. Chomh maith le seo, níl aon ambras ann ach go bhfuil na Forsal Stándaia ag faire agus ag spiadoireacht ar mhuintir na háite chun eolais a bhailiú agus a chruinnú orthu.

Tá an scéal céanna le feiceáil i bpobail éagsúla in aice leis an teorainn agus i gceantacha náisiúnaacha. I gCathair Dhoire, in Iarthar Bheáil Feirste, i bhFear Manach, i dTír Eoghain, i ndeisceart an Dúin agus a lán áiteanna eile, tá an pobal ag éileamh go scoirfidh na bunáiteanna seo os rud nach bhfuil oiread is móráin leithscéil ann a thuilleadh go bhfanfaidh siad ar an bhfód. Tá sé de cheart ag pobail na n-áiteanna seo a bheith in ann maireachtáil mar atá sé de ghnáth ag pobail eile!

ineall, chuir an torann a thainig as ar intinn dom go mbeadh sláinte mo chlann ag braith ar ndá a dhean torann cosúil le mo inneall lomairé!

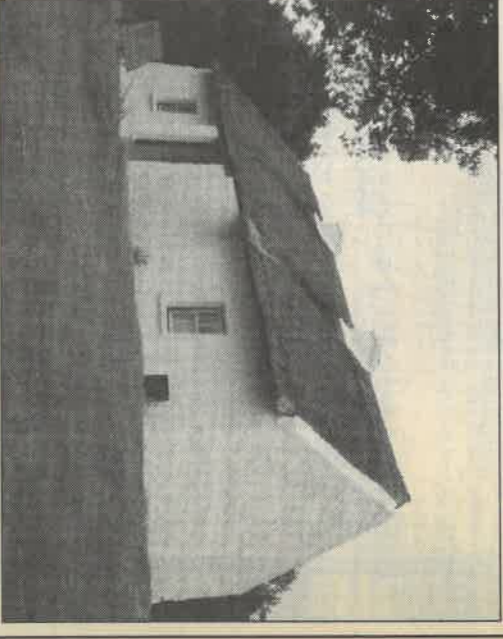
Ach, agus muid san aer, chaitfidh mé ará go raibh an radhar is álainn agus is spéir-iúil go bhfaic mé ariamh le feiscint - farráige liath leathan, aigéan iontach mhór agus na Beanna Boala ag scapadh amach ós ar gcomhar. I ndairi-aradh, más rud é nár eitil muid

chuing Inis Mór roimhe sin, beidh sé ceart le rá go ndéanfaidh muid arís é!
Ceathrú uair a chloig i ndiaidh sin, agus oileán na h-Éireann fágtha agaim, bhíomar ar oileán eile, Inis Mór. Lón brea i gCill Ronan, agus bhain muid cupla rothar amach ar cíos - rothar gnáth do mo bhean chéile, agus tandem do mé féin agus mo mhac. Ar a ordaithe (mo mhac), thosamar ag rotharocht chuig Dún Aonghusa, agus na h-

Ag mealladh	enticing
Taistealaí	travellers
an t-eitealán beag bideach	tiny little aeroplane
Ineall	engine
Inneall lomairé	lawn mower
Radharc is álainn	most beautiful view
Alise	cliffs
Ceantar iargúlta	rural area
Gleoithe	lovely
Brod	pride
Tír-ghra	nationalism
Ogánacht	youth
Laochas	heroism

ailise mhóir. Ag súi ansin ar thaobh an domhain, chuireadh iontas orainn leis an tuiscint go raibh an áit seo díreach mar abhí sé tuaraimis 6,000 bliain ó shin.
Turas eile de uair a chloig ar an mbád ó gCill Rómán go Rós a Mhí, agus bhíomar arais i gConamara. Níor stop muid go dtí gur shroich muid Rós Muc. I Rós Muc, thainig muid ar an áit a spreag ar dturas sa chéad áit. Teach dens i gceantar iargúlta, gardín neata agus loch díreach lasmuigh den ghairdín tosaigh. Faoi dheire, bhíomar i mbaile an Phiaraisigh!
Nuair a dtháig an Phiaraisigh Rós Muc beagnach chéad bliain ó shin, d'fhág séceann de na h-áiteanna is gleoithe in Éireann. Tá meas iontach ar an bhfeir seo, phirtomh laoch aiséirí na caisce, agus nuair a fheicann tú an baile a d'fhág sé nuair a dhífl sé ar Baile Átha Cliath, ní fheadach ach mheadú teacht ar an meas sin.

One of the best kept secrets in Ireland is the cottage of Pádraig Mac Piarais in Rosmuc, Connemara. Tie it in with a trip to the Aran Islands, read the short stories of Mac Piarais before you go, and you will have one of the most memorable trips you could imagine.



Agus bhfeidir gur chóir bheith i Rós Muc chun tuiscint a fháil ar an ní a spreag tír-ghrá an Phiaraisigh - dar liomsa, ba í áiteacht a dhúiche a spreag a bhíod as a stí, agus ba é a ógá-nacht a chait Phiaraisigh í gceantar Ros Muc a chuir é ar an bhothar chun an laochas in 1916.
Ma bhíonn an seans agat, teigh chuig Ros Muc agus tigh an Phiaraisigh. Agus buail samhail chuig na n-óileán chomh maith - ní ag chuir amú ama a bhéis tú!

Arlene Foster's Derry air

DUP MLA Arlene Foster is to make a diplomatic protest to the Dublin Government because a judge in County Monaghan described the Maiden City as "Derry" and said it wasn't "Londonderry".

When the address of a defendant in a motoring case at Monaghan District Court was read out as "Londonderry", Judge Seán McBride is reported to have said that, as far as he was concerned, it was "just Derry with a capital D". He added that he did not want to see "Londonderry" appear on any summons or charge sheets again.

Foster fumed that the judge had "contempt for all things British".

"For a member of the Southern Judiciary to make such an ill-informed and completely inaccurate statement is astounding.

"This is indicative of the way in which authorities within the Republic of Ireland have contempt for anything British.

"I will be writing to the Irish Minister for Justice in relation to this matter."

Justice Minister 'Marshal' Michael McDowell's reply should be interesting.

Indo s dwindling numbers

Sunday Independent stories seldom add up and the report of Saturday's Rally for Irish Unity was no exception.

The Sindo's Caroline Crawford and Shane Hickey started in their front-page attack on the parade with a verbal assault by Marshal McDowell and a ridiculous under-estimation that "some 4,000 people watched" the pageant. But in between following the story onto page 2, Ms Crawford somehow lost a couple of thousand people.

In her piece curiously titled "SF gridlock chokes streets", the Sindo scribe reports that there was a "three thousand-strong crowd" before ending the article by saying the rally was "attended by hundreds".

Next week, the *Sunday Indo* will probably tell us that there were no republicans there at all really and they were actually people from down the country waiting to get into the Anne Summers shop.

Dead end

Marshal McDowell's description of Saturday's Rally for Irish Unity as



• DUP MLA Arlene Foster



• Marshall McDowell

"political necrophilia" has had even frequent shoppers at Anne Summers puzzling about his state of mind.

Necrophilia is defined as "obsessive fascination with death and corpses" or "erotic attraction to or sexual contact with corpses".

Which makes one wonder what Michael McDowell makes of Garda and Defence Forces commemorations, not to mention his much-vaunted grandfather and Irish Volunteers leader Eoin O'Neill and the Irish Government's 1916 events?

Old slapper



Ruth Dudley Edwards, in her weekly *Sunday Independent* piece attacking republicans (who put the dire in diarrhoe?) quotes the *Belfast Telegraph's* Lindy McDowell as

"had to go" after they admitted taking drugs.

The Ministry of Defence said action would be taken against all those who tested positive – 16 for Class A drugs, one for Class B and eight for Class C.

If they'd shot dead Irish civilians in Belfast or elsewhere in the Six Counties, of course they wouldn't "have to go" and would more than likely even be promoted like their comrades, Thain, Clegg, Wright and Fisher!

SAS won't recognise the court

Maybe the dopey Welsh Guards and really Green Howards should simply refuse to recognise the court, just like British Army generals who have two fugitive SAS men in hiding from the law even though they're wanted for killing a police officer.

A judge in Basra has issued an arrest warrant for the pair who are accused of shooting two Iraqi policemen, killing one of them. A police patrol stopped a car whose occupants were acting suspiciously and tried to detain the driver and passenger. But the couple were SAS men who, when challenged, opened fire without warning to avoid arrest by their coalition forces allies. The SAS men were on an undercover mission, dressed as Iraqi civilians and armed to the teeth with guns, grenades and a small arsenal of explosives. The two undercover Brits were taken into police custody. But the British Army broke the two out of jail *Dirty Dozen*-style by smashing into the police station with armoured vehicles, sparking a riot in Basra.

Now an Iraqi judge wants the two back to face justice but British officers are ignoring the court.

Brits on drugs get marching orders

25 British Army soldiers have been dismissed from the Welsh Guards and Green Howards after failing routine drugs tests. Commanding officer Ben Bahhurst said that they



• British soldiers are wanted for the murder of two police officers in Iraq

Dúirt Siad...

IRA arms put beyond use. *Irish Times* headline, 27 September



This is the turning of the final page in the whole controversy over IRA arms. It has always been used as an excuse but now that excuse has effectively been taken away. *Martin McGuinness, 27 September*



It is a landmark development. It is of historical significance. *Taoiseach Bertie Ahern, 27 September*



This is a decision and a report by General John de Chastelain and independent witnesses from the clergy that the process is real and complete. *British Prime Minister Tony Blair, 27 September*

Partition has imprisoned our past. The IRA has now freed our future. Tomorrow is a new country. *Jarlath Kearney, Irish News, 27 September*



Instead of openness, there was the cunning tactics of cover-up and a complete failure by General John de Chastelain to deal with the vital numerics of decommissioning. *Ian Paisley, 27 September*



Unionism has got what it wanted. But it hasn't, of course. It wants the past. It wants to tell the world about its pain and suffering. It wants the B Specials and the RUC and it wants Stormont the way it used to be. *Susan McKay, Irish News 27 September*

THE NEWS QUIZ ANSWERS

- SEE PAGE 20
- 1) Down bear Mayo 1-15 to 0-8.
 - 2) They cut the cable to his microphone.
 - 3) Brush Shields.
 - 4) Bob Dylan.
 - 5) John Lennon.
 - 6) Breast cancer. The University Medical Centre Utrecht Study found that hormones linked to left-handedness increase breast cancer risk. Breast cancer accounts for 1 in 3 of all women's cancers; lifetime risk 1 in 9.
 - 7) China. The Shenzhou-6 spacecraft will launch from Jiuquan Satellite Launch Base, in the Gobi Desert of northern China.
 - 8) The PSNI Training College will be able to enter a team for the Sigerson Cup football competition for universities.
 - 9) County Cork – at Mogeely, near Middleton.
 - 10) The robot dog K9, who helped Tom Baker's Time Lord between 1977 and 1981, will join the new Doctor, David Tennant, for one episode.

IMEACHTAÍ / EVENTS

● BELFAST

FORTHCOMING PLAYS: In The Roddy McCortley Club, Glen Road. *The Session*, Brian Moore musical performed by Dubhfeinínt. To be shown on Monday 3 October. Táille €5. Doors open 7.30pm curtains up at 8pm. For more information phone 02890300480. (No Smoking). *An Pluid* — The Kieran Nugent Play to be shown on 14 November. Táille €10. Doors open 7.30pm Curtain up at 8pm. For information phone. 028990300480

● COUNTY CORK

RE-UNION: Republican Re-union, 9pm Saturday 8 October. Top of the Hill, Cork. Organised by the Tadgh Barry, Markiewicz, Ahern/Crowley SF Cunnann. Táille free, bia, ceol agus ceol

● DUBLIN

SF RACE NIGHT: 8pm Friday 14 October. Ryan's pub, Crumlin Village, Dublin. All welcome

SF FUNCTION: Featuring the Wolfe Tones. 8pm Monday 31 October, Molloy's pub, Tallaght, County Dublin. Also Prominent speaker and RFB. Info from 087-6139980/086-8334661

REPUBLICAN COMMEMORATION: Kevin Barry commemoration, Saturday 5 November, North King Street, Dublin 1. Details of time and function afterwards to follow over coming weeks

ACTIVIST MEETINGS: Rainforest activists convene every Saturday, between 8pm-9pm, "twist the light" in the Foyer at the IFC, Eustace Street, Dublin 2. Failte do gach duine. Continuing Except on Xmas Saturday. Organised by Malcolm Samuel BSC (ecology) 028-70326389

● COUNTY DOWN

PLAX: *Sleeping Out of Line*. Also featuring music by Pól McAdams, anti-collusion exhibition and speaker Dinker McClelland. 8pm Thursday 13 October, Market Bar, Francis Street, Newry, County Down. Organised by the Marks/McKewin SF Cunnann and the O'Donovan Rossa Cultural Society. Adm €5

● COUNTY LOUTH

SOCCEER TOURNAMENT: Volunteer Jackie McGrane Memorial Trophy 5-a-side soccer tournament, Saturday 26 November. JJB Sports Dome, DUNDALK. County Louth. Ladies and Mens teams welcome. For further information contact Tom 086-8075559/Kevin 0872684986

● COUNTY MEATH

SEMINAR: *Empowering the Citizen. Do you feel you have a voice?* 1.30-5pm Saturday 8 October. St Columban's, Dalغان Park, Navan, County Meath. Guest speaker: Martin Kay (Researcher at the University of Limerick). Organised by the Tara Heritage Preservation Group

DRAW RESULTS

Dongal SF Lotto
Winning numbers 22 September: 6,9,22,23. 4 match 2 numbers win €25. Colleen Bradley, Newtown; Gerard Friel, Newtown; Hugh McFadden, Milford; Peadar Mac Gíobhrúle. Next week's Jackpot €900

Biancharadstown SF lotto
22 Sept: Winning nos 7,8,15. Winner: Betty O'Connor, c/o Rose. Jackpot €800

5th Derry Draw Results.
Week 31: 1st Prize: €300, weeks jackpot: €3,700.

5th Mon SF weekly Lotto
Winning numbers: 2,14,15,22. No Jackpot winner. 5 x €20 winners: May Cunningham, Donaghmore; Kevin Nolan, Carrickmacross; John Kirke, Inniskeen; Stephen Byrne, Magheraaloone; Paul Donnelly, Carrickmacross. Next weeks jackpot: €3,700.

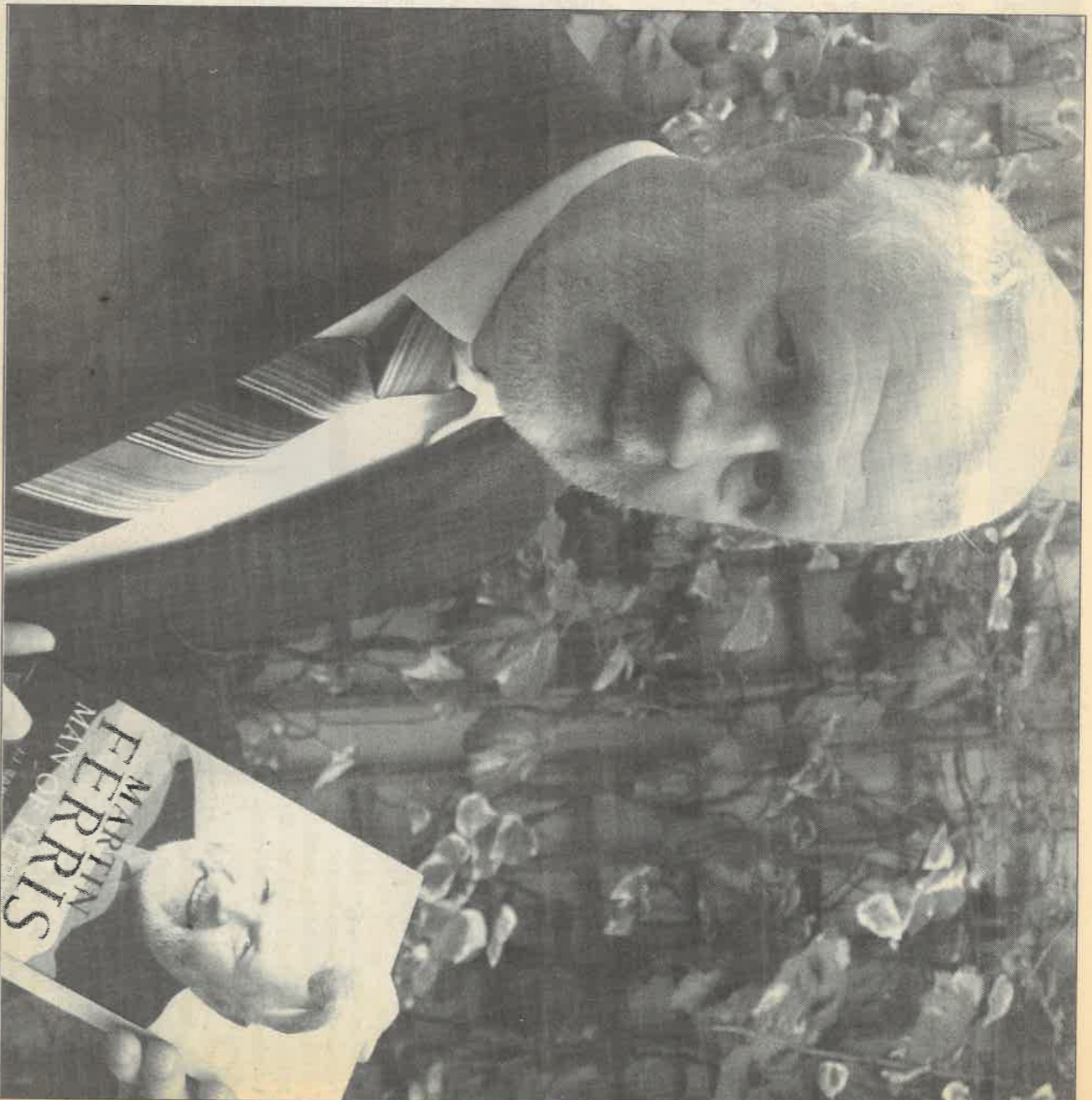
IN ORDER to cover rising costs there is a charge of €10/€7 for inserts printed in our Imeachtaí column (carried in our print edition and on our website, www.anphoblacht.com).
Cheque or Credit Card number must be sent along with details for all Imeachtaí inserts before inclusion.

SF Leinster House position ECONOMICS POLICY RESEARCHER

The Sinn Féin team in Leinster House seeks a suitable person for the post of Economics Policy Researcher. The post would provide support to all TDs' offices, with a special emphasis on policy support to the offices of the Spokesperson on Finance, Spokesperson on Enterprise, Trade and Employment, Spokesperson on Anti-Poverty and Social Welfare and Spokesperson on Rural Development. The appointee will be involved in policy development for Sinn Féin generally as well as supporting the ongoing work of the SF team in Leinster House.

Applications should be sent to:

Treasa Quinn, 58 Parnell Square, Dublin 1. Fax: 8729866
or email to treasaquinn@ireland.com.



BY
**MICHEÁL
MADDONNCHA**

On the weekend before the All-Ireland Final I was lucky enough to be invited to speak at two Sinn Féin events in Kerry and sandwiched between them was a day and a half spent exploring the beauty, the welcome and the history of the North of that county. From the streets of Lisowel to the Gaeltacht of Corca Dhuibhne, from the Conor Pass to Banna Strand, from an Daingean to Cnoc an Iúir we experienced a breathtaking country and its proud history.

Tomás Aghas, Roger Casement, the men who fell at Gort a' Ghleanna and the tragedies of the Civil War were conjured up. At the same time the county prepared for the Big Day in Croke Park and a sense of confidence and anticipation pervaded. Alas, the day was to

be Tyrone's (deservedly) and I must offer sympathy and thanks to my Kerry friends, including our host and driver, John.

All this is by way of a roundabout introduction to an important new volume in the history of Kerry, of Irish republicanism and of Gaelic football. The three are intertwined in the story of Martin Ferris, the Teachta Dála for Kerry North. I know Martin himself will be 'mortified' because he abhors the focus on personality but I also know that this book will be devoured by people inside and outside the Kingdom.

Having had a sneak preview of the book I couldn't wait to get my hands on it. Authored by JJ Barrett and told in his own words by Martin, this is a story of young lad with leadership qualities who excelled on the

MAAD FOR BATTLE

Preview
Martin Ferris: Man of Kerry
By JJ Barrett
Published by
Brandon/Mount Eagle

football field. His total commitment there was matched, when the time came, by a political commitment that led him to take all the risks and endure all the worst hardships of being an active republican in the Ireland of the 1970s.

The book describes, for the first time and in graphic fashion, the harshness of the regime endured by republican prisoners in Portlaoise in that era. It is above all a story of comradeship. It is also a story of political development as Martin, upon release from his second term in prison, took on a key role in the Peace Process. But

he was, and is, still fired by an enthusiasm that has not waned since his early days on the football field as he describes himself. "The Master said, 'Fire in Ferris there!'

"I was mad for ball and although I was playing at corner forward, I knew nothing about positional play and was following the ball everywhere it landed, all over the pitch. The Master shouted at me a few times to keep my position. But I kept chasing ball all over the place.

"Eventually the Master, who had found a bit of rope, ran into the pitch and shouted at me: 'I'll tell you now, young Ferris, if you don't stay inside at corner forward, I'll tie that on to one of your legs and I'll drive a stake in the ground and you won't be able to move.'"

BY

SHANE McTHOMÁIS

On 6 December 1890, Justin McCarthy left Committee Room 15 to declare that Parnell had been removed from the leadership of the Irish Parliamentary Party and that he himself had been appointed the new leader. Two days earlier the Catholic Bishops had issued a manifesto from church pulpits calling for Parnell's disposition on moral grounds.

This ended the political career of a man who joined the Home Rule Party under the leadership of Isaac Butt after the execution of the Manchester Martyrs, which he viewed as a gross injustice. Elected MP for Meath in 1875 he made full use of the technique of 'obstruction' in the House of Commons that had been pioneered by Joseph Biggar.

On 21 October 1879, Michael Davitt founded the Irish National Land League in Dublin with Parnell as President. The main objectives of the League were to provide tenants with a fair rent, fixed tenure and free sale. The long term aim was that farmers would own the land.

The Land League taught the Irish farmers to stand on their own feet and assert their rights. Gladstone became Prime Minister for the second time in April 1880 and hoped to pass an emergency Land Bill through parliament that summer. When he was defeated in the House of Lords, the Land League took another direction, that of the boycott.

Parnell became the accepted leader of the Irish Nationalist Movement during the years 1880-82.

Unrest about the Land Question erupted at times into violence. The British Government passed a new Coercion Act. Parnell and other leaders were arrested in October 1881 and the League was put

REMEMBERING THE PAST



Parnell

down. Gladstone came to terms with Parnell in March 1882 with the Kinshannon Treaty. On his release, Lord Frederick Cavendish was sent to Ireland as Chief Secretary. On the day he arrived, he and his under-secretary, Burke, were killed in the Phoenix Park by members of the Invincibles. Parnell condemned the killings.

In December 1882, when the suppressed Land League was replaced by the Irish

National League, Parnell ensured that the new organisation was under the control of his party and that its primary objective was the winning of Home Rule. By 1884, Parnell's authority was so secure that he was able to impose a party pledge.

The General Election of 1885 was a huge success for Parnell. His party won every seat outside eastern Ulster and Dublin University. Gladstone,

who had won a victory for the Liberals in England, convinced by Parnell's success, gave the Home Rule Movement his support for the rest of his career. The Home Rule Bill of 1886 met with fierce opposition from the Conservatives who saw it as a betrayal of empire and Irish unionists.

In December 1889, Captain O'Shea, filed for divorce from his wife, and Parnell was named in the proceedings. The divorce case caused a sensation in England and Ireland. On all sides there was a belief that Parnell would retire from public life, at least for a short time. Parnell, a proud stubborn man, showed no intention of retiring. His refusal to step down produced a bitter split in the party.

Parnell spent the last month of his life in constant movement in railway trains, organising meetings, doing everything himself as the best known of his colleagues were on the other side of the split.

The strain undermined his health which for many years had been weakening. He died in Brighton on 6 October 1891. With the death of Parnell, in effect, Home Rule died, though the ghost of the movement continued to dominate the political scene for another 25 years.

Parnell's funeral to Glasnevin Cemetery was one of the largest ever seen. Over 130,000 mourners lined the streets. By the time the funeral arrived at the cemetery it was 11 o'clock at night. Among the children brought to the funeral were Padraig Mac Piarais and Maud Gonne, who later wrote that a shooting star passed over the cemetery as Parnell's remains were placed into the ground.

As the mourners left the cemetery they took the Ivy that grows profusely there and placed it in their buttonholes thus giving the name of Ivy Day to the 6 October.

rememberingthepast
@anphoblacht.com

INDÍ Chaimhne

Sept 29th 1972: Vol 1 Jimmy QUIGLEY, Belfast Brigade, 2nd Battalion; Oct 1st, 1977: Seán O CONAILL, Sinn Féin (Parkhurst Prison); Oct 1st 1996: Pat MCGOWAN, Sinn Féin; Oct 2nd 1971: Vol Terence McDERMOTT, Belfast Brigade, 1st Bat; Oct 2nd 1978: Vol Pat HARKIN, Derry Brigade. "After all there are in Ireland two: those who stand for the English connection and those who stand against it." — Pádraig Pearse.

MCCOMISKEY, Joseph (33rd Ann). In loving memory of Fian Joseph McComiskey, who died on 20 September 1972. Remembered always by Ogra Shinn Féin.

O'NEILL, Diarmuid (9th Ann). The McHugh family, Fennagh will always remember Volunteer Diarmuid O'Neill, who was murdered by the British in the early hours of 23 September 1996. May he rest in peace.

QUIGLEY, Jimmy (33rd Ann). In loving memory of my brother Volunteer James Quigley, killed in action on 29 September 1972. St Patrick pray for him. Always remembered and sadly missed by his brother Gerard, Carol Anne and family.

bold. Loved and remembered always by his loving family and large family circle and friends.

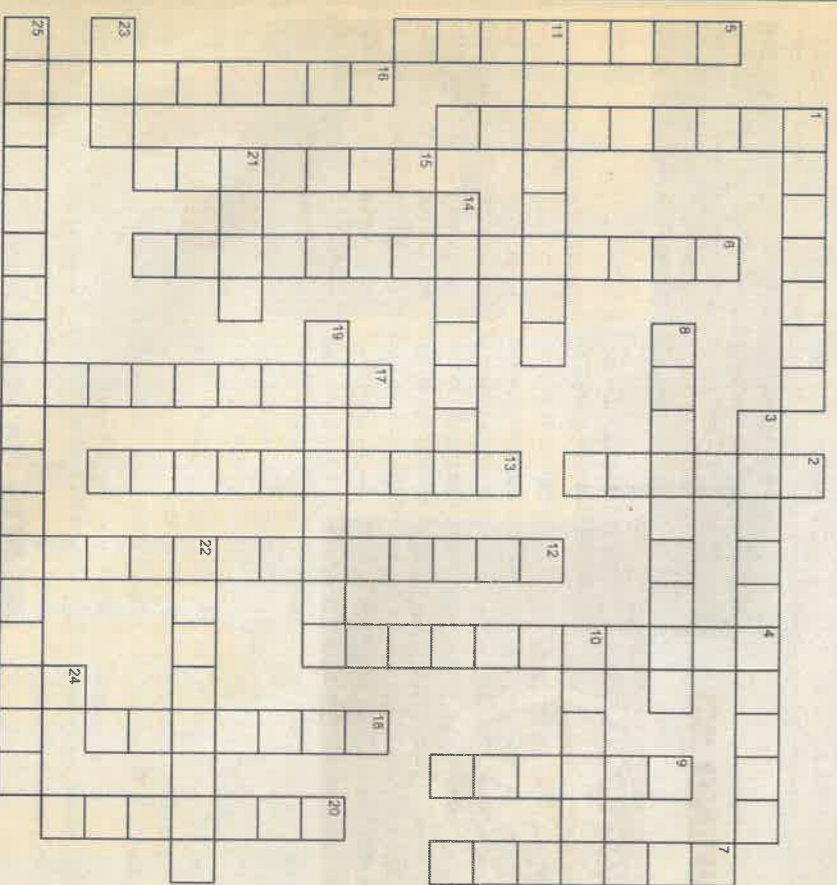
Comhbhrón

McALEER. Deepest sympathy is extended to the McAleer family, Loughmacy, on the recent death of Barney. A dedicated and determined republican who inspired all who was privileged to know him. From Omagh Comhairle Ceantair, SF, From West Tyrone Ogra Shinn Féin.

MULVENNA. Deepest sympathy is extended to Maire and the extended Mulvenna family on the death of their mother Moira, who died on 21 September 2005. From the North Antrim Comhairle Ceantair SF, Patrick Kinney SF Cumann; the Glens of Antrim SF Cumann; the Gerard Casey SF Cumann Rasharkin; the Hoggan/Martin SF Cumann Dunloy; the Joe Cahill SF Cumann, Ballycastle; the Malachy Carey SF Cumann, Loughegl; the John Davey SF Cumann Carnlowh/Glenarm; the Roger Casement SF Cumann Ballymena and the Bannside Cumann.

NOTICES DEADLINE
THE DEADLINE for notices is 5pm on Monday before publication. In order to be included notices must be received by post, phone or fax at our Dublin or Belfast offices before the deadline.

REMEMBERING THE PAST CROSSWORD No. 2



ACROSS

- Named himself after a Russian prison guard (7)
- Massacre by Free Staters during Civil War (10)
- Forties Hunger Striker (9)
- A warrior band of ancient Ireland (6)
- The 1st Irish Socialist according to Connolly (8)
- Wrote the *Red Flag* (7)
- German spy and IRA collaborator of WW2 (8)
- Connolly's biographer (4)
- Edward Daly was born here in this place of Soviets (8)
- Founded on St Patrick's Day 1858 (3)
- Left-wing direction in the 1930s (10 and 8)

DOWN

- Belfast riots in 1965 (9)
- Preferred dying on his feet (6)
- Pacifist murdered in Portobello Barracks (11)
- British working-class movement led by Feargus O'Connor (8)
- Wrote the *Rights of Women* (14)
- 1798 informer (7)
- Young Irishman's poet (6)
- Mountains where Liam Lynch was shot (13)
- Army Comrades Association (10)
- Last battle of the Williamite War (7)
- First signatory of *Proclamation* (6)
- Prison ship (2 and 7)
- Hall where 1916 *Proclamation* was printed (7)
- Jail Dev escaped from (6)
- First word of the *Democratic Programme* (2)

Readers should send their answers to: Remembering the Past Crossword, *An Phoblacht*, 58 Parnell Square, Dublin 1. Correctly answered crosswords will enter a draw. The winner will receive a €25 book token for the Sinn Féin Bookshop

SOLUTION Crossword No 1: ACROSS: 2. *And*, 9. Saorúlada, 11. Rotunda, 14. Nelson, 15. Brighton, 17. Goulding, 18. Mellows, 20. Edentubber, 21. Stephens, 24. MacCurtain, 28. Carney, 29. Daly, 30. Asgard, 31. Pentonville; DOWN: 1. Nesson, 3. Drum, 4. Sept, 5. Madden, 6. Larkin, 7. Ebro, 8. Tracey, 10. Invincibles, 12. Ashe, 13. Drapiers, 16. Tone, 18. Molorman, 19. Defenders, 22. Butcher, 23. Russell, 25. Ivy, 26. GAA, 27. Barry

THERE WAS NO WINNER OF 22 SEPTEMBER 2005 **REMEMBERING THE PAST** CROSSWORD No. 1

An Phoblacht

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TYRONE BATTALIONS TRIUMPH

BY **MATT TREACY**

Watching a match from the upper tier in the Canal is a bit like poring over an anthill. You are far away but you get a great overview of everything that happens. Of course it is easier to maintain such Olympian detachment if your own county is not involved.

Not that it was easy for anyone to remain aloof from Sunday's game. It was the sort of fare that had you on the edge of your seat to the very end. Being high up in the 'Gods' meant having a privileged view of the tactical battle being fought out below. Without a doubt Tyrone won this and the basis for that was twofold. First was the creation of acres of space through the deployment of what at one stage in the first half was a two man attack — with Mulligan in full forward and Canavan out on the 40.

Just when Kerry were adapting to this, Harte moved Canavan and the constant shifting of the forward line clearly caused immense confusion at times amongst the Kerry defenders. Having to continually reorganise themselves meant that they never settled down into the kind of shape that allowed the likes of Séamus Moylan and Tomás O Sé to smother the Cork threat in the semi-final, and become the launching pad for attacks.

The other noticeable feature of Tyrone's play, although hardly a new one, was their ability to get players behind the ball when Kerry were on the offensive. At one stage before Kirby could even think about passing



Tyrone's Brian Dooher, Peter Canavan, Mickey Harte and Sam Maguire made a special stop at the memorial to GAA member Aidan McAnespie (murdered by the British Army), where family members joined in the start of the celebrations

a ball he had won in centre field, every Tyrone player except Mulligan was back in their own half. It is quite an extraordinary sight when viewed from so high above the field. Like watching a war game as the battalions are deployed in cunning order.

There are those who criticise that aspect of Tyrone's play as negative. It can be when it boils down to dragging and perry fouling and basically camping around the centre of the pitch but in fairness, the worst offend-

ers in this regard are pale imitations of that style. A number of counties tried this in the championship and it led to one or two appalling games in the qualifiers. I watched one in which an entire team other than two of the forwards spent almost the whole game in their own half.

Quite effective in stopping the opposition but next to useless in turning that advantage into victory. And awful to watch. Tyrone don't do that. They play at speed when in possession and act quickly to retrieve it

when lost. Then they counter attack with ruthless efficiency. What they also possess is a phenomenal level of fitness that allows them to cover vast amounts of ground. There are many players who can sprint between the 21-yard lines to cover an opponent going forward. There are not many who can do that and then move just as quickly back when the attack breaks down and possession changes hands. Every one of the Tyrone players can do this for over 70 minutes. That is possible

at a plateau of stamina that only an elite of in any sport can equal.

There were a couple of instances that stick in my mind as illustrating the difference between Tyrone and Kerry. One was seeing the great Séamus Moylan caught flat-footed, surrounded by three Tyrone men and no green and gold jersey in easy reach. Séamus uncharacteristically gave the ball away. Like a lion leaving the gazelle to the hyenas.

The other was after Tomás O Sé had scored Kerry's second goal and there was only a point between the teams. They won a free in midfield and Dara O Sé was desperately looking for an option ahead of him. There were none. All of the Kerry forwards had men in red and white stuck to them like limpet mines. They needed men running to make space. Mike Frank was the freshest Kerry man on the field but could barely raise a canter heading over the 40. And that is not to cast an aspersion on Mike Frank's heart and commitment.

There are days when the mind pours molten lead into the legs. The real defining point was Peter Canavan's goal before half time. It was a perfect play. Mulligan received a ball from Philip Jordan back to the goal and only Paul Galvin — the right half forward! — behind him. This was the sort of situation you would have thought Kerry would never be caught in looking at them against Cork and Mayo. The sort of thing you might chalk up on a blackboard and rehearse in the gloom on the training field.

Mulligan must have wondered where Michael McCarthy had gone. Probably Michael

McCarthy wondered where Mugsy had got himself to. And if he was okay. As he looked up Mulligan saw the old master bearing down on goal, Tom O'Sullivan trailing in his wake and all the other green and gold jerseys shimmering in the middle distance. For a brief moment he paused as if thinking to himself "That's a strange one now. Who'd have thought?" Then ball dispatched to his right. The great man grabs it and through the gap between the goal post and a flailing Diarmuid Murphy.

Canavan's other great contribution to the victory was an incredible point from the left of the Canal goal from what seemed an impossible angle. That came at a stage where Kerry were only a point down and just after Dara O Sé had missed a chance to level the score.

Mind you the very fact that Canavan was there at all must have been disheartening. He'd left at half time, possibly went off to have a few quiet pints away from the din and then strolled back on at the start of the last quarter in place of Enda McGinley.

Rarely has one man defined a team so much as Peter Canavan. He has seen the bad days and the worse days and, in the twilight of his career, the truly great days. I have heard one commentator quoting a line from *Macbeth* to describe Canavan's curtain call. Perhaps the man himself was thinking more on the lines of the sentiment expressed in *Henry the Sixth*. "Delays have dangerous ends".

"Ní fheicimid a leithéad arís."

THE NEWS QUIZ 29 SEPTEMBER 2005



1) We all know that Peter Canavan (above) led Tyrone to victory over Kerry to win the All-Ireland Football Final, but who won the MINOR All-Ireland Football Final and who did they beat?
 2) Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon beat off a leadership

challenge from Benjamin Netanyahu and other critics of the illegal Israeli occupation of Gaza, but how did opponents try to stop Sharon speaking during his Likud party's live TV debate?
 3) Which Irish rock legend, rebel, raconteur and wit opened last Saturday's Rally for Irish Unity?
 4) Which other rock legend is BBC devoting a host of tribute programmes to?



5) FBI files just released about spying on another singer-turned-activist showed that they were afraid he was preparing to disrupt the 1972 Republican National Convention in Miami but relaxed when agents said he would probably be too stoned. Which music man was the FBI spying on?
 6) A Dutch study, published by the *British Medical Journal*, found that left-handed women are more at risk from which disease?

7) Which country is scheduled to launch its second manned space mission on 13 October?
 8) The PSNI has been given the go-ahead by the GAA to compete in which Gaelic football cup?
 9) The biggest farming event of the year, the National Ploughing Championships, got under way this week. In which county?
 10) This isn't Tony Blair trying to sneak into the British Labour Party conference at Brighton but a star turn at a recent *Doctor Who* fan club gathering. Which metal sidkick is to be re-united with *Doctor Who* in the new series after 24 years apart?



ANSWERS ON PAGE 17