

# Irish National Congress

P.O. Box No. 2814, Dublin 7



# Comhdháil Náisiúnta na hÉireann

P.O. Box No. 2814, Dublin 7

September/October 1993

## Irish government must adopt new policy

Recent statements by An Taoiseach that the Irish Government could amend Articles Two and Three, as part of a new agreement on the North, are disappointing. It seems as if the Government is simply continuing with policies which have failed in the past, hoping that if the Irish people play down our support for Irish unity, then the British Government might rule the North of Ireland with more justice.

Articles Two and Three are important constitutional articles — too important to be negotiated away, either unilaterally or as part of a deal. No short-term concession by the British government to reform the way they rule the North of Ireland could possibly justify amending the articles. We have seen all too clearly, how quickly British government policy in the North of Ireland

can change to secure British government interests. The deletion of Articles Two and Three would, effectively, be a permanent decision. Any deal with the British government can be very temporary indeed, as they have shown by their effective renegeing on the Anglo-Irish Agreement.

The recent deal by the British government also offers an opportunity. The Irish government is now free from any constraints, which they may have felt the Anglo-Irish Agreement placed on their ability to pursue an independent policy. It is now clear that the political survival of the British government and not the Anglo-Irish Agreement, will determine their policy in the North of Ireland. The Irish government should now take this opportunity to develop a new approach — seeking new opportunities for progress and peace.



The Irish government should clearly state that Articles Two And Three will not be amended. They should state that Irish unity is the preferred solution of the Irish government and of the Irish people and the only solution likely to bring a just and peaceful resolution of the ongoing conflict. The Irish government should put a request for help to secure negotiations — leading to a peaceful British withdrawal from the North of Ireland — before the United Nations, the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe and the European Community. The Irish community abroad is a tremendous resource which should be mobilised, especially in the USA, to advance this new approach.

## Repeal Section 31

**The INC has written to Minister Michael D Higgins asking him to repeal the Ministerial Directive issued under Section 31 of the Broadcasting Act. In our submission we argued that:**

- The impact of Section 31 has gone well beyond banning Sinn Féin. Many human rights activists and prominent Northern nationalists have effectively been banned from RTE or restricted in their access;

- All of the major documentaries related to the North of Ireland have been made by British TV. These include the cases of the Birmingham Six, Guildford Four, Stalker investigation and even the Dublin bombings. Section 31 has stifled current affairs coverage in RTE, as staff are afraid of disciplinary measures if they sail too close to Section 31;

- There is no threat to this state nor is

there any doubt about the Irish government's opposition to the IRA campaign. These were some of the main justifications for Section 31 when it was first used and they now have no relevance;

- The other main excuse for Section 31 is that it helps to reduce support for Sinn Féin and excludes them from public debate. With 14% of the popular vote and over a third of the nationalist vote in the North of Ireland, Sinn Féin has returned a substantial support even with political censorship. It is impossible to exclude a party with this degree of support from political debate. Indeed, given the very positive public reaction to the meetings between Gerry Adams and John Hume and Gerry Adams' meeting with Mary Robinson, it seems there is little public support for a policy of ostracisation;

- Section 31, in 21 years, has not brought an end to violence. If that was its aim, it has been a total failure;

- Every opinion poll on Section 31 has shown a majority of the public is opposed to it, the most recent poll being held this year.

### What you can do:

- Write now to the minister responsible for the directive, MD Higgins, the Taoiseach and the Tánaiste;

- Contact your TD expressing your opposition to Section 31;

- Ask organisations, trade unions etc, that you are a member of, to write to the minister, Taoiseach and Tánaiste;

- Write to the newspapers calling for the repeal of the directive;

- Help distribute leaflets and posters highlighting the campaign.

- Organise a public meeting

Leaflets available £10 per 1,000 from the INC.

### Act Now

This autumn gives us a unique opportunity to influence the review which is currently being conducted. The review will be completed by December at the latest. Act now, to help end political censorship.

# Border Roads Update

A number of significant events over the summer months have contributed to the campaign to reopen cross-border roads which have been destroyed by the British army.

■ Over 2,000 young people attended a rock concert at Lacky Bridge in July to highlight the impact of closed roads;

■ Tánaiste and Labour Party leader, Dick Spring visited Lacky Bridge the week after the festival to see at first hand the destruction caused by the British army;

■ Former Fine Gael Minister for Foreign Affairs Peter Barry, speaking on RTE, said successive Irish governments had for many years been opposed to the road closures but had still provided security cover for the British army when they destroyed newly-opened roads;

■ Most importantly, right along the length of the border, local community associations have kept up the difficult task of reopening roads.

## What you can do

Write to Minister for Foreign Affairs Dick Spring, urging him to publicly call for the roads to be reopened by the British authorities.

The closure of the roads has not ended the IRA campaign in border areas. It causes huge economic and social hardship involving detours of up to 60 miles to make even short cross-border journeys. People are forced to travel through British army border posts where harassment and assault are regular features.

## Financial Appeal

The INC is now helping to bring together the widest possible number of people to organise events marking the 25th anniversary of the introduction of British troops into the North of Ireland. A number of major events are planned culminating in a massive parade and pageant in Dublin in August. The cost of such a parade and pageant will be enormous and once again we are forced to appeal to our supporters for your generous help. Please send what you can to 25th Anniversary Appeal, INC, PO Box 2814, Dublin 7. All donations will be acknowledged.

## Monthly Raffle

To finance the opening of a national office and to help us produce better and more publicity material for our campaigns, the INC has launched a monthly £1 raffle. We are looking for people to buy tickets and/or to sell them to others on a monthly basis. If you can help please contact us.

## Ionad 'Buail Isteach' Gaeilge

Beidh "Drop in Centre" Gaeilge á oscailt ag Connolly Books, Sráid Essex Thoir (an sráid ar chúl Ostan Clarence), Baile Atha Cliath ón 26 Lúnasa. Beidh an t-ionad ar oscailt trí leathlá sa tseachtain, gach Déardaoin, Aoine agus Satharn 1-4pm.

Tá súil againn na seirbhísí seo a chur ar fáil:

Ionad 'Buail-Isteach: Ait ar féidir cupán tae nó caife a ól agus roinnt Gaeilge a labhairt.

Poinnte Eolais: Eolas ar imeachtaí Gaelacha, ranganna, scoileanna, seisiúin ceoil, foiseseacháin, 7rl.

TUILLEADH EOLAISCRIS NI CHOIS-DEALBHA

TEIL: (01) 6763222 (UAIREANNTA OIBRE)

NO F/CH, OR C/O CONNOLLY BOOKS

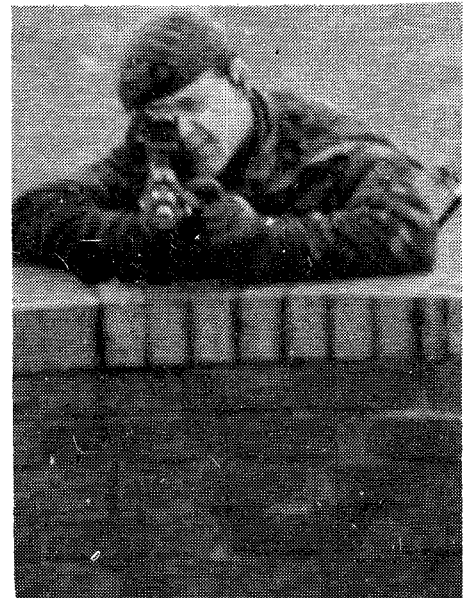
43 SRAID ESSEX THOIR  
BAILE ATHA CLIATH 2.

## Twenty-five years on — time for change

Next August marks the 25th Anniversary of the introduction of British troops onto the streets of the North of Ireland. After 25 years of conflict, human rights abuses, discrimination and economic decline, it is surely time for change — time for new policies to end the conflict and end injustice.

The INC believes that the opportunity should be used to hold the widest possible debate about new opportunities for peace and the policies which are necessary to bring peace and justice. We hope to involve the broadest possible group of people in a series of events culminating in a massive parade and pageant calling for the withdrawal of British troops and the reunification of Ireland.

Anyone who is interested in helping to organise such a programme, is invited to contact Robert Ballagh, Chairperson INC, PO Box 2814, Dublin 7, Tel: 8210493/8202019.



## Conference

From civil rights  
to national rights  
Teachers club  
36 Parnell square  
Dublin  
Sat 9th October  
2pm-5pm

Speakers: Ann Bradley  
(Relatives for  
Justice)  
Ann Mc Cluskey (Forum 2&3)  
Finian McGrath (Trade Unionist)

## Léacht Eile

'Cinsireacht'  
Diarmuid O Gráinne  
Club na Múinteoirí  
36 Cearnóg Parnell  
An Daoidaon 4ú  
Samhain  
8 a chlog

# 'An Tuaisceart mar atá i ndáiríre'

D'eagraigh C.N.E. léacht as Gaeilge don chéad uair i mí Aibreáin, nuair a thug an tAth. Des Wilson caint ar an téama 'An Tuaisceart mar atá i ndáiríre'. 60 duine a bhí i láthair i gClub na Múinteoirí don ócáid stairiúil seo, agus má bhí ábhar na léachta iontach dáiríre, ní raibh an greann searbh in easnamh ach an oiread. Más seo an chéad léacht riamh a socraíodh ar an teorainn agus bealach teorann á oscailt ag an am, ba áit oiriúnach é le léacht faoi téama a bhain go mór le toradh na críochdheighilte a eagrú.

Thosnaigh an léacht le cuairt ar Theach Laigheann, agus polaiteoirí áirithe ag léamh leabhair, agus ag scríobh cártaí Nollag fiú, fad is a bhí siad in ainm is a bheith ag plé Ailt 2 agus 3 den Bhunreacht. D'éirigh an tAth. Mac Liam bréan den chaint frith-náisiúnach a bhí ar siúl; chaill sé aon mhuintir a bhíodh aige as polaiteoirí na 26 Chontae an lá sin. Cháin sé iad go minic ina léacht; a seasamh 'in éadan a muintire féin', an easpa suime atá acu 'daonlathas a chruthú in Eirann ar fad', agus an deis nár ghlac siad

With up to three new branches being formed every month, the INC is now one of the fastest-growing political organisations in the country.

There are now branches of the INC in Dublin, Bray, County Wexford, Cork city, Macroom, County Limerick, Tipperary town, Galway city, County Meath, Balrath (County Meath), Dundalk, Donegal, Sligo, Laois and University College Dublin.

Branches are in the process of being formed in Kerry, Drogheda and Ballina and initial discussions are underway with some contacts in Waterford, Leitrim, Clare and West Cork, where branches will shortly be established. If you want to get involved in any of these branches, local contacts are available from the INC.

However, if Articles Two and Three are to be defended and if our objectives of Irish unity, justice and peace are to be achieved, we need branches in every town. If you can help form a branch, contact Robert Ballagh, Chairperson INC, PO Box 2814, Dublin 7.

cúrsaí naisiúnachais a phlé le Rialtas na Breataine. Tá siad 'ina dtost mar is gnáth' Cháin sé RTE nach ligean díofa 'ár scéal féin a insint' agus na nuachtáin a fhoilsíonn bréaga.

Thagair sé don Eaglais Chaitliceach nach raibh 'ag streachaill in éineacht linn' in éadan an éigirt. Dúirt sé gur bréag é nach bhfuil Caitlicigh agus Protastúnaigh in ann cónaí le chéile — ach cónaíonn, i bpóstaí, i scoileanna áirithe, ach ní maith leis na húdaráis aon rud a athraíonn na patrúin vótála. Ní dhéanfaidh méadú sna Caitlicigh atá ag obair sna cúirteanna, sna stáisiúin teilifíse, ná sa státseirbhís aon athrú sa chóras. 'Caithfear na struchtúir féin a athrú agus i ndiaidh sin is cuma cé acu Caitlicigh, Protastúnaigh, Giúdaigh nó daoine eile a bheith iontu, beidh said ag obair go héifeachtach agus go cneasta'.

Chríochnaigh sé a léacht le tagairt eile do Ailt 2 agus 3 agus na torthaí a bheadh ann da gcuirfí amach iad. Ní amháin nach mbeadh 'cead speisialta' ag polaiteoirí na 26 Chontae rud ar bith a rá nó a dhéanamh faoi chúrsaí na 6 Chontae, ní bheadh siad in ann rud ar bith a rá nó a dhéanamh faoi ghníomhaíochtaí na ndaoine atá ina gcónaí ann. 'Tugann siad suas gach cead labhartha nuair a thugann siad suas na hAilt sin'. Cea-pann sé go bhfuil sé de dhualgas ar mhuintir na 26 Chontae gan na hAilt a chaitheamh amach; ach 'cuidiú a thabhairt dúinn an

# Branch News

## ROLE OF AN INC BRANCH

The basic role of an INC branch is to promote our aims and objectives in their own area by involving the greatest possible number of people, from different political party backgrounds and none, in their work. Branches vary in their activities but all will have regular meetings of members and occasional public meetings.

Over the past few months, most INC branches have spearheaded the campaign on Articles Two and Three and have organised public meetings, distributed leaflets (over 500,000 collectively), set up information stalls and taken part in discussions on local radio. Branches have run buses to border road openings and helped reopen roads.

Meetings have been held and TDs and ministers lobbied on behalf of the Beechmount Five and Ballymurphy Seven. Local radio and newspapers have been asked to cover these stories and to correct ill-informed or biased reports.

Many branches are currently campaigning for the repeal of the Ministerial Order under Section 31 of the Broadcasting Act.

tíoránacht a chur amach as an tír seo' Sna ceisteanna a lean, pléadh ról na heaglaise, imeacht na mBriotanach agus freastal s'aontachtaíthe ar ranganna Gaeilge.

Bhí an Dr. Dáithí O hOgáin ina chathaoirleach don oíche. Ina réamhrá thagair sé don tslí a sheas an tAth Mac Liam leis na gnáthdhaoine, lena mhuintir féin. Mhol sé a leabhar **An End to Silence** (Corcaigh, Mercier Press, 1985)

Mar a dúradh ag deireadh na hoíche 'We must recognise and respect the genius of our own people and it is on this and not on the will of a foreign government that freedom will be founded'.

Is féidir an léacht iomlán a léamh in 'Comhar', Iúil 1993.

## RESULTS OF AUGUST DRAW

1st £100 : Nuala Doyle,  
Co Wexford

2nd £20 : Fiona Quinn,  
Killiney Co Dublin

3rd £10 : Pádraig ó  
Gallchóir, Baile na Finne  
Co Dhún na nGall

# HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH

## BALLYMURPHY SEVEN

As we go to press the trial of the Ballymurphy Seven has just begun.

The Irish National Congress is supporting the campaign by the families of the Ballymurphy Seven for their release. We believe that they are innocent and have been victims of the regime of torture and ill-treatment in the RUC interrogation centre at Castlereagh. We are asking people to:

- Write to the newspapers highlighting their case;
- Contact your public representative to ensure that the Irish government raises this case with the British government;
- Write to the British Secretary of State Patrick Mayhew, urging the release of the Ballymurphy Seven;
- Phone the Dept of Foreign Affairs in Dublin asking that they send an observer to the trial

### Voice of the Innocent campaign (Ballymurphy Seven)

Contact: 27 Ballymurphy Road  
Belfast BT12 or phone (0232) 232234  
or  
PO Box 3564  
Dublin 1.

## KATE MAGEE

Little attention has so far focused on the case of Kate Magee. She was arrested in England following the shooting of a British soldier. After her arrest, the British tabloids ran headlines about her brother using terms like "mad dog". Kate was effectively tried and found guilty by implication. Her case has been taken up by solicitor Garreth Peirce and barrister Michael Mansfield. Their involvement alone will obviously bring the matter to the attention of human rights groups, but without a campaign to highlight her case Kate could become the latest victim of British miscarriages of justice.

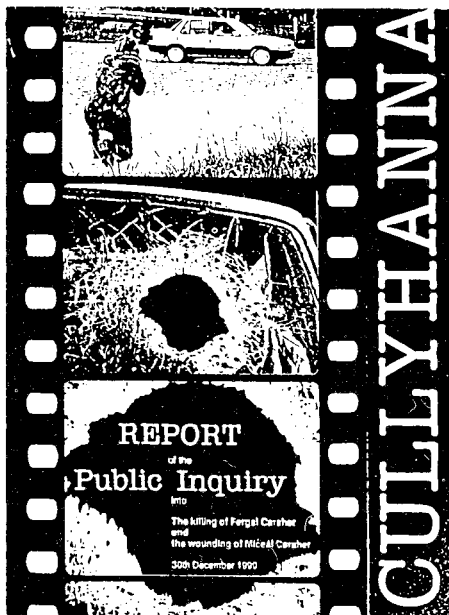
## BEECHMOUNT FIVE

In July the case of the Beechmount Five eventually came to trial after the youths had spent two years in jail on remand. As the case proceeded, the British authorities offered to release them within a week if they pleaded guilty to a lesser charge. While their first reaction was to refuse and continue to seek to clear their names, on legal advice and with the threat of 14 to 20 year sentences held over them and with little likelihood of a fair trial in the non-jury Diplock Courts, they reluctantly agreed to the plea bargain.

## LOYALIST MURDER CAMPAIGN

— role of British army agents  
must be investigated.

The recent upsurge in loyalist killings has created a real and heightened sense of fear



in nationalist areas of the North. The public announcement by RUC Chief Constable Hugh Annesley that another loyalist bombing campaign in the South was likely, was clearly designed to spread that fear to the Southern public.

Three aspects of this current campaign have yet to receive any widespread media scrutiny.

- Over 3,000 RUC files on Northern nationalists are now admitted to be in the hands of loyalist squads. Many of these files wrongly list people as IRA "suspects" and they have been responsible for some of the loyalist attacks, even if many of them are random.

- Many journalists have noted that loyalist groups are now better armed than they have ever been. There has been no reference to the fact that in the trial of British agent Brian Nelson, it was revealed that he organised a huge arms shipment from South Africa to loyalist paramilitaries with the full knowledge of British intelligence.

- The recent British TV programme on the 1974 Dublin and Monaghan bombing provided fresh evidence that the bombings were planned by the British security services. This would also explain the otherwise inexplicable loss by loyalist groups of the technical means to manufacture bombs, and raises serious questions as to how they have now acquired this ability.

### What you can do

The collusion between loyalist groups and the RUC, especially in handing over files, but also in the absence of an active RUC/British army presence in loyalist areas, has never been properly investigated. There has been no investigation of the Nelson affair and the enquiry into the Dublin and Monaghan bombings has been limited. Pressure on the Irish government can help to expose British government support for loyalist groups and can save lives.

Write to Dick Spring, Minister for Foreign Affairs, demanding independent investigations of RUC/loyalist collusion and the Nelson affair.

Write to Máire Geoghean Quinn, Minister for Justice, calling for a full investigation of the 1974 Dublin/Monaghan bombings.

## CULLYHANNA

On 8 November, the trial begins of the British soldiers charged with the murder of Fergal Caraher in Cullyhanna. There is no doubt that this trial would never have happened but for the campaign by the family, the Cullyhanna Justice group and the INC, including the public inquiry organised by the two groups and presided over by leading lawyers including Michael Mansfield. However justice may still be denied. A fair trial will only take place if there is national and international monitoring of the trial. The Irish government should lead the way by sending an official observer to the trial. You can help by contacting the Dept of Foreign Affairs and Government ministers, urging that they send an observer.

For further information you can phone Cullyhanna 861627.

## Do you agree with the aims of the INC?

Would you like to join the INC and contribute to its work?  
Can you organise a public meeting to form a Branch

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership fee £5 waged/£3 unwaged.

Return to: Irish National Congress, P.O. Box 2814, Dublin 7.

Donations can be sent to: Bank of Ireland, College Green, Dublin 2.

Account No. 13733967 or to the Irish National Congress at:

PO Box 2814, Dublin 7.