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Young Republican

Official magazine of Na Fianna Éireann



www.fiannaeireann.com

Issue 3 Autumn 2004

Take it down from the Mast Irish Traitors!!!



Since the formation of the Free State they have :

Executed more Republicans than the British

Abandoned the six counties

Collaborated with the British

Sold out the Irish people

Since the foundation of the Irish Free State in 1922 those who once proclaimed themselves Republican have travelled the long road of compromise. They have sold out the Irish people by their continued collaboration with the British Government. They have sold out the people of the six counties by recognising partition and giving up any claim to the jurisdiction. They have sold out the Irish people by their cosying up to the US and big business. They have executed more Irish people than the British themselves. Yet they still consider themselves Republicans and still fly the Irish tricolour. We say to them **Take it down from the mast Irish Traitors!!!** You Have brought on it nothing but **SHAME**.

Recently Na Fianna Eireann has been subjected to a number of insidious attacks in the tabloid papers no doubt instigated by the Free State Government. For the record Na Fianna Eireann is not the youth wing of any other organisation. It is a distinct organisation with its own constitution and leadership. Attempts to claim otherwise should be seen for what they are. Na Fianna rejects these attempts and call on the Irish people to -

Reject the Sham that is the Free State!!

Join Na Fianna Eireann!!!

Drumboe Martyrs

Fianna Éireann, lead by a colour party from the Republican Movement, marched to the monument to the Drumboe Martyrs, in Listowel, Co Kerry. The proceedings were chaired by ex-POW Seán Ó Sé, who called on Fianna Éireann member, Pádraig Donohoe to give the main oration.

In it he called on those assembled to continue the struggle for 32 county socialist republic on this island, and to help promote a true Ireland of equals. He outlined how the Drumboe Martyrs were truly men of the people who fought to make Ireland a better place for all of its people. He finished by saying: "Like Bobby Sands, James Connolly, Enright and O'Sullivan, we have vowed to break the connection with Britian - and break it we will. Tiocfaidh Ár Lá!"

Donations made by Fianna Éireann

Fianna Éireann, in support of the Sinn Féin Poblachtach candidates in the upcoming local elections in the 26 county state, made a substantial donation to the election fund for Sinn Féin Poblachtach candidates. The organisation also made a donation to the Belfast office of Sinn Féin Poblachtach to help allieviate some of the pressure from them from their ever rising costs.

Michael Flannery Prisoners Committee off to a smooth start

The newly set-up Michael Flannery Prisoners Committee has been up and running these past few months with great success in raising funds for Cabhair (Irish Republican Prisoners Dependants Fund). Sluas have been instructed to organise collections for the prisoners. The figure collected thus far has been very healthy, and we hope to continue in the comings months and further in the future.

New Fianna Éireann Slua setup in Midlands area

Fianna Éireann are pleased to announce the setting up of a new Slua in the midlands area. It was the decided that the Slua would be named after the excommander of Fianna Éireann, Liam Mellows, who was shot dead against a prison wall by Free State forces, for his unrepentant Republican beliefs in a 32 county Ireland, at a time of another counter-revolution.

The Slua will welcome new members and anybody interested in joining the Liam Mellows Slua can contact the organisation at the following email: info@fiannaeireann.com, or alternatively by writing to; 223 Parnell St, Dublin 1. We would like to wish them the best of luck in the future.

Racist Attacks

The recent targetting of an English woman in an racist arson attack has been condemned by the Dublin Slua of Na Fianna Éireann. The woman, who lives in the Clondalkin area of Dublin, has been subjected to a number of attacks on her home in the past two months culminating in a fire-bomb attack on her car on friday the 16th of April last. Graffiti of a racist nature has been also sprayed on her wall calling for people to "burn the english".

We have always maintained that we will not accept an Ireland whereby racist attacks like these are commonplace in our communities. While organisations like ourselves will try and promote a true Ireland of equals amongst the youth of Ireland, we have subversives like these purporting to be Republicans. They are doing a disservice to the Republican ideal of an inclusive Ireland of Catholic, Protestant and Dissenter.

Those involved should think of the consquences of their anti social activites and should desist forthwith. If our members feel the need to picket their homes until these attacks stop, then so be it.

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Fianna Motto

Glaine inár gcroí Purity in our hearts

Neart inár ngéaga Strength in our arms

Beart de réir ar mbriathar Truth on our lips

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For News and articles on NFE visit our website at www.fiannaeireann.com



Drugs are not the answer

Writing as a person who originates from the southwest suburbs of Dublin, I have seen how many problems affect a community and how easy it is to be drawn into the world of anti-social behaviour, drugs and major crime. Here are a few examples of what the people in my community have to endure as a result of living in this area.

People find it hard to secure employment as employers distrust people from my area because of it's bad reputation. To be honest its like all areas it has a handful of misfits making trouble for everybody else. This gang of troublemakers is increasing day by day. The youths who are so often arrested for loitering and drunk and disorderly always have the same answer "There is nothing for us to do" Then this leads on to bigger and bolder things, its like they are progressing in their eyes to be one of the "Lads" but in society they are really disintegrating.

When people want to go to the shops or are bringing their children to school they have to be vigilant as there are always lads hanging around at corners, outside shops etc. At any moment of the day a stolen car could come out of nowhere and cause havoc this is usually followed by the Garda who ensure a chase happens and this excites the younger children who know no better but to think this is great.

I have seen many of my childhood friends endure long hard prison sentences for joyriding and small time crime including drugs, which are major problems this leads me on to the hard stuff "Drugs". I would say at least 85% of the youths of my area have tried drugs at one stage in their lives, out of this I would say half of these people would go on to have a drug related problem in there lives whether it be dealing or abusing hard of soft drugs. This is the sort of thing that is carried with them for the rest of their lives. This not only affects themselves but also their families and loved ones. Children without Mothers or Fathers due to drugs either through death or imprisonment.

With all of these things happening around me it could have been so easy for me to fall into the trap like so many others. The reasons I avoided this situation was that I had a brain and a good head on my shoulders. The other being that I applied myself to join the Republican Movement at an early age. At this stage I was eager to join Na Fianna Éireann.

As Na Fianna Éireann are anti-drugs and total against anti-social behaviour I knew that I would fit right in. I have become more and more involved with Na Fianna and at this stage it is my life and for all the right reasons. When you are out marching on a cold winters morning commemorating Irelands fallen volunteers, the world of your community is left behind. You are doing a duty, you are proud of your actions, With discipline and honour you pay your respects to the men and women who have served as an inspiration to the youth of Ireland.

Finishing, I would like to appeal to the youth of Ireland to stay away from the temptations of easy money and a dirty life. Join the Republican Movement, join Na Fianna Éireann and make yourself into a better person. With the discipline and respect you give and are granted you will mature in to proud honest young Republicans.

Easter 2004

Na Fianna Éireann took part in commemorations nationwide this Easter to commemorate the fallen heroes of 1916. Fianna Éireann colour parties took part in parades in Dublin, Limerick, the six Occupied Counties, Kildare, Clare and Laois; with wreaths being laid on behalf of the organisation in Offaly, Limerick and Belfast. It was one of the largest turn-outs for the organisation in some years, and illustrates how far nationally NFE has come in the last few years, which would explain why the tabloid press have felt the need to spread lies about our movement.

'Provos are now a whipped and beaten army'

I am usually not one to write letters or give dissertations, however, a series of events over the last several years have I am afraid pushed upon me the need to polish my diction and punctuation. The continuing implosion or self destruction of the Provisional IRA forced upon me some hard decisions in the recent past. I realised that my view of Republicanism and the duties of the army were not an exemplar of the forward thinking Republicanism that now is prevalent in Provisional IRA/ Sinn Fein. I realised two years ago that the PIRA was now nothing but an embarrassment to Mister Adams et all and the death knell had been well and truly sounded. So it was not with surprise that I greeted the news that the PIRA had taken action against hard line elements, dismissing them and then besmirching their characters. I believe that this action was taken because at least one of these people could be a very real threat to their rather cosy plans for the future. I repeat that he could have been, not that he actually was. After these actions were taken I felt I could not be surprised by any actions taken by these defenders of the Sunningdale Agreement part two.

However, I was wrong. I greeted the recent instalment in the ongoing suicide of the Provos with outright incredulity and utter astonishment. The incident I refer to is the recent threats made by well known Provos to three Anti Drug Activists in the South West Dublin area. The two PIRA members arrived at the homes of the Activists and informed them that they were to stop their activities and they were to stop using the PIRA's name, these instructions were punctuated by the brandishing of shorts, handguns for those who do not share my slang. The members then informed the Activists that there would be no further warnings and the next time they would be stiffed. I repeat stiffed, not punished, not dealt with but executed.

I was informed of this the day after the threats were issued, frankly I would not have believed the story if I did not personally know the Activists involved. They are decent lads. committed over the long term in the fight against the evil of drugs in our society. They have all been involved in their local communities for several years, on the ground, out and about dealing directly with this scourge. In days past, when the Provos were a true Republican Army, lead and run by committed Republicans, the hand of friendship would have been extended to men like these Activists. In fact, many PIRA Volunteers would have actively participated in anti-drug actions, the PIRA's official policy would have been to deal with drug dealers where ever they were found. This policy changed several years ago, when all Volunteers were informed that they were not to become involved in anti-drug actions unless expressly ordered to by their OC. Most of the Volunteers that were involved with COCAD and other Anti-Drug groups, chose to selectively ignore this order and pray heavily that they would not be caught.

However, times have changed; the Provos are now a whipped and beaten army, the lap dogs of their political masters. The few brave and committed Volunteers that are left from the old days are busily keeping their heads down in order to avoid the wrath of their political-betters, while the ceasefire soldiers strut around safe in the knowledge that they probably will not be called upon to do too much other than threaten upstanding members of the community and possibly extort some donations from the odd easy touch. Even with all we know about the workings of the Proves, this latest action beggars belief, I mean who gave the order to threaten Community Activists? What is the purpose of the action? Do they think that now Sinn Fein has made in roads to the middle classes that they no longer need the good will of the working classes? It would appear that not only are the Provos not willing to assist working class communities to defend themselves; they are actively involved in stripping away the community's defence.

One would have to question the thinking behind this course of action, the only people who benefit from it are drug dealers who are left free to ply their trade. Of course in the new Sinn Fein world, the cops can take care of those, as they are want to tell any body who comes to them with a problem. As true Republicans it is our sworn duty to protect the people of Ireland, this is not an out dated attitude, this is not something we should forget, this is the basic tenet of who we are as Republicans and Volunteers. The biggest and most fundamental threat to the people of Ireland in modem times is the scourge of drugs. Our youth are practically laid waste, drug use is endemic in our society and is practically an accepted vice, anti social activity is widespread, personal responsibility is practically a redundant concept. As we have seen drug dealers get bolder and bolder, the famed westies are a case in point. They believed they were untouchable, they murdered, tortured and intimidated with complete impunity. It should be to our eternal shame that we stood by while this went on. It is time that we as Republicans stepped forward and shouldered the responsibilities that others are too willing to walk away from in the name of forward thinking Republicanism. We are honour bound to extend the hand of friendship to all Community Activists by offering them our full support. We must make contacts in every community; show them not only in words but also in deed that we are willing to assist them in any way possible. They will be uncertain, they probably will be distrustful, and that can I only be expected. However, if we follow through with action against the high profile dealers that have caused so much misery to the people of Ireland, they can not doubt us or our intentions.

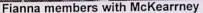
We constantly purport to be the true inheritors of Republicanism. It is time that we as a revitalised force prove our claims. We must take a three prong approach to the future.

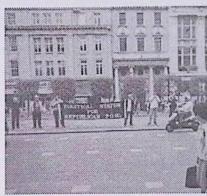
- 1. Execute a major campaign against drug dealers in our society.
- 2. Make contacts in all communities with people who are like minded.
 - 3. Clean our own house publicly and strive to keep it clean.

This is not, as some people would believe, a side track or diversion from the struggle. There is no point in uniting Ireland for it to be effectively run by drug dealers. Again I say we are honour bound to undertake these actions as true Republicans, let us not be found wanting, as others have been.

24 Hour Fast in support of Prisoners







IRSP members show their support



Chicago Event

On Saturday 7th of August a 24 hour fast was held outside the GPO by NFE in aid of Cabhair. It was very well attended with around 15-20 people on the fast at one stage. Former Hunger Striker Tommy McKearney was in attendance showing his support.

We would like to thank the IRSP Dublin for staying 6 hours in solidarity with those fasting. The people attending were faced with constant harassment from the free state police and from a number of drunken yobs. All those participating had their names and addresses taken and a camera was also seized from one female protestor.

A large amount of money was raised and Na Fianna Eireann would like to thank all those involved especially the IRSP and Tommy McKearney. After 13 hours outside the GPO members had to leave the area for security reasons due to drunken yobs and attention from the special branch but continued the fast as a group elsewhere and returned to the GPO in the morning to finish. On August 8th a successful function for CABHAIR was held in Chicago to help raise awareness for the POWs.

Colm Mitchell hosted a fundrasising Function for CABHAIR at the Abbey Pub and about 15 people attend. Fliers on Eire Nua and the conditions facinf the POWs were passed out and a large sum of money was raised. In the course of his speech he said 'Thank you all for coming this afternoon. Today August 8th marks the anniversary of the death of Thomas McElwee. He died on hunger strike in the H-Blocks of Long Kesh in the fight for political status. Political status was granted after he and 9 of his comrades starved to their deaths.

But today the fight still goes on. In 1998 the Provisionals signed away political status when they backed the so-called "Good Friday Agreement". This meant that anyone engaging in Republican activities after the signing of that treaty would be treated as criminals. But Republicans today continue to fight against the british imposed criminalisation. They have taken part in a dirt protest, wrecked cells, and have taken part in roof-top protests to highlight their plight.'

SOMEDAY SOON OUR DAY WILL COMF

Many young lives have been lost throughout the years
Countless Irish families have shed many tears
For a beloved son or daughter who won't be coming back
They were murdered by the british enemy, whose heart of stone is painted black

They loved their country dearly and prepared to give their all They took a stand for freedom when they heard her sorrowful call They joined the freedom fighters in defence against the crown And became part of a risen nation no force could put down

Walking round the cemetry, the martyrs lie in their grave
We pray God shines upon them for in life and death they were brave
Their Families must sit and wonder "Did they die in vain?
And if they were still on this earth, would they do it all again"

We never will forget them, we'll remember them with pride
We'll continue with the struggle, the cause for which they died
And when their families cry, for loved ones not returning home,
They must remember TIOCFAIDH AR LA, someday soon our day will come

Leinster OC Speaks

Around four years ago, Na Fianna Eireann was in a transitional period. We had taken many knocks, some nearly fatal, but as Republicans tend to do, we bounced back. Fours years on since then and we find ourselves in a much healthier position. But we are still in the process of building and organising ourselves better.

I came into the organisation during this time of transition. It wasn't easy to build back up mainly due to the close eyes the forces of the state were keeping on us. We have though, slowly but surely, grown to a level were we can really excel and make a difference within the movement.

Being one of the senior members of this organisation is really a challenge, and one that we all take head-on when we take the pledge to stay loyal to the Irish Republic. Being a divisional O/C means building up that particular area and to give it a solid structure. Our membership here is growing at a rate that we didn't expect it to grow to, and my job is put discipline into those members, and mostly importantly train them in "body and mind" to be the best Fian's they can be.

In an Ireland where young people seem to accept drug-taking and teenage pregnancy as the "norm". It is more important than ever that Fianna Éireann is as strong as possible and can offer be seen as a credable alternative to young people, rather than growing up involved in juvenile crime. Na Fianna aims to give young people a sense of national pride, and sense of pride in our history, language and culture - this is something that is sadly lacking in the youth today in Ireland.

It is with great satisfaction that we set up regular Irish lessons for members in the Leinster area, because it is vital that our language is perserved, and we, as Republicans, have a duty to help in the retaining of our language in the youth of this country. Thankfully with these lessons we are playing our part in that. What also has been satisfying has been the amount of money collected in support of the Republican prisoners. The members in this area really care about the welfare of the prisoners and their dependants, and it shows in their willingness to give up their free time to collect for them.

There has been a lot of activity for our members, and they haven't let us down. With a camp coming up in the Summer, it will be good for the members from all around the province to interact with each other, and dare I say it, have some fun! With another Ard Fheis on the way, and with some so much achieved this past year, I think they deserve great praise for not just the way they have represented the organisation, but the way they have represented the cause of Republicanism. It is vital in this organisation that proclaimed to not just preach about the true ideals of Republicanism, but that carries it out in practice.

In the next year, as someone else may well takes the reins, I hope he/she can continue the growth of Fianna Éireann in the Leinster area. If we can continue to have the same amount of people come in, of the calibre of people who have worked so hard this past year, it won't be too long until we have our Republic! Keep up the good work lads!

Na Fianna Éireann condemns operation "alco-pop"

Na Fianna Éireann totally condemns the use of innocent teenagers by the RUC/PSNI in operation "alco-pop" on Friday 4th of June. Four teenagers were used to gain entry into 14 off-sales and to attempt to get served with in the north Belfast area. It was a crack down on off-sales who have been serving teenagers who are underage drinkers.

We state very clearly today that Na Fianna Éireann is opposed, and do not encourage underage drinking. But we also oppose the youth of our country being corrupted into working for a sectarian unlawful British police force who has continued to use teenagers as £10 touts. We see this as an attempt by the RUC/PSNI to gain favour in Nationlist and Unionist working class areas where underage drinking and anti-social behaviour is an everyday occurance.

We ask where are the RUC/PSNI when drug dealers are out operating openly in working class areas? We take this opportunity to call on the young people in this country to cease in anti-social behavior full stop and to reject ANY British police on this island.

Belfast O/C, John Dempsey Slua Na Fianna Eireann

Political Status Now!!

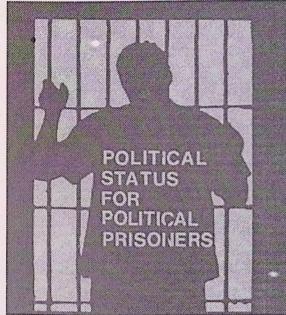
Throughout the decades and centuries Republicans have fought a war with the British forces not just out on the battlefield, but within the prisons. It has throughout time become a vital section of the struggle for independence of colonial rule. It has become almost like a symbolic struggle between the prisoners and the pro-British prison systems in both partitionist states. These systems have set out to break the will and spirit of those unfortunate to find themselves imprisoned as political hostages of the British state in Ireland. It, in time, became a battle to criminalise not just the men inside the prison walls, but to criminalise the whole Irish struggle. It has meet resistance from not just within the prison walls, but outside as well.

Since the death of Thomas Ashe due to force feeding, to the death's of the 10 H-Block Martyrs, Irishmen/women have revolted inside British and Free State prisons against the authorities. Today is no different. There is currently nearly 100 Irish Republicans prisoners today in the Free State, 6 counties and England. All are there due to Britain's continued illegal occupation of Ireland, and still it is the policy of the authorities to try and criminalise them and their struggle. Recently, many heralded the introduction of segregation in Maghberry prison as a victory for the prisoners who had previously embarked on a "dirty protest" to highlight their ever worsening plight there. Having to share landings with



ODC's (ordinary decent criminals) and Loyalists was becoming an intolerable situation for them, so action was needed. But, although after their hard earned victory in obtaining segregation, the policy of the prison authorities is still to criminalise the Republican POW's. In the wing now used to house Republican POW's there is no recreational facilities, barely any sort of decent dining area, and they are expected to shave and clean in the same area that they "slop out" in everyday!

Although now relatively safe from other hostile prisoners, incidents of intimiation from other has not wavered whatsoever. A 17-year-old Republican prisoner from Strabane, was viciously attacked in



Hydebank Young Offender Centre just outside Belfast. Loyalist youths attempted to hang the young Republican, and had it not been for the young mans strenght to fending off his attackers he would have faced certain death. The prisoner in question has luckily since been transferred to Maghaberry prison. Random searches and wrecking of cells by the pro-Brit guards are commonplace on the Republican wing, and this has seen many prisoners suffering assaults at the hands of these guards. It is not just the prisoners who have been subjected to intimidation by the prison system, but their families also have had to bear the brunt of the knuckle dragging prison guards. Recently, the elderly mother of Republican POW John Connolly was subjected to being physically removed from the visiting area in Maghaberry when a sniffer dog (used to detect drugs) sat at the feet of Johns elderly mother and this resulted in her being ejected from the building. When another prisoners three sisters on seeing this protested they were subjected to being physically thrown out, thus making them unable to see their loved ones. The fact that Johns elderly mother has made a 200 mile round trip mattered little to the prison guards who are not shy in showing their Loyalist sympathies.

Recently a statement on behalf of the POW's was read out outside Maghaberry prison by a recently released prisoners. In it the prisoners outlined their intentions to go on a hunger-strike due the conditions inside the prison, and their continued mistreatment at the hands of the prison workers. This is a worrying development, but not a wholly surprising one. The attempts to demean and break the spirits of the prisoners by isolating them will fail, and it will fail because Republicans have always refused to be criminalized by anybody, especially their enemies. In the coming months and beyond the republican men/women who took the ultimate risk for the freedom of their country will need our support. We would call on all supporters of the prisoners to do them justice and support them in whatever action they deem necessary to win this latest battle to criminalise the Republican struggle from within the prison walls. Fianna Éireann will stand behind them, as we always have, and we urge the Republican people of Ireland to do the same.

Bodenstown 2004



At Attention

On the march





RSF

Dipping the Flags





In the Graveyard

In the Graveyard

Over 250 people marched on June 13th to the grave of the father of Irish Republicanism, Wolfe Tone, at Bodenstown, Co Kildare. The march was led by a large colour party including 17 members of Na Fianna Eireann and set out from Sallins at approximately 3pm. After walking the three miles to Bodenstown graveyard the crowd heard short speeches from Des Dalton and a representative from the National Graves Association while the main oration was given by Sarah Murphy of Republican Sinn Fein. In the course of her oration she said "We have fought you in south Armagh, we have fought you in the Bogside of Derry, we have fought you in Tyrone and around the lakes of Fermanagh, we have fought you in the Glens of Antrim and in the foothills of the Mournes, we have resisted you in our country for 800 years in the prisons and internment camps, we will continue to resist you and we shall never surrender!" After the speeches the crowd marched back to Sallins village where Amhran Na Bhfiann was played before dispersal.

A large number of uniformed and plainclothes 26 county police were present in the graveyard while a spotter plane flew overhead.

A long tradition of service to Republican prisoners

FOLLOWING the Easter Rising of 1916 members of Cumann na mBan and other Republicans including Kathleen Clarke, wife of executed signatory of the Proclamation Thomas J Clarke and sister of Edward Daly, also executed by the British, came together to form a committee to support the many men and women imprisoned in Ireland and England by the British. Since then there has always been a committee dedicated to the support of Republican prisoners and their dependants. Even in the dark days of the 1940s there was a support organisation to work for the prisoners.

As a very young person I became interested in this work in the late 1940s through my brothers and



sisters. My sister worked with such people as Tomás ó Dubhghaill, Aoife Taffe, Alfie White, Sarah Doody, Lily Timmons and Margaret Langsdorf, to mention but a few. I was brought in as were many young teenagers of the time to help with the work. The work continued over the years as required. From the 1970s onward it became necessary to expand and branches were formed all over the country. Dublin formed what was known as An Cumann Cabhrach Coiste Átha Cliath. We had many excellent workers, many of whom have passed away, for example Frank McAteer who was our chair-person for many years.

A monthly draw became a regular event and each month we made welcome anyone who wished to attend the drawing of the winning tickets. Sinn Féin Cumainn in Dublin worked hard to make the draw a success. All moneys had to be returned to the Central Committee of An Cumann Cabhrach and the books were checked by them.

I recall driving Rita McGlynn, a member of the Central Committee, to outlying branches to inspect the books. The work continued smoothly until the early 1980s when mem-

bers in Dublin became worried about the future of the prisoners. These worries manifested themselves when in 1986 many members betrayed the All-Ireland Republic and became part of the Partition system. At this point the Dublin Committee, having taken stock of the situation, met with the Central Committee for clarification on their stand. We were surprised and saddened at the stance they took. We were told we were moving away from the struggle.

When we asked about future POWs we were told there would be no POWs when those then in jail would be released. Future POWs were of no concern to the Central Committee of An Cumann Cabhrach. The Dublin Committee unanimously decided the place for us was with the struggle and those willing to continue the fight for a 32-County Irish Republic. The Central Committee made it very clear that they would never give any assistance to anyone arrested or jailed in the future.

In 1987 the Prisoners' Dependants Fund reorganized under the name CABHAIR. When asked by the late Dáithí Ó Conaill to assist in this I was only too glad to do so. It is the duty of every human being to assist those in distress and particularly those who suffer for their country. The Constitution of CABHAIR is a simple but important one. Confidentiality is our keyword. Prisoners and their dependants may come to the Central Committee of CABHAIR in confidence. Local committees are welcomed under the Constitution and Rules and will be advised in every way as to what they can do towards funding. CABHAIR will be with us as long as there are Republican prisoners who refuse to compromise and there are those still in prisons. As long as England rules any part of Ireland there will be those who are willing to continue with the struggle and CABHAIR will also be there to assist.

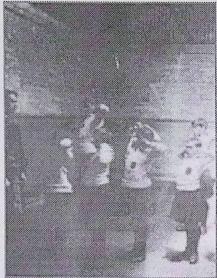
History of Na Fianna Eireann

In 1915 the Fianna re-organised the Sluaite into Brigade and Battalion formations to bring the organisation into line with that of the Volunteers. The change-over was ratified at the Ard-Fheis held in July of that year. This was followed by a meeting of the newly elected Ard Choiste (Executive council) which proceeded to appoint a Headquarters Staff, thus departing from the former practice of electing the Departmental Directors at the Ard-Fheis, Capt J A Dalton of Limerick presided over the first meeting of the Ard Choiste, held at 12 D'Olier Street on Sunday, July 24, 1915. The following Headquarters Staff of the Fianna was appointed: Chief of the Fianna, Pádraic O'Riain; Chief of Staff, Bulmer Hobson: Adjutant General, A P Reynolds; Director of Training, Seán Mac Aodha; Director of Organisation and Recruiting, Eamon Martin; Director of Equipment, Leo Henderson; Director of Finance. Barney Mellowes. Garry Holohan was appointed assistant to Leo Henderson. They held office until Easter 1916.



It was decided to co-opt a member of the Belfast District Council on to the Ard Choiste. By this time Con Colbert had gone to the Volunteers full time.

Seven years of intensive effort and dedicated service to the nation culminated in the glorious Rising of Easter Week, 1916, when Fianna officers were given command of important sections of the operations. A party of Fianna and Volunteers successfully attacked and



destroyed the arms and munitions in the Magazine Fort in the Phoenix Park, thus signalling the start of the Rising. This party then proceeded to the Broadstone Railway Station, where the O/C of the Dublin Fianna was severely wounded in the attack. This party also participated in the capture of the Linen Hall Barracks and the fierce fighting in North King Street.

Seán Heuston was in charge at the Mendicity Institution on Usher's Island, and with his small garrison, defended his position for three days. Liam Staines, a member of "F" Sluagh, was severely wounded during the fighting there. Con Colbert was second in command in Marrowbone Lane and assumed command at the surrender. Madame Markievicz with Michael Mallin, held the College of Surgeons with Citizen Army and some Fianna boys.

Members of Na Fianna were engaged in the fighting in other parts also, and. In addition, carried out the dangerous work of dispatch carrying and scouting. Six Fianna boys were killed, several were wounded and Seán Heuston and Con Colbert were executed on May 8, 1916.

Liam Mellows, the Fianna organ-

iser, led the Rising in the West. He was in command of the Western Division of the Volunteers and planned to drive the British out of the West by capturing all posts and barracks there and then marching on Galway City. They captured the barracks at Clarenbridge and marched to Oranmore. While demolishing a bridge there they were forced to retreat in the face of enemy forces. Liam mobilised all his forces at a disused castle and prepared to carry on the fight. Word reached them that large enemy reinforcements had arrived in Galway Bay. This was a severe blow to their morale and many contemplated returning home. The arrival of a priest, who finally persuaded them to return home on the plea that everyone had surrendered except the Galway men, clinched the matter.

Liam Mellows was deserted by all, except two loyal comrades, and was forced to flee to the mountains - a hunted outlaw. After four months on the run he was instructed to go to Ameriça to campaign for funds for the Movement. He worked ceaselessly for the cause there until his return to Ireland in 1920.

Part Four next Issue

I gCuimhne

Paul McWilliams (Jason) Whiterock area, Belfast. Murdered by British Army. August 9, 1977

Alfred Colley Dublin, August 16, 1922

Seán Cole Dublin, August 16, 1922

Gerard McCauley Belfast. Shot dead in Waterville St while on active service. August 15, 1969

Joseph McComiskey Ardoyne, Belfast. Shot by British Army. September 20, 1972

Helping the Brits

Geraldine Adams

Once he fought them tooth-and-nail, now he saves their skin. There have been many transformations in politics down through the years, but few have been as dramatic as that of Gerry Kelly. To see a once committed IRA volunteer clearing a path for the occupation forces and waving them through Ardoyne - an area which suffered appallingly at the hands of the British military for decades- is truly remarkable. It is visible proof for anyone naïve enough to still have faith in the Provos, that not only are they no longer republicans, they are active counter-revolutionaries. Gerry Kelly doesn't yet sit on the Policing Board but he might as well because he did a good enough job, without a salary, for the PSNI on Monday night.

We should be clear about events that evening. The PSNI and British Army were there to ensure a bunch of supremacist thugs passed through a nationalist district. Gerry Kelly helped them do their job.l'd understand if Kelly personally decided against resistance to the police and Brits. Maybe he thought that sort of thing was no longer for him. Maybe he feared the response from the crown forces. There would have been nothing shameful in Kelly not becoming involved in the rioting himself, in just walking away.

It would be a position with which many of us would instinctively disagree, yet it would be an honourable one. But Gerry Kelly did what he had no right to do. He attempted to stop other people, who do believe in resistance, from challenging the Brits and their PSNI henchmen. He attempted to pacify the crowd. We saw him clearing the way for the Brit Land Rovers and how they trusted him! Did you see how quickly they moved through when he gestured? Clearly, they didn't suspect for one minute that he would lure them into a trap. Gerry Kelly, the former Old Bailey bomber is now seen as friend, not foe.

Kelly was hissed and booed by the crowd but he should have been chased. He doesn't live in Ardoyne and he should have been treated with as much courtesy as any outsider coming in and attempting to tell the people what to do in their own streets. How different is Gerry Kelly to the old SDLP politicians who arrived from time to time in areas where they didn't live, and tried to lay down the law? The irony was that the SDLP representative, Martin Morgan, behaved far more honourably than Gerry Kelly on Monday evening. You'd have expected Morgan to have been clearing the way for the crown forces but, to be fair to him, he didn't. It was Kelly who saved their bacon.

Again, it would be understandable if Kelly was urging restraint in a situation where nationalists were massively out-numbered, where it was obvious they would be hammered. But Ardoyne was a scenario where, for once, nationalists were in a strong position. They had the upper hand. It was the Brits and the cops getting the hiding. Yet Gerry Kelly wanted it to stop.

The sight of nationalist youths armed with batons, riot shields, and hammers, getting laid into the crown forces, is soul-stirring stuff for many radicals and revolutionaries. It brings back memories of days when one could be proud of republican resistance.

'Dissident' republicans have been heartened by Ardoyne and the spirit of its people in taking on the state and ignoring the Provos. But the challenge is to build on events in Ardoyne. Those who remain true republicans haven't been able to do this significantly in the past. Exactly the same scenarios have prevailed on the Lower Ormeau and Garvaghy Roads and the Provos have always managed to put the lid back on.

They do what they always do - voice anger to the media against the crown forces (despite the fact they actually helped them); send in their 'A' team to reassure the locals their grievances are being addressed; and then let the whole thing fade away. Sure enough, on Tuesday, Big Gerry arrived in Ardoyne to support Wee Gerry by meeting the residents. It looked good, it sounded good, but it was all about dissipating grassroots anger, pacifying people, and securing the status quo. There was Gerry Kelly, man of the people, playing the victim. Normally, you couldn't get the suit off him with a crow-bar. But a suit doesn't do justice to an arm in a sling. So Kelly appeared jacketless and in a short-sleeved shirt, looking appropriately wounded for the cameras. Again, those who remain true republicans are unfortunately letting the Provos set the agenda. Why wasn't the anger in Ardoyne immediately channelled the next day into a white-line picket to show that residents were unrepentant and still raging against the State? There is a myriad of other activities anti-Agreement republicans could have organised to show the community there is an alternative to the Provos.

Gerry Adams, Gerry Kelly and their ilk can live with the odd bit of argy-bargy after a march. What the Provos fear is people, who have been far too loyal to them since 1994, realising that their attempts to pacify the situation wasn't a misjudgement or a bad call. It was a symbol of how they are now actively upholding partition and British rule in Ireland. They are not misguided, they are collaborators.

Hissing and booing Gerry Kelly for one night is pointless. What terrifies the Provos is the possibility of long-term anger, of people deciding they'll never vote Provisional Sinn Fein again; they'll never listen to anything big or wee Gerry say; they'll make up their own minds and do their own thing; they'll laugh at the idea that Provo leaders are working in the interests of the working-class nationalist communities from where they once came; they'll realise that no-one who remains republican would ever, ever dream of helping the Brits.

Fian John Dempsey

A tribute to a young Republican

July 18th, 1981 Turf Lodge is a socially deprived area, one of the newer Belfast ghettos, a gerry-built housing estate, with its notorious T-Block flats (now fortunately demolished), at the foot of the Black Mountain.

There is one main road - Monagh Road - into the area. At the upper end this is flanked by a huge new British Army fortress. Until recently the lower end was flanked by the equally repressive, though smaller, Fort Monagh.

Until the morning of last Wednesday week, Fian John Dempsey, aged sixteen, lived in one of the grey houses which sprawl either side of Monagh Road. His family, a week after his death, are now like so many other families, trying to pick up the pieces in the heart-rending vacuum which is always created by sudden death, espcially by the death of one so young and cheerful as John.

At the wake on Thursday week, he looks only twelve years old, his body laid in an open coffin flanked by a guard of honour from Na Fianna Eireann. Hardened by many funerals, by too many sudden deaths, yet one is rivetted to the spot unable to grasp the logic, the divine wisdom, the insanity, which tightened a British soldier's trigger finger and produced yet another corpse.

"He's so young", exclaimed those who call to pay their respects. "Jesus, he's only a child." All night, neigbours, friends and relatives call. All with the same reaction.

But young people call also, shifting uncomfortably in adult company, but strangely unshocked - not visibly at any rate - by what they see in the sad living room of the Dempsey home.

Just a tightening of young faces as they gaze silently at John's remains, a hardening of eyes, and then silently out again to stand in small groups at the street corner. None of the awkward handshakes and mumbled "I'm sorry for your troubles." They understand better than most the logic which directed the British army rifle at John, and, having understood, they pay their respects and move outside to wait.

John's mother, Theresa, sits, comforted by friends, while her husband

Jimmy stands, a gaunt figure at the head of his son's coffin, gently stroking John's head. Every mother and father in the room think the same thoughts, and some with anguish voice say it aloud: "They're killing the children... He was the same age as my Seamus... They never gave him a chance... No kick up in the appers of TV... If the 'RA killed a sixteen year old, you'd hear all about it"

And through it all Na Fianna Eirean changes its guard of honour, and more silent young boys and silent young girls take the place of those who flank John's coffin. Jimmy Dempsey shakes hands with Dal Delaney - both fathers of dead patriots (the latter of "Dee" Delaney killed in a premature IRA bomb explosion in Belfast, Jan 1980).

Many of Jimmy's prison comrades come to the house. He spent six years in Long Kesh as a political prisoner, and soon talk turns to the Kesh, but not like at an adult wake where 'crack' flows non-stop. At least, not in the living room, where the youthful figure in the coffin brings one back sharply from what has passed to what lies ahead, from what has been done, to that which remains still to be done. And Fian John Dempsey's friends sixteen years old and younger, talk quietly among themselves.



Fian John Dempsey

The next morning, the sow sad procession to the chapel on a bright warm summer morning; and, after Mass, the girl piper heralding our passing as we make out way, once again, to Milltown. John's three sisters - Angela, Diana, and Martina - with brother Stephen, aged from nine to eighteen years old, accompany their dead brother's remains while green-clad young boys in Fianna uniform flank his tri-colour draped coffin.

Down from the heights of Turf Lodge, past the spot where John was murdered, and by the British Army barracks, through the open gates of the cemetery, to the Republican plot, where two open graves - one for Joe McDonnell - await our arrival.

John left school at easter. He played hurling and football for Gort na Mona and soccer for Corpus Cristi, and like his father and his many uncles he was a keep fit enthusiast with an interest - body-building.

He joined Na Fianna Eireann in October 1980 and like many young people from Turf Lodge was subjected to regular harassment by British soldiers. Now these young people gather with veteran Republicans and family friends at John's open graves where a priest recites prayers and a recently release blanket man says the rosary in Irish.

Daithi O Buidh gives the oration in Irish and English, and wreaths are laid before we leave for Lenadoon and the funeral of Joe McDonnell.

John Dempsey's funeral, a smaller and in many ways a sadder ceremony than Joe's, is a stark reminder that for the first time in contemporary Irish history the struggle has crossed the generation gap.

When Joe McDonnell was first interned in 1972, John Dempsey was a mere seven years old. Yet they were to die and be buried in the same Republican plot, within hours of each other, in the service of a common cause and against the same enemy.

As Jimmy Dempsey said of his son, "John has joined the elite. He died for the freedom of his country." These words from a heart-broken father are tribute enough to his eldest son. The mourners, mere spectators to the family's grief, walk slowly from the Republica plot and notice almost unconciously, John's friends and contemporaries, earnest beyond their years, striding purposefully by us.

An old woman shuffling her way homewards informs all who pass of the murder by British troops that morning of another youngster, fifteen year old Daniel Barrett from Ardoyne. The older mourners, shocked by the news, talk quietly among themselves as they walk towards Lenadoon. The young people, unmoved by the news - not openly anyway for they have known, and have grown to expect, nothing less form the British troops - stride purposefully on...

Iraq and Vietnan

Personally, I don't see much useful analogy between Iraq and Vietnam. Vietnam was in a remote corner of the world that no one cared about very much, so the US could pound away at it, devastating four countries, with little international protest, and that little mostly about the bombing of the regions in the northern part of north Vietnam, where bombing might have costly repercussions. And even that protest, in the US too, was long delayed.

Iraq, in contrast, is at the heart of the world's major energy reserves, which is why the US invaded in the first place. So anything that happens is likely to have major effects.

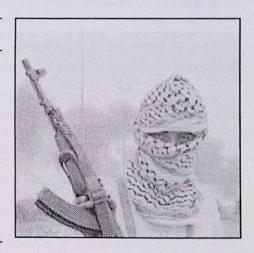
Some of these likely consequences are much too little discussed. That includes the reasons why the US simply cannot permit authentic sovereignty and democracy in Iraq. One

reason, which gets a little attention, is that an independent and democratic Iraq may well move towards accommodation with Iran. And it might stir up movements towards independence in Shi'te parts of Saudi Arabia nearby -- which happen to include most of the world's major oil reserves. That could possibly even lead to a Shi'ite bloc controlling most of the world's energy. The US would never tolerate that.

Even more serious, and scarcely discussed to my knowledge, is that a free and independent Iraq would presumably assume its natural role as the leading state in the Arab world: huge resources, educated popula tion, virtually approaching first world standards before the wars and sanctions. As such, it would naturally want to counter the regional superpower, by now almost an offshore military base and high-tech adjunct of the US. That means it would rearm, probably also develop WMD to counter Israel's huge WMD capac-

ities and military force, now being enhanced significantly by the Bush administration.

As long as the US and Israel refuse to recognize elementary rights of Palestinians, and persist in vicious repression, the Arab and Muslim worlds will be enflamed, and a free Iraq would become their natural leader. The US will do almost anything to prevent that.



The Wall and Israel's Aims



If the goal were security, Israel would have built the fence a few km inside its borders. It could then be a mile high, patrolled on both sides by the IDF, mined with nuclear weapons, utterly impenetrable. Perfect security.

The problem would be that it would not take valuable Palestinian land and resources (including control of water), drive out the population, and lay the basis for still further expansion as Palestinians flee from the dungeons that are left, like the town of Qalqilya. So to interpret as a land

grab seems appropriate.

Doubtless a side benefit is to increase a narrow form of "security," while probably in the long run seriously increasing insecurity not only because of the regional impact but because sooner or later it is likely to inspire terrorist acts against Israelis abroad in revenge. But terror and security are not driving concerns, any more than they have a high priority in the planning of "the bossman called 'partner'," as more astute Israeli commentators describe Washington.

Sharon's strategic thinking seems straightforward enough. There are excellent descriptions in recent books by Tanya Reinhart and Baruch Kimmerling. It is also not radically different from that of Rabin and Peres. The goal is to take over the valuable parts of the West Bank (Gaza is mostly a burden), and to leave the population that remains under local administration, to rot and decline.

The basic principle was explained to the Cabinet of the Labor Government 30 years ago by Moshe Dayan, perhaps the most sympathetic to the Palestinians among the Israeli leadership: we should tell the Palestinians in the territories that "You shall continue to live like dogs, and whoever wishes, may leave, and we shall see where this process will lead."

The occupation should be "permanent," he believed, in one or another form, and to the objection that Israel must consider its moral stand, he responded that "Ben-Gurion said that whoever approaches the Zionist problem from a moral aspect is not a Zionist."

There have been differences as to how these principles should apply, but a fair consensus among leading political echelons that if they can be applied, that's fine. Sharon's basic conceptions were outlined years ago, and he is pursuing them systematically, relying on the material and diplomatic support of the bossman.

Across the spectrum, the "ideal" solution might well be something like Ben-Gurion's expansive vision that goes far beyond anything currently considered even within the realm of dreams.

Report on Bobby Sands Function

This year on the anniversary of the tragic death of Vol Bobby Sands I spent the evening at a social night, in Dublin, held in memory of Bobby Sands. I have attended many of these nights throughout the years, but the feeling at this was somewhat different. I spoke to John Horan, who organised the function, and asked why did we hold the night on a Wednesday night when you would struggle to get a crowd? What was said to me was this was May 5th the anniversary - of his death - this date held significance, it wasn't about making the quick buck, it was about commemorating Bobby and remembering him in song, it wouldn't be the same on the weekend with his anniversary already gone. I found it refreshing that in an age where people are out to make money, and as much of it as possible with as little fuss as possible, here was someone in the Republican Movement making a truly principled decision that could possibly cost in short term.

The night itself, although not greatly attended, as was expected, did bring it home to people there that night just what Bobby Sands meant to some people, that little older than ourselves. We, the members of Fianna Éireann, had grown up only reading about Bobby Sands, and some of us would have read his stories, poems and songs. I knew from an early age that people held him in such high esteem that he had reached legendary status in Republican terms (although I know we don't like talking about Republicans as legends). It was hard to comprehend what made him different to others. I just didn't understand it. But, in time, you hear of his leadership skills and how he lead from the front, and how he showed unbelievable qualities that he comrades in prison seen in him. He had people skills. He was a man of the people, a man that you could trust and a man of his word. It was this that endeared him to his comrades, and what made them, in later years, talk of him in the way that made it so easy as to understand what made Bobby different. One incident that really stuck in my mind that brought it home to me sitting at home in my bedroom as a young teenager still ignorant to what was really going on at the time in the north of my country, was when I read when Father Faul was trying to persuade him not to go ahead with the hunger-strike and what he said next stuck me, and it didn't surprise me it was already a well know quote at the time!

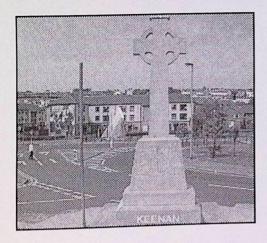
"Greater lover hath no man, than a man who lays down his life for his friends" - sums up how much his regarded the comradeship he had built up with his IRA comrades in Long Kesh. When you set out to undertake something like a hunger-strike, what is vital is that you know you have the backing of the men behind you and you have their full backing. This quote would indicate Bobby knew full well his comrades would not let him down - and they never did, even at the bitter end. They did it all together as they did everything, and they suffered together, and unfortunately, they died together and left a legacy behind they could only have dreamed of.

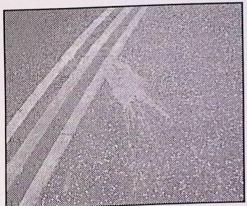
At the function, the organiser of the night, Sinn Féin Poblachtach PRO, John Horan, brought it home to the audience that night what it meant to the people outside of the prison, and how it touched them in their everyday lives. It was still a vivid memory, he said, and said that as long there was Republican POW's inside British and Free State prison walls there would be people there, as there was in 1981, to protest against it. It brought what I already knew back as clear as ever – although 1981 is long gone, nothing has changed; political status is still being denied to Republican prisoners; the demands are the same and the same dirty tactics to defeat the prisoners are still in use.

But the one thing that has also stayed the same is the resoluteness of the prisoners not to be beaten, and the fact the spirit of their supporters is as much alive today as it was in 1981, although, without doubt, we are smaller in numbers. But although smaller in numbers today, there is one thing that makes us continue to struggle on behalf of our political prisoners today. It is that thing that was immor-

talised in Bobby Sands legendary poem "The Rhythm of Time", it's the thought that says "I'm right!".

Sean Keenan memorial attacked





The Sean Keenan memorial in the Bogside area of Derry City was recently paint-bombed for the second time in as many months. Prior to this the monument had never been attacked. On both occasions it was cleaned up quickly by Republicans. No matter who was responsible for these attacks—whether Loyalists or otherwise—it is regrettable that these people cannot show more respect for the dead. It should be noted that the second incident also included other paint-bomb attacks on Free Derry Wall, two licensed premises and even the home of a local resident.

Despite dozens of cameras on a nearby British Crown Forces spy-post — erected to spy on the nationalist people of Derry — it is wholly unsurprising to true Republicans that the Occupation Forces have done nothing to prevent these attacks. On the other hand they stopped several people after the annual Sean Keenan Commemoration this year and questioned them about the event.

Sean Keenan spent a total of fifteen years interned without charge or trial – including periods in every decade from the 1930s to the 1970s. He rejected all attempts at constitutionalism whether they came in 1969/70 or in 1986. He cautioned people always to follow the Cause and not the man or woman, as people "will let you down, but the Cause will not". Hopefully everyone will respect the memory of Sean Keenan – a true Republican all his life. Sean Keenan suffered enough during his life with a son Colm predeceasing him when he was shot dead by Crown Forces whilst engaged in an IRA patrol. He shouldn't be made suffer again in death with these misguided attacks.

Fian arrested in Kerry

A member of Na Fianna Eireann was arrested after attending a successful commemoration in Listowel, Co Kerry recently. On the way to the train station the car in which the fian was travelling in was stopped by a number of plain clothes branchmen. Those in the car were taken out one by one and were searched and verbally abused. The fian in question was found to be in possesion of two mobile phones which he refused to turn on as he was not obliged to do so. He was arrested under section four of the larceny act and was taken to Listowel Garda station where he was questioned about the phones. The Fian refused to co-operate and was told that unless he could prove the ownership of the phones there and then he would not get them back. The Fian of course could not prove the ownership of the phones as he wasn't carrying any receipts of their purchase. As this was happening a large crowd of Na Fianna Eireann and RSF members gathered outside and began to call for his release. The Fian was released but not until it was too late for him to catch his train home.

The phones to this date have not been returned.

Fianna March around country

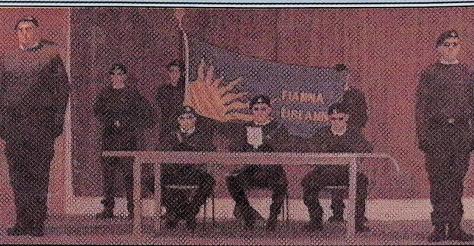
Na Fianna Eireann paraded to Old Balgriffin Cemetery on July 24 last to honour Volunteer Patrick Cannon from Raheny who gave his life on active service in the Six Counties in July 1976. Patrick Cannon was the only Dublin IRA Volunteer to die on active service in the Six Counties during the current phase of the struggle. Members from Dublin and the midlands marched the short distance from the gates to the grave where they heard a spirited oration from Frank Graham who is a member of the Patrick Cannon Cummann of Republican Sinn Fein.

Members of Na Fianna Eireann and RSF marched together in the driving rain on August 8th to the grave of Richard Goss in Dundalk. A crowd of 30 including members of Richard Goss's family attended. The main speaker was RSF's Sarah Murphy.

Fake 'Fianna'

IN A statement recently Na
Fianna Éireann said that it had come to their attention that a group purporting themselves to be Na Fianna Éireann had come into existence.
The statement went on: They are aligned to the 32-County

32-County
Sovereignty Movement. We would urge people to ignore this group as they are not Na Fianna Éireann. Na Fianna Éireann was set-up in 1909 by Countess Markievicz and Bulmer Hobson and has for nearly 80 years been alligned to Sinn Féin, which we still are today. We have always adhered fully to the Constitution (Bunreacht) of Na Fianna Éireann and will continue to do so. As the constitution states we accept "no institutions that make Ireland anything less than a nation from the centre to the



sea". We have suffered splits in 1969 and 1986 when this vital section of the constitution was not adhered to. We are proud that we have unrepentantly refused to accept any partitionist statelet going back as far back as 1922 when the organisation refused to accept any British imposed rule in Ireland in any form. This group does nothing but further confuse people in what is already confusing times. We urge our supporters to treat this group with the con- tempt it deserves. This group has even brought it on themselves to slightly change the name of

the organisation, which cannot be done unless you have an Ard Fheis which you can only hold when you have an Ard Coiste (ruling body) in place, which they don't! It nothing short of a joke, but it is a joke of an

organisation that we will treat very seri- ously and we will treat them as the subversives of Fianna Éire- ann that they are, and we will urge our supporters to do the same. It Na Fianna Éireann can be contacted at the following address:

info@fiannaeireann.com.

http://www.fiannaeireann.com.





Join Na Fianna Éireann

Provide colour parties at commemorations for Irelands fallen patriots.

Help raise funds for Irish Republican prisoners and their dependants.

Outdoor activity.

Support the wider Republican Movement and campaign for a United 32 county Socialist Irish Republic.

Learn your history, culture and the Irish language.

For further information or to join contact us at:

info@fiannaeireann.com

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