



NUAHT NAISIUNTA

NUAHTLITIR GACH COICIS

MARCH 4th, 1975.

The following statement has been issued by An Coiste Seasta, Sinn Fein:

The attempted assassination of Sean Garland, a member of An Ard Comhairle and the National Organiser of Sinn Fein, was discussed at an emergency meeting of An Coiste Seasta attended by all available members.

The attempted assassination climaxes a week of violence North and South of the border directed at leading members of the Republican Movement. The swelling wave of violence and Chicago type shootings coincide with the formation of what is called the Irish Republican and Socialist Party by Seamus Costello and Bernadette McAliskey and stems directly from that source.

In the past week the main events in the unfolding calendar of violence include the shooting dead of Sean Fox in Belfast, the attempted assassination by bombing of Cathal Goulding and Micheal O Riain, Ard Comhairle members, in Leeson St. Belfast, on Thursday evening last following their attendance at the funeral of Sean Fox and the determined assassination attempt on the life of Sean Garland as he went to his home in Ballymun accompanied by his wife. Some hours later in Belfast, Paddy McAllister, a member of the Patricia McKay

Republican Club was shot and critically injured by a masked member of the IRSP who walked into the Twinbrook Social Club while early morning cleaning of the Social Club premises there was taking place.

All of these incidents stem from the desperate efforts being made by the Costello/McAliskey group to achieve a breach of the overall ceasefire situation now prevailing in the North. In 1969 the Republican Movement opposed by every means in its power the launching of a military campaign in the North on the grounds that it would smash the unity of the mass movement sparked by the Civil Rights Movement for the creation of normal democratic conditions in that area. However, the break-away Provisional group went on to launch such a campaign.

Following the introduction of Internment in Aug. 1971 the IRA defended in arms the gains made by the mass movement which were threatened by the military oppression of the British Government. In May, 1972, following representations by the Executive of Republican Clubs the IRA declared a ceasefire, reserving only the freedom of action to defend and retaliate in relation to actions against the community by the British Government.

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At all times since 1969 the Republican Movement condemned the Provisional bombing campaign of non-military targets in an effort to secure a reduction in sectarian tension throughout the North: sectarianism is identified by the Republican Movement as the main enemy standing in the way of working class unity and normal democratic debate.

Four weeks ago the Provisionals finally declared a ceasefire and it appeared for the first time in years that progress might be possible on the political front in the North. That ceasefire was welcomed by the Republican Movement as a positive, hopeful step, which should lead to a reduction in sectarian tensions and slayings.

At precisely this time, however, Seamus Costello emerges on to the scene following his dismissal from the Republican Movement. As a member of the Sinn Fein Ard Comhairle, Costello has campaigned to achieve a policy which would swing the Republican Movement into support of the Provisional campaign in the North. Having been outvoted again and again over the past few years, Costello began to interfere with the decision making processes of the Movement and was first suspended and then dismissed for behaviour clearly at variance with the democratic rules of Sinn Fein.

In his attempt to make an issue of his dismissal he had the matter raised at the Ard Fheis, held in Jan. last. The Ard Fheis upheld his dismissal by a delegate vote of 197 to 15.

Having failed to subvert the Movement from within Mr. Costello then went ahead to form the IRSP using his many years familiarity with the Movement's structures to appeal to the existing membership and discontented or dismissed former members. In setting as his aim a thinly-disguised policy of support for the

Provisional campaign, he made common cause with Bernadette McAliskey, the former Mid-Ulster M.P. and Eamonn McCann, critics both of the Republican Movement and the Provisionals.

The most important policy statement to date of the new group was that it accepted the Provisionals as a genuine anti-imperialist force, deserving of support despite its mistakes. Two days later the Provisionals announced their ceasefire and left their most recent train bearers with no train to bear.

With the collapse of its efforts to bring up the rear for the Provisionals, because of the now over-all ceasefire position, the IRSP now hopes to woo discontented Provisionals in the same way as it did discontented Republicans. A former leading Provisional, James McCorry, has now joined them as Chairman of their Andersontown branch. Also, there is public evidence in the form of court charges, that their members have already engaged in a number of sectarian attacks and assassinations, aimed at keeping the pot boiling between both communities in the North. Their aim is revolution via sectarian confrontation; their method is, selective assassination of leading people and tit-for-tat assassination.

But their assassination efforts are not to be confined to innocent Protestant working people in the North. Two members of the Ard Comhairle were targets for a gelignite bomb thrown into the hallway of a crowded Belfast bar last week. On Saturday night, Sean Garland, a man with a record second to none in the services of the Irish working-class, was intended to lose his life in yet another attack.

All this time Seamus Costello and Bernadette McAliskey persist with the lying attitude that the IRSP has no military aspect and with the hypocritical plea

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for "peace" talks. Until they own up to the murder of Sean Fox - and the names of the IRSP personel who did this murder are well known to us - and to their other assassination attempts, it would be folly for us to engage in "talks".

Mr. Costello states that the attempt on Sean Garlands life was made by elements determined to destroy the Republican Movement. He ought to know as he rallied these elements under his now blood-stained flag. Whether he now controls or only half-controls these elements, he and Mrs. McAliskey in their "Bonny and Clyde" relationship, are responsible for their arming and their activities.

Sinn Fein and the Republican Clubs will continue to give full support to the overall ceasefire situation now prevailing in the North and every bit of political opposition at its comman to the IRSP in the death wish duet it is playing with extreme Loyalist murder gangs in the North.

No amount of provocation will budge us from carrying out our responsibilities to the Irish working class, North and South. In this respect, our determination to continue with our efforts to combat sectarianism and to add to our well-established record in the past will be the measure of our strength.

IMPROVING

The conditions of Sean Garland though still serious is slowly improving and he is expected to make a full recovery. He was hit six times, one of the bullets

broke his leg and another penetrated his stomach. This was the most serious wound and he was on the operating table from 2 a.m. to 8 a.m. when the doctor reported that the operation was completely successful.

LILLIES

Many area have still not yet returned their order forms for Easter Lillies and requests for speakers at Commemorations.

To make the work of the National Commemoration Committee easier and also to facilitate the local areas in getting their Lillies on time and, where possible, getting the speaker the preference we would ask that these forms be filled in immediately and returned to:

The Nat. Commemoration Committee,
30 Gardiner Place,
DUBLIN 1.

REGISTRATION

Registration forms are now available from this office. It is essential that every member fill in such a form and return it to this office. Cumann and Club secretaries have the responsibility of ensuring that every member is registered.

Up to now the habit has been to wait until just before the Ard Fheis to register. The Constitution now obliges members to register withing six months of the last Ard Fheis. This means that there is a stedy income throughout the year to the Head Office and not just at one stage while the rest of the time we are in the red. Every Cumann and Club should be in a good position to clear all obligations to H.Q. after Easter.

MINES

In a statement issued on Feb. 17th, Eamonn Smullen, Sinn Fein Director of Economic and Industrial research, commenting on the recent deal between Justin Keating and Tara said:

Tara is happy with the terms of the new lease allowing them to exploit the ore body at Navan. Bula are happy with the terms of the Navan lease which will allow them to exploit the ore body at Navan.

UNEMPLOYED:

We have over 100,000 people unemployed in Ireland at present, so every ton of ore shipped out of the country means so many jobs lost here in Ireland. This Government is following the policy of Fianna Fail in that they export our resources in order to give employment in other lands. They are exporting our resources because such an arrangement will allow the companies who exploit our mines to make use of business dealings in more than one country to make a great saving in taxation. All companies that operate in more than one country know that there is a general practice of tax avoidance: no one knows that better than Mr. Keating.

A national smelter will be built, Mr. Keating claims. A national smelter will be built in five years time, the estimated time it takes to build such an enterprise. A smelter will reduce ore to basic metals. If a smelter were to be built before one ounce of ore were to be mined, many opportunities for jobs would still be lost if the metal were exported as metal and not as goods.

Some of the uses of zinc include galvanising, which is used in buildings, under the bodies of cars, and galvanised coatings for wire, steelwork, crash barriers and bridges. Zinc is also used in die casting, a process used in the manufacture of cars, domestic appliances, toys, engineering components, radio and T.V. parts, door handles, name plates, radio grills, carburettors and petrol pumps. Over 500 million castings were made in Britain last year. Rolled zinc is used in the making of dry cell batteries, and Zinc Oxide is used for paint pigment and rubber making for tyres.

The mine at Navan is controlled by Tara Exploration and Development Company, that is Noranda Mines Cominco Ltd and Anglo United. All four companies are registered and controlled from Toronto Canada. In no way can Tara be classed as an Irish company. Work at the Navan mine has been given to the following companies: Redpart Mining Enterprises (plant installation), Kilburn Engineering Co. (Permanent surfacing Building) Wright Engineers (design), Down and Lyall Ames (Metallurgical Consultants), and Dr. B.S.W. Buffam (Consultant Geologists). All of these are foreign firms, yet the state could easily find the skill to do all the work on the mine here in Ireland.

SINN FEIN DEMAND

Sinn Fein calls on the State to set up a state mining company to extract the Navan ore and to process it here in Ireland to the final good. Any other plan for Navan is a robbery of the Irish people.
