



The Burning Bush—Online article archive

Republicans Wage Propaganda War On RUC



RUC lines in Garvaghey Road, Portadown

Sinn Fein is seen as being behind a campaign of rioting in order to discredit the RUC. It is part of its plan to press the Commission on policing in Northern Ireland to disband the RUC. Police patrols are being lured into republican areas and there ambushed by stone-throwers, many of whom were children, in order to provoke a heavy-handed response and so provide the world's press with pictures like those in Portadown, when the police were attacked by republicans in the Garvaghey Road area, in a well orchestrated and carefully planned onslaught. The excuse they used was a parade of some two dozen 12-year-old members of a junior lodge passing by the loyalist end of Garvaghey Road. The parade had been sanctioned by the Parades Commission. The world was provided with extensive coverage of vicious rioting, all of which was the "fault" of the police, according to republicans.

The next day, Lord's Day 31st May, republican gangs attacked Protestants in the same area. The homes of elderly people in Whitten Close and Woodside Hill had their windows smashed and petrol bombs thrown at them. The police remained at a distance in order to avoid a full-scale riot.

In nearby Lurgan, a device was left at the local golf club and when the police and army arrived to investigate, they were petrol-bombed. Similar scenarios have been set up in Londonderry. There Sinn Fein has recruited primary school children in attacks upon the police. Greenshaw Primary School has been strongly criticised by Sinn Fein for allowing policemen in to speak to children about road safety. Principal Harvinder Torney has been forced to issue a statement saying that all contacts with the police have been broken. Sinn Fein has urged parents to teach their children not to talk with policemen.

Recently, the police were forced to don riot gear in order to carry out a drugs raid in the republican Galliagh housing estate in Londonderry, because of the constant stoning attacks upon them by youngsters. Sinn Fein arranged for photos to be taken and circulated. Sinn Fein councillor, Gerry O hEara was ready with his press statement in which he called the incident "another blatant example of the provocative behaviour the RUC has been engaging in in the Galliagh area for some time."

Sinn Fein is most anxious that in the wake of the ceasefire, the RUC do not become acceptable in republican areas. Undoubtedly, with police cars replacing armoured vehicles and the disappearance of flak-jackets, the police were being received more favourably in most areas. This trend has alarmed Sinn Fein.