PRONI RECORDS ON CAIN (CONFLICT ARCHIVE ON THE INTERNET)

NORTHERN IRELAND 1960s–1990s

A digitisation and access project from the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland and Ulster University

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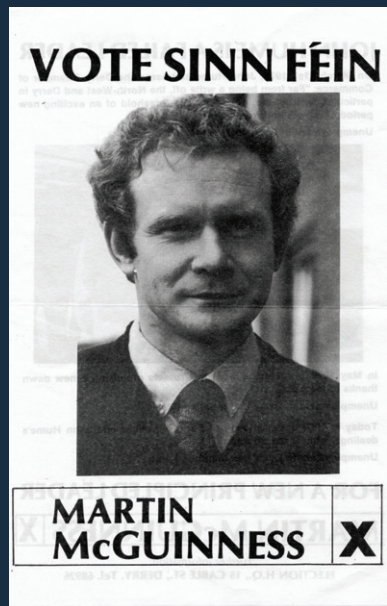www.communities-ni.gov.uk

Ulster University

PRONI RECORDS ON CAIN

Since 2009 the Public Record Office and CAIN (Conflict Archive on the Internet), based at Ulster University, have been collaborating to identify, digitise and make available a selection of documents from the official files held in the archives relating to the conflict and politics in Northern Ireland.

A new section entitled PRONI Records on CAIN was established to make these documents available: **cain.ulster.ac.uk/proni**

Since the section was first launched in October 2010 there have been regular additions to the site each year. As PRONI releases documents into the public realm, a selection are made available soon after on the CAIN site.

Documents are selected which match the CAIN remit of providing information related to the conflict and politics in Northern Ireland. The documents give an insight into government policy during the Troubles.

THE PUBLIC RECORDS

To date several thousand documents relating to the conflict and politics in the region, have been digitised and made available through the CAIN website. These are documents dating from 1964 onwards that come from the UK, Ireland and further afield and they highlight the issues that affected Northern Ireland during this period.

The documents reveal a variety of perspectives including community groups, political parties, local and national governments.

The documents can be searched by year, author or title. There is also a facility to carry out a key word or phrase search from a set of headings that include topics such as: the 1985 Anglo-Irish Agreement and its aftermath; Security matters; the Civil Rights Campaign; Ulster Workers' Council Strike of 1974; Education; Elections; Irish Language; Political Developments; Victims; and the Republican hunger strikes of the early 1980s.

FUTURE WORK

Both PRONI and CAIN plan to continue with their joint work on digitising a selection of records. The users of the CAIN site benefit from ease of access to the on-line documents. It is also anticipated that some people who first view the items on-line will then visit PRONI to find the full batch of records related to the topic of interest.

In the past PRONI operated under a 30-year release scheme. Following a change in legislation, the aim is to work towards a 20-year rule by 2023. So, in the next few years one highlight will be that public records related to the negotiations surrounding the Belfast / Good Friday Agreement will be released.

PRONI

Since 1924 the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI) has been collecting material relating to Northern Ireland. Over the years, PRONI has become the repository for a vast amount of material relating to the conflict.

PRONI's Vision is focussed on 'Protecting and Providing Archives for All'. This Vision is supported by a Mission Statement which is 'To identify, preserve and promote public access to Northern Ireland's archival heritage'.

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CAIN

The CAIN (Conflict Archive on the Internet) Website contains an extensive range of information and source material on the conflict and politics from 1968 to the present day. The site was launched in 1997 and is used by a worldwide audience.

CAIN is based within the School of Applied Social & Policy Sciences at Ulster University. CAIN is part of ARK and works closely with INCORE.

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