

Northern Ireland worst hit by health service disruption

UP TO 1,500 hospitals in Britain and Northern Ireland are now being hit by industrial action according to a major health union.

An official of the Confederation of Health Service Employees said yesterday that action was strongest in Northern Ireland, where all major hospitals were down to accident and emergency cover.

Large-scale disruption was also reported in Wales, Merseyside, Yorkshire and throughout Northern England as health workers continued their fight for a 12% pay rise.

In addition, ambulance crews in Teesside and Derbyshire are on strike. In Teesside police vans have been fitted with beds to turn them into makeshift ambulances.

Hundreds of health workers at the London

Hospital, Whitechapel, were accused of breaking the TUC code of conduct by withdrawing all ancillary staff cover in a strike over the sacking of a shop steward.

And at a Glasgow psychiatric hospital, more than 200 cooks, porters and domestic staff went on indefinite strike.

Angry health workers at Doncaster Royal Infirmary, in South Yorkshire, gave Health Minister Mr. Kenneth Clarke a noisy reception yesterday on the latest stage of his fact-finding mission on the dispute. About 300 took part in one of the biggest demonstrations Mr. Clarke has seen so far. There were no ugly incidents. A similar protest is planned for when he visits Newcastle today.

In Derbyshire, where the strike is over bonus pay, some men barricaded themselves into an

ambulance station near Derby as a short protest on the fourth day of the countrywide strike. Police, voluntary groups and two ambulance stations are providing emergency cover.

In the Whitechapel dispute, hospital secretary Mr. Ron Kerr accused striking ancillary workers of breaking the TUC code of conduct.

He said pickets were trying to prevent essential supplies getting through, and the action had reduced the hospital's cover to emergencies only for new admissions.

"We have had to rely on staff volunteering to cover the ancillary duties," said Mr. Kerr. "We are pretty confident we can keep up a

Meanwhile, Britain's former top medical adviser yesterday virtually accused the government of shortening hospital patients' lives by its handling of the NHS dispute.

Sir George Godber, chief medical officer at

the Department of Health from 1960 to 1973, said: "This hideous confrontation between NHS staff, who have certainly been badly treated, and a government that seems to put obduracy before any attempt to reach an amicable settlement, must be prolonging pain for many patients and shortening life for some."

Sir George, 74, who was also chairman of the Health Education Council, was supporting last week's leading article in the prestigious medical journal, *The Lancet*, which called on Social Services Secretary Mr. Norman Fowler to resign.

AN ARMED gang of masked raiders burst through a health workers' picket line and snatched £18,000 from a London hospital yesterday. The four-man gang struck at Dulwich Hospital, where a woman clerk, victim of a previous snatch, was sorting wage packets.

News in brief

Plan to change licensing laws

Publicans in East Down are to meet at the end of the month to discuss British Government proposals to change hte licensing laws in the North.

Organisers say they are anxious to get the opinions of all who run public houses in the area before coming to any conclusions on the proposed licensing reforms which include limited Sunday opening where meals are available.

10 jobs lost in Arklow

ANOTHER 10 workers in Arklow are to lose their jobs with the closure of the Clondalkin Concrete plant at the Roadstone complex.

Clondalkin Concrete plant, suppliers of blocks to the local market for the last 10 years, are suffering the effects of the recession in the building industry.

In the past, the Clondalkin Concrete plant in Arklow operated a combination of temporary closure and short-time working to cut down mounting stocks.

Motorcyclist fined, banned

Stephen O'Connor (18), The Cross Roads, Cappagh, Finglas, was fined £40 for dangerous driving of a motor cycle and £50 for driving without insurance and disqualified from driving for three years in the Dublin District Court.

Garda Michael Hynes, said that O'Connor at about 1 a.m. on July 17 drove at 50 mph on Cappagh Road, a built up area with a speed limit of 30 mph. He was not covered by insurance on that date.

Insulation 'not cancer forming'

THERE is no evidence to show that people exposed to formaldehyde vapour had suffered cancer or damage to their lungs, the Irish Cavity Wall Insulation Association declared in a statement last night.

The association, which is attached to the Confederation of Irish Industry, said that formaldehyde foam had been installed in hundreds of thousands of houses without any subsequent complaints.

Pottery back to full production

Arklow Pottery, one of the town's oldest established industries, this week returned to full week working after being on a three-day working week since late February.

The three-day working week was introduced to cut back on production because of lack of orders, particularly orders from the U.S., their biggest market.

Blast outside furniture shop

A bomb exploded outside a furniture shop in Lurgan, County Armagh, early yesterday. Police said the device had been hooked onto the security grille at the front of the shop.

The explosion caused minor damage to the premises, and smoke damage to the stock of furniture.

To visit port

At a meeting of Rosslare Harbour Development Board yesterday, the Chairman, Mr. Liam Griffin, announced that Mr. Terry Leyden, Minister of State for Transport, would visit Rosslare Port on September 1, to inspect operations and shipping and to discuss with members of the Board their plan already submitted to the Government for establishing a development agency at Rosslare on the lines of Shannon Development Co.

£1,200 grabbed

Gardai were searching last night for two gunmen who grabbed £1,200 in a hold-up at the post office at Lower Dorset St., Dublin.

One of the men went behind the counter and took the money while his accomplice held the staff at gunpoint. The raiders escaped on foot, and nobody was hurt in the robbery.

Islands cut off

Heavy seas isolated islands off the Donegal coast yesterday and boating traffic with Tory Island, 11 miles out, has been suspended. The storms caused the postponement of the Tory Island festival which was to have been opened by MEP Sean Flanagan.

Fishing operations along the north west coast were also halted.

Killed in France

A 24-year-old man whose parents came from Annagry, West Donegal, was killed when he was struck by a car in France where he was holidaying. He was Neil O'Donnell whose family now live at Queens Park, Glasgow.

French police are searching for the hit and run car driver involved.

MacArthur hit as an angry crowd surrounds court

MALCOLM MacARTHUR, whose double murder charge has generated nationwide controversy, was jostled by an angry crowd and hit over the head with a ladies handbag outside a Dublin court yesterday.

Gardai had to make considerable efforts to keep the bystanders at bay as MacArthur — arrested on Friday in the apartment of the Attorney General — was led from the court building with his jacket covering his head. He was remanded in custody for a further three weeks, but showed little sign of nervousness during the five minutes hearing.

Missing wife: husband to be questioned

DETECTIVES searching for "missing 20-year-old housewife" Mrs. Fiona Brown are expected to interview her husband in Crumlin Road Prison later today following the publication of a letter in which he allegedly suggested that he was not concerned about her safety.

Mrs. Brown, who is expecting her first child, vanished from her Twinbrook home in West Belfast on July 13, four days after husband Robert (25) had been detained on alleged terrorist charges.

Earlier this week, five men walked free from Belfast court house after he became the eighth person to withdraw claims said to have been made under pressure from the RUC.

Last night police were still treating the young housewife as "a missing person" and a spokesman said they were "anxious to speak to anyone with knowledge of her whereabouts."

"SMUGGLED" LETTER

Earlier in the day, the Republican newspaper "An Phoblacht" published a letter purporting to have been smuggled out of jail by her husband, who is on remand and said to be in solitary confinement.

In the alleged letter, Mr. Brown was quoted as saying about this wife: "I am sure she is being looked after all right — better than what I was in Castlereagh — I am being held hostage in the basement wing of Crumlin Road prison by the British Government now from the 16th of July in the hope that I take their rotten deal."

In the letter Mr. Brown claims that "the RUC and all their figure heads are only using and abusing my wife's name against the IRA for their propaganda aims."

The newspaper in an adjoining article claimed Mrs. Brown, whose baby is due in four weeks "escaped" shortly before police arrived at her home.

However, police sources remain confirmed in their belief that the young woman — who is from a Protestant background — is being used as "a pawn" by the Provos and want to know why she would have left a large sum in cash and blood pressure tablets behind her, if she left her flat voluntarily.

The only evidence of his unease was the way he fingered a small card while he stood before Justice Mary Koursonouris.

MacArthur, who is charged with the murder of Nurse Bridie Gargan and County Offaly farmer, Donal Dunne, and aggravated burglary at Killiney, was dressed in a beige corduroy jacket with a pocket kerchief, a grey bow tie, a white shirt and grey trousers.

He was further charged today with possession of a shotgun at Dalkey last Friday.

Inspector Noel Conroy told the court that when the additional charge was put to him this morning MacArthur replied: "I won't say anything."

The accused man arrived at the Bredwell Garda Station beside the courthouse at about 10.20 a.m.

He stepped out of a patrol car escorted by three detectives and avoided the large crowd which gathered outside the entrance of the courthouse.

From the Garda Station he was taken through an underground tunnel directly into the dock at Court No. 6.

MacArthur, who is receiving free legal aid, was represented by Mr. John J. Jay, Mr. Rodger Sweetman, who was originally appointed to the case, is on holidays.

State Solicitor, Mr. Kevin Matthews applied for a remand in custody for three weeks and also asked that the time for serving the book of evidence be extended to that date.

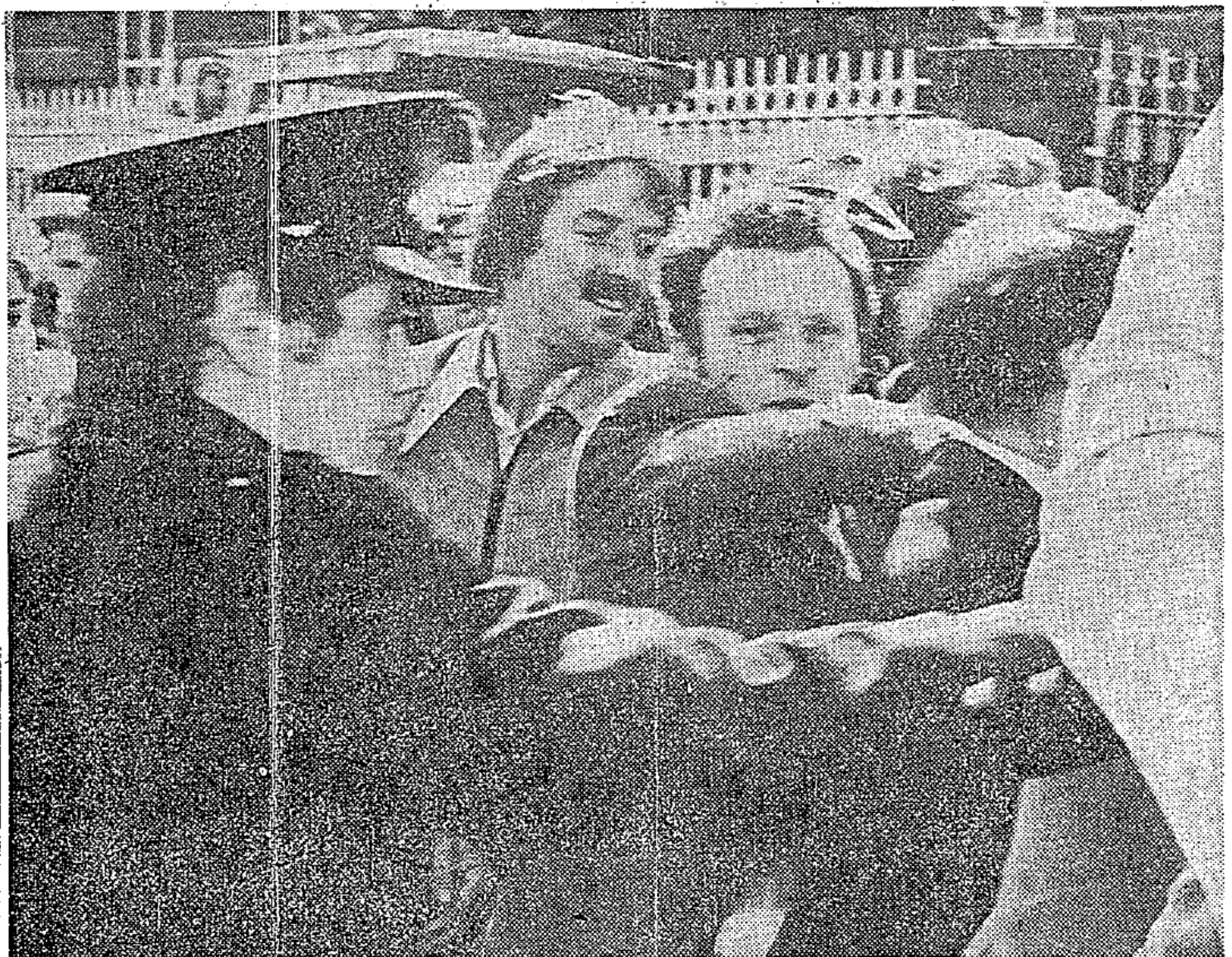
Defence solicitor, Mr. Jay made no objection to the application for the extension.

MacArthur is due to appear at the same court on September 9. After the hearing he left the dock accompanied by Inspector Noel Conroy and was escorted back through the tunnel to the Bredwell Garda Station.

The courthouse was crowded for the hearing, but there were no incidents.



Curious to know what Malcolm MacArthur looks like, a man bends down to try and look under the coat hiding the accused's face as he was taken from the Dublin District Court yesterday.



Crowds milling around the Garda squad car into which MacArthur was bundled outside the Dublin District Court.

Innovation delay cause of failure

SMALL Irish firms are falling down when it comes to applying new knowledge to their manufacturing processes, a special report says.

This failure to innovate seriously hampers their ability to expand and create new jobs, the study of 120 firms, over three years, concludes.

The report, by the National Board for Science and Technology, rated 48 per cent of the firms in the study as either low or very low for innovation.

And only 28 per cent of them — mainly owner-managed, export oriented engineering firms were said to be highly innovative.

The NBST says that the more these firms spent each year on research and development, the higher their level of innovation.

Small firms were the subject of the study because one in three of all new jobs approved by the JDA in 1980 was in the small industry sector.

Temporary work: draft EEC rules

THE EEC COMMISSION is about to embark on a new draft directive about temporary work.

The British Institute of Directors feels that with the new move, coming hard on the heels of the draft directive on part-time working, the EEC has now produced plans to make the employment of temporary workers, as well as part-timers, so hide-bound by restrictions that such work could virtually disappear.

It is even admitted in the explanatory memorandum to the proposals that "this proposal is therefore designed to ensure that permanent employment remains the rule." It adds.

The directive would also hit companies which see flexibility as a key to restoring their competitiveness; would interfere with voluntary collective bargaining; and would penalise the temporary employment business which facilitates the working of the labour market.

Flood hampers 'phone repairs

Posts and Telegraphs engineers have encountered further problems while restoring the telephone service to more than 1,000 subscribers in the Belgard - Clondalkin area. They had been without a service since Friday because of a cable fault.

A spokesman said last night: "Work was nearing completion when we were seriously hampered after the cable chamber was flooded after a water main in the area fractured. Work will continue on a round-the-clock basis but it is unlikely that the job will not be completed until Monday."

Accused composed and outwardly calm

THE MAN standing in the centre of Court No. 6 looked almost disinterested.

He stood alone, composed, certainly outwardly calm, gazing occasionally around the packed room.

His vacant, wandering stare was in sharp contrast to the inquisitive eyes searching out every detail of the man accused of a double murder whose arrest led to the resignation of the Attorney General.

The only evidence of any unease was his intermittent fidgeting of a small "calling" card.

Malcolm MacArthur, a man with donnish good looks, was dressed in tailored, though casual, clothes for his court appearance.

His beige corduroy jacket had the finishing touch of a coordinating kerchief in the breast pocket. He also wore a white shirt and grey slacks.

For half an hour before the court sat crowds gathered outside the Bredwell.

Newspaper photographers and camera men lined up outside the entrance to the courthouse peering through every passing car.

But, unnoticed to almost everyone a car pulled up outside the entrance of the adjoining Garda station just a few yards away and the accused man slipped quietly up the entrance steps, flanked by three detectives.

About fifteen minutes later — at 10.35 a.m. — MacArthur



Malcolm MacArthur's solicitor, Mr. John Jay, leaving the Dublin District Court yesterday.

was quickly ushered back through the same tunnel.

Reporters scrambling for phones jammed at the courtroom door with the crowd rushing to catch a glimpse of the accused man before he travelled back to jail.

Outside it was a long wait. Detectives inside the Garda station watched the crowds gathering at both exits.

After more than half an hour they opted for the front door, deciding that the 100-strong crowd gathered there was less formidable than the group at the rear exit.

The sight of the accused man at the top of the station's entrance steps prompted instant heckling from the crowd.

Jeering, the self-appointed jurors pushed their way through the Garda human barrier trying to pull off the jacket covering the head of the accused man to deliver face to face abuse.

He was punched with fists and hit on the head with a handbag before the Garda managed to push him into a waiting patrol car.

Meanwhile, back inside the Court No. 6, Justice Koursonouris — who earlier concealed her irritation at the unrest in the courtroom at the close of the MacArthur hearing — called the next case.

Government campaign to help Irish language

By MAIRIN SAC CORMAIC

THE GOVERNMENT is about to start yet another campaign to save the Irish language.

The four-year plan will be drafted as "a matter of urgency" by Bord na Gaeilge, the statutory body set up in the mid-seventies to promote the language.

Gaeltacht Minister, Padraig Flynn, a former national teacher, is known to be concerned about the decline of Irish over the years in spite of all previous efforts not alone to stop the decline but to spread its use.

A native of Mayo, Mr. Flynn has seen for himself a dwindling population of native Irish speakers and the failure of the national school system to teach a competent knowledge of Irish to generations of children.

A statement issued by the Government Information Services last night said the Government, "re-affirming their recognition of the importance of the Irish language as an integral part of our cultural heritage," had instructed Mr. Flynn to arrange for the speedy preparation of the four-year action plan.

The statement said that the Government had been encouraged by the widespread good will towards the Irish language.

"They accept, however, that the favourable public sentiment needs to be transformed into a willingness to make a sustained personal effort to use the language," the statement added.

"Their aim, therefore is systematic and co-ordinated progress through a practical plan of action based on voluntary co-operation."

Plan link with French town

There are plans to set up a link between Downpatrick and the small industrial town of Bazons, outside Paris. AS A FIRST STEP TOWARDS TWINNING THE TOWNS Down District Council is to askie heads of Bazons to visit Downpatrick and if that is successful Down Councillors will then go to the French town.

Councillor E. McGrady said he would like the emphasis put on an industrial link and as a move towards creating jobs in the Down District he has asked Council officials to find out something about Bazons' industrial background.