

SC not expected to accept tribunal position

MR KEVIN Haugh SC, who has been nominated by the UN Security Council as one of a number of candidates for an international tribunal on Rwanda to prosecute those responsible for killing more than 500,000 people in Rwanda, is believed not to want the position.

Mr Haugh became a senior counsel in 1983 and among other high-profile cases, represented the accused man in the X case, prosecuted Dessie O'Hare for the kidnapping of dentist Mr John O'Grady and prosecuted an Army private for the murder of Ms Patricia O'Toole in the Dublin Mountains.

AFP reported yesterday that the UN security council unanimously approved a list of 12 candidates to sit as judges on the tribunal, authorised in November 1994 to prosecute persons responsible for genocide and other serious human rights violations.

The list declared in Resolution 989 was sent to the UN General Assembly, which would select six of the candidates within the next two weeks, western diplomats said.

These six were to become the first judges on the international tribunal on Rwanda, to be held in Arusha, Tanzania.

The tribunal will consider crimes committed in Rwanda and by Rwandans in neighbouring countries during 1994.

The international tribunal was established after widespread massacres a year ago that left more than 500,000 people dead.

Incidents this year, such as the slaughter last week in refugee camps in Kibeho in south western Rwanda, do not fall under its jurisdiction.

The Security Council received the names of 20 people to serve as judges. They reduced the list to 12 candidates: Kevin Haugh (Ireland); Lennart Aspegren (Sweden); Leity Kama (Senegal); T.H. Khan (Bangladesh); Wamalungwe Mainga (Zambia); Yakov Ostrovsky (Russia); Navanethem Pillay (South Africa); Edilbert Razafindralambo (Madagascar); William Sekule (Tanzania); Anne Marie Stoltz (Norway); Jiri Toman (Czech-Swiss dual national); and Lloyd Williams (Jamaican-St Kitts/Nevis dual national). —(AFP)

Strike notice served at two Cork hospitals

Health board appeals to union to reconsider

OVER 130 nurses and 60 non-nursing staff at two Cork psychiatric hospitals have served strike notice on the Southern Health Board in two separate disputes.

Last night nurses in St Stephen's Hospital, Sarsfield Court, voted for industrial action that is expected to begin next Wednesday, while cooks and attendants in Our Lady's psychiatric hospital begin their action tomorrow.

Attempts by board management to resolve the disputes have failed and yesterday evening they issued a statement appealing to SIPTU, the union involved in both actions, to reconsider its position.

The SIPTU representative in St Stephen's hospital, Mr George Cummins, said they have been short-staffed for the past 18 months, with levels down by as much as 25 per cent some nights.

The position had deteriorated since young female nurses had been transferred to the main hospital some years ago and because maternity leave was higher than average.

"We have pointed out this on several occasions and, together with the lack of cover for sick leave and the fact that they have not had a panel of nurses to fill in for day-to-day shortages, it has resulted in severe problems," he said.

From a total of 179, of which 20 were temporary, for about 300 patients, they have 10 permanent vacancies that need to be filled. He said they would be willing to settle for four permanent staff at present.

"The board's proposals do not come near meeting this need so we have no option but to serve strike action that will take effect from next Wednesday," he said.

They would not have an all-out strike but would operate on an emergency basis and had yet to discuss if they would ask the 50 nurses belonging to other unions to join them.

A statement from the board said there were some problems in January and February when they were unable to obtain a sufficient number of temporary staff to cover for an unusually high level of staff out sick and on maternity leave, but this was now resolved.

"We feel the problem has now been overcome with full staffing in the hospital at the moment and arrangements made by the board to have available a panel of further additional temporary staff if required."

A dispute over the redeployment of staff at Our Lady's hospital on the Lee Road, where patient numbers have been reduced over the past few years, has led to non-nursing SIPTU members taking industrial action from tomorrow.

Of the six cooks at the hospital, two were suspended after they refused to transfer to Cork University Hospital. Mr Martin Doherty of SIPTU said they have appealed to the board to reinstate the cooks.

"It is inevitable that Our Lady's will be closed completely but the board has refused to say what will happen to the people working there," he said.

The board statement said it had accepted the Labour Court recommendation but SIPTU had not. "The management of the board is very disappointed at the non-acceptance by SIPTU of a Labour Court recommendation, particularly as SIPTU readily acknowledge that the board now has cooks surplus to its requirements at Our Lady's Hospital," the statement said.



Ms Mary Laffoy SC, Donabate, Co Dublin, with her mother, Mrs Kathleen Laffoy, after being sworn in as a judge of the High Court by the Chief Justice in the Supreme Court in Dublin yesterday. Photograph: Joe St Leger

Legal limbo blocks move to revive plans for Burren visitors' centre

By Michael Finlan

SUGGESTIONS that Fianna Fail county councillors in Clare might move to have a visitors' centre built at the Mullaghmore site in the Burren in defiance of Government policy have come to nothing because, among other things, the site is in a legal limbo.

A High Court injunction, is still in force forbidding any further construction on the Mullaghmore site on the grounds that development already carried out there was illegal. This means an order lifting the injunction would have to be secured from the High

Court before any further building could be undertaken at Mullaghmore. Even if the injunction was lifted, Government approval would be required for any development as the site is owned by the Office of Public Works.

A motion calling for development of a centre at Mullaghmore had been expected from Fianna Fail members of Clare County Council at a special meeting in Ennis on Monday but did not materialise. Instead, on the proposal of Clare Fianna Fail TD Mr Tony Killeen, the council approved motions that work on improving the road into the Mullaghmore

site should be completed and that the road should be properly signposted.

The Clare county manager, Mr William Moloney, expressed doubts that even the roadwork could be carried out as it was part of the overall development for which planning permission had been sought.

Mr Michael Lafferty, a Labour member of the Clare council, told *The Irish Times* yesterday that the meeting had been "a damp squib" and claimed that any talk about going ahead with the construction of an interpretative centre at Mullaghmore amounted to "false

and misleading propaganda".

Mr Lafferty challenged a claim by a Fine Gael councillor, Mr Frank Henchy, that 90 per cent of the people of north Clare disagreed with the decision by the Minister for the Arts, Culture and the Gaeltacht, Mr Higgins, to abandon the Mullaghmore site.

"I have no doubt that if a plebiscite were taken, it would show that as much as 75 per cent of the Clare people welcome the move to abandon the site," Mr Lafferty said. "A majority of Clare people have been opposed to the Mullaghmore site from the beginning and that majority has grown."

"The proposal by Mr Higgins to draft a management plan for a national park in the Burren will benefit the entire area and particularly the village of Killeenora, which has its own Burren centre which would have died if Mullaghmore went ahead."

Ms Kay Vaughan of Killeenora Falite, which promotes tourism in the village, said: "The Minister's decision means that we can now go ahead with plans to upgrade the Killeenora centre. There has always been a united front on this issue in Killeenora — we always wanted to hold on to what we had."

Local group angry as demolition of mansion goes ahead

By Alison O'Connor

THE controversial demolition of Roebuck Park House, a Victorian mansion in Clonsilla, Dublin, is taking place following the issuing of a dangerous buildings notice, despite protests from local residents.

The local residents' group yesterday told *The Irish Times* that it was outraged at the demolition and had contacted the Minister

for the Environment, Mr Howlin, seeking an explanation.

Dr Brendan O'Reilly, chairman of the Roebuck Park Residents' Association, which claims to represent the views of over 350 householders in the area immediately surrounding Roebuck Park House, said they had "lost confidence in a planning authority which doesn't appear to have teeth."

"It is very difficult for them to retain their credibility when you see something like this happening. After our experience here, we would like to see a system of recourse where people witnessing something like this could make immediate contact with the relevant authorities."

Local residents said the demolition began on Monday and over half the house had been demolished by yesterday evening.

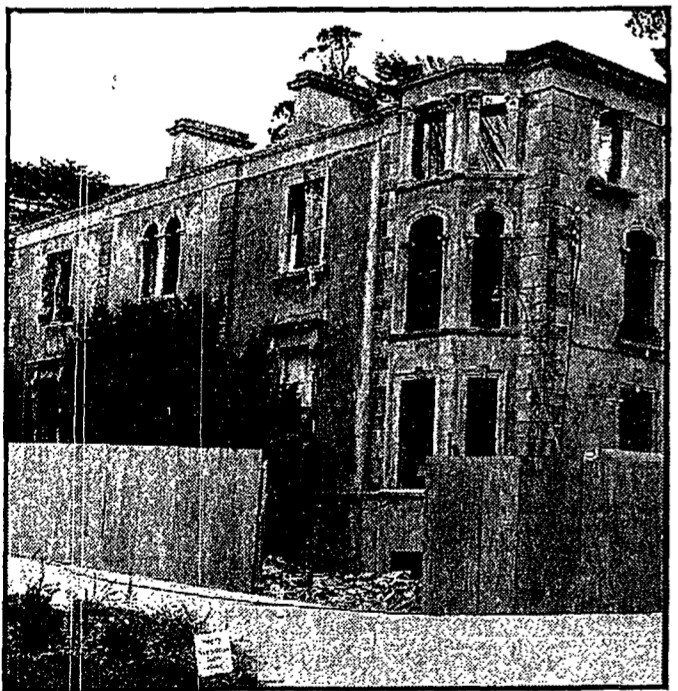
An attempt was first made to demolish the building on Easter Sunday — carried out, according to the owners of the building, Moorview Developments Ltd, by a third party. It was halted by the intervention of a planning official from Dun Laoghaire Rathdown Council.

Following this, an architectural survey of the house found it unsafe and a dangerous buildings notice was served. The owners were given seven days to shore up, repair or demolish the house.

Mr Michael Hodgins, Dun Laoghaire Rathdown's principal planning officer, said yesterday that it was the second dangerous building notice to be served. One had also been served last September.

A dangerous place notice, for the area surrounding the house, had also been issued.

An application by the Cunningham group, the parent company of Moorview Developments Ltd, for a four-storey apartment block on the site, was turned down last summer. The decision was upheld by An Bord Pleanála.



Roebuck House at the first stage of demolition on Easter Sunday

Numbers of older employed fall sharply

By Audrey Magee

A THIRD more people aged between 60 and 64 were employed in Ireland in 1960 than are today, according to a new survey from the International Labour Organisation.

The survey finds that the greatest change in employment patterns in that age group over the 34-year period occurred in Austria where the number in employment dropped by 81 per cent. The change was smallest in Sweden and the US, where the number in employment fell by 29 per cent.

The survey found that in the Netherlands 80 per cent of men in the 60 to 64 age group were employed in 1960, and that by 1990 this had fallen to 18 per cent. In France, the corresponding figures were 70 per cent to 18

per cent; in Austria 60 per cent to 12 per cent; and in the United States 75 per cent to 54 per cent. The increasing tendency towards early retirement and the fact that people are living longer will place severe burdens on social welfare systems, according to the ILO. By the year 2025, 26 per cent of the population of western Europe will be over 60 years of age, compared with 19 per cent in 1994. Public pensions and health care for the elderly in the developed world will become one of the largest items of government expenditure.

The ILO survey says that replacing older employees with younger people did not necessarily increase productivity and that studies had shown that people in their 50s were "often more productive" than people in their 20s.

Traffic charges dropped

ROAD traffic charges arising out of an alleged fatal hit-and-run incident in Ballina, Co Mayo, against Malaysian-born Mr Rony Siew Kuan Yuen (36), with an address at Wesley Court, Ballina, were dropped by the prosecution at Ballina District Court yesterday.

Judge Dan Shields adjourned the case to Ballina Court on May 23rd to consider if he had authority to dismiss the charges.

The defendant had been charged with dangerous driving at Barnadearg, Ballina, last December 26th and failing to stop and remain at the scene of the accident in which a Dublin-based journalist, Mr Brian Ahern (40), died.

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