

Rev Edward Darling, Church of Ireland Bishop of Limerick and Killaloe, leads a procession of Bishop John Magee, Limerick's Apostolic Administrator, at the obsequies at St (LL)

Limerick bomb squad disbanded

By EUGENE PHELAN

THE Department of Defence confirmed this week that the Bomb Disposal Unit based at Sarsfield Barracks is to be disbanded.

But a spokesman for the Department said that the area would continue to be covered and denied claims that the decision to disband the team was belittling the importance of Shannon International Airport.

There is big disappointment in Limerick at the news.

"For many years there has been a bomb disposal unit in Limerick Barracks—it is required by international aviation regulations that a bomb disposal team be within close proximity to all international airports," explained one disgruntled member of the Defence Forces.

However, the Department spokesman said the airport and area would continue to be covered and said that army personnel could fly by helicopter or plane to Shannon in a very short period of time from Dublin.

He added that the decision was made by the General Command after a review of operational requirements.

It was made in consulta-

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Council comments

By PADDY MORONEY

AT A meeting of Limerick City Council this Thursday evening to pass a vote of sympathy on the death of Bishop Jeremiah Newman, two Labour members — Ald Jim Kemmy and Cllr Frank Prendergast expressed varying views on the value of the late prelate's contribution to society.

It had been expected that the party leaders would speak at a brief meeting — there were no members of the general public present — but eventually all the coun-

cillors present spoke in a meeting which lasted from 4 pm to evening rush hour.

Ald Kemmy TD, who was first to speak after the opening tribute by Mayor Dick Sadlier, said as leader of the Labour Party on the council that he had personally started off as an adversary of Bishop Newman.

"But as has often happened in the past," he said, "the position of old adversaries tends to become one of high admiration.

"If you have a true and honest foe, it is better to know where you stand in that case. And when he became ill, his friends and foes alike were distressed to hear of it.

"I knew him well — he phoned me at my home and

at my office at all hours. He invited me to dine with him. The telephone, which facilitates conversation in private, enabled me to know him quite well."

"He was controversial, a national figure. He revelled in controversy—he never backed away from that."

He added that Bishop Newman was a great scholar, praising his expertise at lecturing at Maynooth, and his Limerick Rural Survey which was "a very important source-book of history". He praised also his devotion to reading the Old Limerick Journal, edited by Ald Kemmy himself, and the chapter he contributed to the Australian commemorative issue.

"We often had differ-

ences and I often found it difficult to understand his viewpoint, and I could not get him to soften his line. He served his church according to his own interpretation," he added, emphasising the need to forgive and forget—he pointed to Bishop Newman's intervention in the 1977 election, which had also involved Steve Coughlan and Michael Lipper.

As bishop, Ald Kemmy added, he had got involved in hot water, especially in the case of Labour colleague Jan O'Sullivan, during Civic Week last year.

"On two occasions, she fell foul of the bishop," he observed, emphasising the

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The children's friend



in parishes all over the city, particularly those where he opened new churches and schools.

This Thursday night, at 8 pm, a brief but well-attended ceremony of hymns and antiphons—the Office of the Dead—was led by the Cathedral Chapter, coordinated by Archdeacon Michael Manning PP VF, St Munchin's.

The heavy attendance at the cathedral, since the removal of remains on Wednesday night, is

A man with the courage of his convictions: Dr. Newman. (LL)

seen as a mark of esteem for the Bishop, who was seen as essentially a man of the people.

This was the central point of agreement by those who publicly paid tribute to. Although he had a strong academic background, as distinct from a pastoral one, prior to his appointment to Limerick from Maynooth, he was from the very

the British militia on the occasion during the Terror,

But Bishop Newman's comments were more aligned than political, I hesitated to speak on any Government which view, compromised the welfare of Catholics.

And when it came to the status of Shannon as an

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