

The

An Camchéachta

Starry Plough



Newspaper of the Irish Republican Socialist Party

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Oppose the visit of the
American War Criminal
George W Bush

DEMONSTRATE!
Weekend of June 26th & 27th

**Brits/US Imperialism
OUT OF IRAQ!
OUT OF IRELAND!**

A close-up, profile view of George W. Bush's face, looking slightly to the left. The image is in color, with a warm, orange-toned background.

BUSH

NOT WELCOME IN IRELAND!

EAGARFHOCAL
THE INDEPENDENT
MONITORING
COMMISSION

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NUACHT
FAMILY'S STRUGGLE
FOR JUSTICE GOES ON

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CÁISC
IRSM EASTER
COMMEMORATION '04

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AGALLAMH
DUBLIN'S HOMELESS
SHAME

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THE VOICE OF IRISH REPUBLICAN SOCIALISM!

The Starry
Plough

The Starry Plough or An Camchéachta was first established in 1975 as the national newspaper of the Irish Republican Socialist Party.

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If you would like to highlight an issue of concern in your area and would like to have it published in the pages of The Starry Plough then get in touch at the address above or contact a local IRSP representative, The Starry Plough is your paper.

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The Starry Plough Opens New Office in Derry

The Starry Plough has opened a new office in Derry that will operate both as work space for the production of the paper and a focal point for republican socialist politics in the city. The opening of this office reflects the continued growth and strength of both the paper and of the Republican Socialist Movement locally in Derry.

The office at 45 Great James Street, close to the city centre, is a joint project and is being run in conjunction with Teach na Failte, Free Derry Books & Info and this paper and has already been instrumental in raising the profile of Republican Socialist politics in the city.

The office is open from 11am until 3pm weekdays and is contactable on (028) 71 262999 (prefix code from 26 Counties: 048) and is located on the first floor of 45 Great James Street.

The public are welcome to drop in any time for a chat or to have a look around.

Editorial

The IMC REPORT - "devoid of intellectual rigour, factually incorrect, politically biased"

"Irish National Liberation Army (INLA) and Irish Republican Socialist Party (IRSP)

3.5 The INLA came into being in 1975 as the paramilitary wing of IRSP. Its initial core members were disaffected members of the Official IRA and the Provisional IRA following the 1972 ceasefire. The INLA is a very volatile mix of people from many and varied terrorist backgrounds. It has a reputation for extreme violence and internal feuding centred round leadership disputes which regularly lead to fragmentation of the group.

3.6 While the INLA may not be as prominent now as in the past it is still a significant terrorist group. It declared a ceasefire in 1998, which still survives after a fashion. The INLA remains active. In January 2004 it carried out an attack on a 14-year-old boy in North Belfast and the shooting of a man in Strabane. The group is heavily involved in criminality, especially drugs, and finances itself by extorting money from both legitimate and illegitimate sources. In our view it continues to constitute a high threat of re-engagement, either as individuals or as an organisation.

(The International Monitoring Commission's first report)

In 1998 in its ceasefire statement the INLA said "We have accepted the advice and analysis of the Irish Republican Socialist Party that the conditions for armed struggle do not exist. The Irish National Liberation Army has now shifted from the position of defence and retaliation to the position of complete cease-fire.

The INLA was involved in a war of national liberation against British Imperialism and its local allies. In accepting that the conditions for armed struggle against that imperialism no longer existed it recognised that a particular stage of struggle had ended. The time for taking the war to the Imperialists and their reactionary loyalist allies had come to an end.

But no section of the republican socialist movement thought that the Good Friday Agreement was the end game. The IRSP called for a no vote in relation to that agreement. Six years on the question has to be asked were the sacrifices endured by the republican population in over nearly thirty years of armed struggle wasted by sordid political trading that has in the end produced little but electoral gains for one republican political organisation. It should be noted that the current electoral strength of Provisional Sinn Féin is just slightly ahead of the electoral strength of Sinn Féin in the 1950s.

Britain still claims sovereignty over part of Ireland. The divisions among working class people in the North have sharpened and economic exploitation continues on both sides of the border. Loyalist murder gangs still exist and are manipulated by both the Special branch and British intelligence agencies. There has been no satisfactory resolution of the burning issue of collusion. Attacks on perceived nationalist families continue and street demonstrations of a virulent anti-Catholic and racist nature have been commonplace since the first IRA ceasefire while the British overlords and their lackeys either have done nothing or wring their hands in mock despair. No amount of political tinkering will change the virulent anti-Catholic nature of the 'Northern Ireland' state. Those who think they can fundamentally reform that state are simply wrong. The leaders of Unionism so long as they have

the backings of the British imperial state has no desire or incentive to reach any satisfactory accommodation with the rest of the inhabitants of the island. The leaders of Unionism have shown by their complicity in sectarianism that they are incapable of overcoming their own historical baggage.

Not everything is doom and gloom however. It would be churlish to fail to acknowledge the positives developments that have occurred over the past few years. Many people in nationalist areas now have slightly more access to job opportunities. A new political self confident, even arrogant political elite is emerging and the catholic middle classes have rising expectations. Compared to many parts of the world the six counties is comparatively well off.

Many ex-political prisoners have used the cessation of violence to develop both their personal and political skills. Many working class communities have used the Peace money flowing from Europe to benefit their local communities and heroic work at interfaces have reduced some of the sectarian tensions.

The recent International Monitoring Commission Report puts all the positives from the ending of the armed conflict at risk. Political prisoners subsequently released under the terms of the Good Friday Agreement had to acknowledge that they belonged to an armed organisation that was now on ceasefire. Many of them on release gave a commitment to work within the ex-prisoner community to better the conditions of the whole ex-prisoner constituency. They joined and supported Teach Na Failte, the Republican Socialists Ex-Political Prisoners Association on the basis that they were ex-INLA prisoners. Working in Teach Na Failte they have participated in peace-building exercises, taken conflict resolution courses, mediated in local disputes and encouraged the politicisation of working class communities. Much of this work has been on a voluntary basis as Teach Na Failte was denied proper funding for a long period. Much of this work has also been behind the scenes and confidential. This work has involved them in direct contact with members of the INLA as Teach Na Failte sought to consolidate and spread non-violent responses to anti-social behaviour. All sections of the Republican Socialist Movement have endorsed the work of Teach Na Failte.

All of this is in jeopardy if the IMC report is acted on. The recommendation in 8.7 that "no organisation, statutory, commercial or voluntary should tolerate links with paramilitary groups" and that the onus should be on the person believed to have paramilitary links to "show there is no basis for that suspicion" is a recipe for witch hunts, innuendo, gossiping lying and demonisation. It is going back to the days of Douglas Hurd who introduced political vetting thus preventing many groups from funding because of alleged connections to someone who may or may not have been associated with armed organisations. How on earth can a person show that there is no basis for suspicion?

It is very clear from even a cursory reading of that report that the IMC is not an independent body. We totally reject that the members of the IMC are independent. Lord John Alderdice is a failed politician who jumped ship as leader of the Alliance

Party to take up a well-paid sinecure as speaker in Stormont. He supports the retaining within the British Army of soldiers guilty of the murder of Peter McBride. The two representatives from Ireland and Britain both had portfolios for dealing with so called "terrorism" and the USA representative Dick Kerr was deputy director of the CIA, which produces books on how to torture, kill, assassinate and so on as well as having been involved in the overthrow of democratic elected governments. During his time in the CIA that organisation engaged in drug dealing and illegal arms trading. Hardly an individual to lecture any Irish republican on respect for the law.

It produced its first report three months early at the specific request of the two Governments and specifically to address the Kelly's Cellars incident of the 20th of February. It names the four individuals allegedly involved in the Tohill affair. As of this moment they are not guilty of anything yet are publicly named in an official document. At the same time an individual charged with the killing of a catholic whose death the IMC says was paramilitary related is not named. Why the different treatments for republican and loyalists. Furthermore the report totally ignores the whole issue of collusion. The running sore not only of the Pat Finucane case but also of numerous other deaths due to security force collusion with loyalist murder gangs is not addressed. Yet the IMC sees fit to take evidence from the same security forces believed to be implicated in murder. The IMC cannot be seen as independent. It even admits that the British Government has not yet given it permission to address the whole issue of de-militarisation of the British forces.

This whole politically biased report is clearly directed at Republicans. It also makes clear that it sees its role as making "the rule of law work". There is still strong political disagreement as to what constitutes the rule of law and who should be enforcing that law within the Northern state. Furthermore the IMC seem to think that policing is not a political issue. They believe all political parties should support the current policing set-up. They miss the point entirely. Many republican deny the legitimacy of the Northern state and so cannot support the police force of that state. That is a highly charged political issue and the IMC miss that point entirely.

The evidence that the IMC reached its conclusions is not available. They claim to have a wide variety of sources including British security forces yet do not specify what those sources are. This opens the door to malicious muck spreading by people with their own petty vendettas. It echoes the McCarthy era in the USA in the 1950s

The IMC also acknowledge that they don't require the same level of proof that would be required in a court of law and yet they are prepared to name and shame individuals. Their objective in Article Three - "to promoting the transition to a peaceful and stable and inclusive devolved Government in Northern Ireland" while political questionable is also undermined by its recommendations in 7.7 to hold individuals "personally and publicly to account". This is taking the society back to the days of political censorship, of gagging orders. Furthermore it has implications for the safety of the individuals concerned; "to

shine a spotlight" will put peoples' lives at risk and would surely be in breach of the human rights of the individuals concerned. Even the IMC must recognise that International Agreements oblige them not to put the safety or life of any person at risk nor prejudice legal proceedings.

That part of the report concerning the INLA is factually wrong politically biased and based on inaccurate falsified special branch documents. The IMC did not seek the views of the Irish Republican Socialist Party. No member of the Republican Socialist Movement gave evidence to the IMC. Nor will any member of this movement give evidence to the IMC.

"It declared a ceasefire in 1998 which still survives after a fashion. The INLA remains active." (IMC report 3.6)

Let us be very, very clear. It is our very clear understanding that the INLA ceasefire was not the result of an agreement, negotiations or vague promises. The INLA did not make any secret deals with anyone and the ceasefire did not depend on gaining the goodwill of any group government or agency. It is not for the IMC, the British Government nor the Irish Government to define the INLA ceasefire. That is solely a matter for the INLA itself.

We reject utterly the following allegation from the IMC, "The group is heavily involved in criminality, especially drugs, and finances itself by extorting money from both legitimate and illegitimate sources." No member of the INLA is involved in drug dealing. The IRSP have challenged those journalists who have made these allegations in the past to produce the evidence. We repeat that challenge. We have specifically approached two well know journalists who have repeated these allegations in to produce the evidence of INLA involvement in drug dealing. We are still waiting. We note that one member of the IMC was a former leader of an organisation that traded drugs for guns in the 1980's so we will take no lectures from those who hands are stained with the blood of the poor of Nicaragua.

We are however aware that a small number of pseudo gangs, and former members of not only the INLA but other republican armies are engaged in extortion, racketeering and drug dealing using the name of the INLA. Some of these gangs are operating obviously with the full approval of the so-called security forces.

The Irish Republican Socialist Party reject in its entirety the first IMC report. It is a hastily prepared cut and paste job totally devoid of intellectual rigour, factually incorrect, politically biased, without any understanding of the republican position on the national question and based on a mish-mash of half truths, gossip and extracts from the more lurid stories of the gutter press. The IMC's independence is a sham; it is a tool of policy for both the British and Irish Governments with a mandate to isolate and demonise republicans. The haste with which the whole of the great and the good, including the political and church elites endorsed this badly researched piece of work only exposes their own political bias. Those who have endorsed the IMC report have been sold a pup.

John Martin Political Secretary IRSP

THE CORY REPORT INTO ALLEDGED COLLUSION



The H blocks of Long Kesh and inset Billy Wright

There are a number of key points to note about both the Cory Report and the reactions to it. Cory's definition of collusion stretches credibility.

To collude means that there are at least two parties in agreement to do something. The failure of the British Government, the Northern Ireland Office and the prison service to act despite warnings from the IRSP that placing LVF prisoners beside INLA prisoners would lead to trouble can be described as neglect but certainly not collusion.

The INLA can hardly be accused of collusion if they simply took advantage of failures on the part of the authorities.

It is clear that the Billy Wright killing was only thrown into the mix in order for the British Government to appear even handed to unionists. It was added as an act of appeasement because certain extremists were using the Billy Wright case as a political football. On the face of it the INLA should never have been able to smuggle weapons into Long Kesh, they should never have been allowed to get close enough to make an attempt on the life of such a prominent loyalist as Billy Wright but the failures in this case lie with the decision to place the LVF into an INLA block despite objections from the INLA prisoners representatives. This situation could so easily have been the other way around. The LVF could just as effectively

carried out a similar attack on INLA prisoners such was the situation imposed by the housing of the LVF and INLA prisoners in the same H-block. One prisoner on the INLA was injured during an LVF riot just a few months before the Wright execution even took place.

The failure of the Brits to order an inquiry into the Pat Finucane killing, the reaction of David Trimble in practically accusing both Pat Finucane and Rosemary Nelson of IRA membership and the bleating from the DUP should show clearly to those who refuse to see that despite the Good Friday Agreement neither the Brits nor the political leadership of Unionism has changed.

We said at the start of the whole peace process that republicans should not thrust the Brits. Judge Cory was forced to insert into his report that it was not his task to make final determination of fact or attribution of responsibility. Ironically the Brit overlord in the North then described the Cory findings "as provisional".

In the light of the Cory findings, which shone a small veil of light on the murky underworld of the security needed to keep the six counties under British rule, is it not time for republicans to abandon the attempts to jointly rule an inherently sectarian statlet on behalf of the British overlords?

Justice For Seamus Doherty

The IRSP in Derry has voiced its concern for the plight of one Derry man who is currently in Maghaberry on dubious PSNI charges. The man, Seamus Doherty, has been on remand for several months now on quite obvious false charges of possessing explosives. This case is related to the case of two County Down men whose case collapsed when it was found that the British secret services tampered with forensic evidence.

An IRSP spokesperson commented, "Denis Bradley and other cheerleaders for the PSNI continually tell us that the days of police corruption are gone and behind us and that we should all lend our support to the new policing arrangements. Cases such as Seamus Doherty's tell us that either Denis Bradley is deluded and actually believes what his masters are telling him or that he is part of the ongoing oppression against republicans.

"The IRSP believes that as long as there are partitionist police forces on this island with an agenda to oppress all opposition to the border then the policing problem will never be solved.

"Seamus Doherty must be freed immediately and the IRSP fully support the Doherty family in their attempts to have this case highlighted and brought to a successful conclusion."

Sinn Fein Should Know Better

The IRSP in North Belfast have hit out at a Belfast councillor as grossly irresponsible for alleging that the INLA were responsible for recent sectarian attacks in the Ligoniel area.

Councillor Eoin O'Bruin stated in the North Belfast News that an incident at the "turn of the road" was the responsibility of the INLA. The IRSP met with councillor O'Bruin following his outlandish claims.

IRSP representative Paul Little said, "The IRSP have long said that sectarian attacks in North Belfast have to stop immediately and we fully support community initiatives that aim to bring these attacks to an end.

"Councillor O'Bruin is well aware that loyalist attacks are not reactive and driven by pure sectarian hatred; his attack on Republican Socialists is opportunistic, inaccurate and lends credence to loyalist claims that sectarian attacks by loyalists are merely a response to nationalist attacks.

"We reiterate the IRSP's total rejection of sectarian attacks on North Belfast's interfaces and further we call on protestant working class communities to support the various community initiatives aimed at eradicating this blight on all our futures.

"In the mean time communities need to remain patient and to confront those involved in sectarian attacks within their own communities. However, any resident has the right to defend themselves from sectarian attack on their person or their property. The IRSP defend that right."

Recent reporting of a punishment attack in the Galliagh area of Derry by local journalists has been described as "spurious and sensationalist" by a local IRSP spokesperson.

The background to this is that the local cumann of the IRSP issued a call for young people in Galliagh to bring a halt to their activities of car-crime, vandalism, informing to the PSNI and other anti working class activities. The day that this statement was carried in the local press a group of five masked men armed with nail studded implements attacked one youth in the Fern Park area of Galliagh. After this attack sections of the local media immediately put two and two together and came up with five.

Despite there being no evidence whatsoever to link the INLA with this attack they were blamed. In a statement issued after these stories appeared the IRSP locally said that they had approached the Derry Brigade of the INLA to ascertain whether or not they were involved in this attack. The statement said:

"Following the spurious and sensationalist reporting of a recent punishment attack in Galliagh the IRSP have been in touch with the Derry Brigade of the INLA to fully ascertain the true facts as to their involvement or otherwise in this alleged attack.

The INLA have assured the IRSP that they had no units on active duty in the Galliagh area on Friday 16th April. They have also pointed out to us that the INLA in Derry have never used nail studded imple-

ments in any such incident.

"The IRSP are extremely concerned at this latest attempt to demonise the IRSM without one shred of evidence. We would urge all those reporting on such matters to get in touch with the IRSP in Derry to ascertain the facts before going to press with outright lies.

"The IRSP take this opportunity to call for an inclusive community response to the problems that affect the lives of people in these estates. Joyriding, burglaries and vandalism are making people live like prisoners in their own homes. The IRSM will not be falling into the trap of demonising all the young people in these estates. We know there are many good young people who have nothing else to do in the evenings but hang around street corners. But there is a tiny minority of these people who are intent on pushing the community to the limit of their patience and patience is wearing thin. We call on these young people make peace with their community. Parents, youth workers, concerned community activists and local politicians in these marginalised estates must come together and make a concerted attempt at solving these problems and to promote active citizenship amongst these disaffected young

people."

The IRSP in the Greater Shantallow area of Derry, which includes Galliagh and Carnhill, are in the process of leafleting homes and putting up posters to highlight the fact that anti-community and anti-working class activities will not be tolerated by the local community.

A spokesperson locally told the Starry Plough that this was to give the community confidence. She explained "Currently vulnerable members of the community are afraid to leave their homes. The IRSP are here to stay and we intend making this community safer for the people who live and work here. One way of doing this is to get our message into all homes in the area by way of a newsletter and by putting up posters in the estates. This area has suffered enough at the hands of the British Army and RUC/PSNI through the years and came through all that with complete dignity. Now we have the circumstances where young people, under the direction of the PSNI, are making life a misery for the people living in the area. The community is crying out for help in solving these problems and the IRSP will be doing all we can politically to help them.

The IRSP in the areas affected distributed 3,000 leaflets to local homes. The main topic of the leaflet was the ongoing destructive effect of the PSNI's use of young car thieves and house breakers as paid informers and the free reign given to these young people to wreak havoc in their communities.

An IRSP spokesperson commented afterwards: "The massive response to these leaflets leaves us in no doubt that those charged with looking after the interests and welfare of the people in Carnhill, Galliagh and Shantallow have miserably failed in their task.

"We have recieved, responded to and resolved countless issues and one current is running through all these issues and that is that the people feel neglected and left behind and have no-one to turn to for help. The support shown to the IRSP and our efforts at resolving these problems has been heartening for our members in these areas.

"We followed up on one such complaint from a group of pensioners who had problems with a youth who had moved in next to them and used his flat to hold parties and as a base for anti-community activity such as burglaries. Despite numerous complaints over more than three months to the Housing Executive, Sinn Fein and the SDLP to have this person moved on nothing was done. The IRSP then visited this individual and told him that his behaviour was not acceptable. He has since moved out. This is just one such instance that we were involved in resolving."

SENSATIONALIST MEDIA REPORTING IN DERRY

South Africa - Ten Years On from "Liberation"

Last month marked ten years of ANC rule in South Africa. The South African 'transition' is often hailed here as an example of a successful 'peace process', a model for our own 'conflict resolution'. But, should we be really be looking at South Africa as an example? Who are the winners and losers of the South African 'peace process' and 'transition'?

According to the Chronic Poverty Research Centre at the University of the Western Cape, the average income of black households dropped by 19 per cent from 1995 to 2000, while over the same period the average white household income grew 15 per cent. Absolute poverty levels increased from 20 per cent in 1995 to 28 per cent in 2000. 45 per cent of the population of South Africa survives with less than two dollars per day. In ten years, social spending has increased by 35 per cent, while interests and dividends of foreign investors have grown fourfold over the same period. While the incomes of the black majority have been reduced, the corporate sector has been on the gravy train.

Corporate tax rates were cut from 48 per cent in 1994 to 30 per cent by 1999. The official jobless rate grew from 16 per cent in 1995 to 30 per cent last year. However, when discouraged job seekers are added in, the actual unemployment rate now stands at 42 per cent nationwide and more

than 80 per cent in some rural areas. The process was accelerated from 1996 when the ANC adopted a World Bank plan for South Africa's economy, which, among other things, involved commercialising and privatising government services. Many millions of blacks have now lost access to essential services, such as running water, electricity and telephones, because they cannot afford to pay the charges set by the private corporations. (Sources: Le Monde 27 April, New Zealand Herald 20 April) It is not the hopes of South Africa's impoverished black majority, which have been fulfilled by 'democracy', but those of South Africa's corporations, global investors and the white minority thanks to the fact that the ANC had adopted 'pragmatic politics' towards the business elite. Not only that: **"A new black elite has emerged in South Africa, mostly from the ranks of the liberation movement - people who were able to use their political pedigree and connections to amass vast amounts of wealth. Trade union leaders have become instant millionaires, setting up business consortia in the name of union members but then reaping all the financial benefits at the expense of the workers."** (New York Times 27 April)

Now why is this relevant here? Because the local version of the ANC, Sinn Féin is adopting similar stance.

Recently, the Irish Times described Gerry

Adams' presence at the Dublin Chamber of Commerce business breakfast in the Burlington Hotel in the following terms: **"Displaying the more complex colours emerging in Sinn Féin's attitude to business, Adams's background message was that his party understands the need for pragmatism."**

Asked about public-private partnerships, he acknowledged that Martin McGuinness had reluctantly accepted the need for private investment while in power in Northern Ireland. **"Well, we are against them"** he said. **"Having said that, Martin McGuinness, as education minister, faced the reality that he would either have no schools or an involvement in a qualified way with private finance, went for it. So I suppose you could argue that that is the emergence of pragmatic politics."**

Equally, Sinn Féin's acceptance of service in Sligo was justified by Adams, despite all of the party's railings nationally against such bills. ... **"Our position is against it. But in terms of the actual practicalities of working out those matters, as part of local government, the party made compromises on it"**, he told the gathering. On taxation, Adams offered soothing words that meant little: **"I am reluctant to say that we would do A or we would do B. We are not in principle against tax increases, but we have no plans to introduce them. We just think that there**

should be a far, far better way of doing business." (The Irish Times, 24 April 2004) That is pure Thabo Mbeki speak from our own Nelson Mandela.

The point here is not to fire cheap shots at the Provisionals, but to be prepared to the nasty consequences of 'pragmatic politics'. The end of racial apartheid, without drastic economic changes only resulted in social apartheid.

More than a century ago, James Connolly warned that pure political changes without radical social and economic reorganisation of society would only be 'national recreancy'; the efforts of Republicans would be "in vain". Organisations are now beginning to emerge in the black communities across South Africa to challenge the ANC. Typically they are organising around community service issues, such as housing, water and electricity, and are often met with the same repression the white minority once used against black activists.

If Stormont once again goes up and running, similar struggles can be expected here around issues such as water rates or PFI. Rather than unconstructively complaining about 'sell out', serious activists should concentrate on preparing themselves to wage those coming battles and learn from the South African experience.

Arbroath Rally

Successful Arbroath Rally. Rosie Kane could not make it as she was in Dublin, but wrote and article on Arbroath in her Sunday Mail column. Tommy Sheridan, incidentally, wrote in Favour of "Scots Not Brits" in his Wednesday (Scottish?) Daily Mirror column. I have taken the liberty of sending him one of our "Scots Not Brits" T-shirts.

We flung a Glenmorangie over the Abbey Wa' and had a minute's pandemonium for the late Freddie Anderson. Chris Sanderson played on the pipes and the Pollok & Thornliebank Republican Band played too. Dave Ledbetter spoke as well as Andy Rossiter for the SSP and Gerry Cairns for the SRSM. Sandy Mather's and his "Potted Heid" group played for us all in the Foondry Bar afterwards. The bus left McGinn's in Glasgow in the morning leaving Daly behind who went for a bar of chocolate.

We turned back and found him in Union St. Again we left him and his mate behind in Arbroath. They went for a walk and a single pint in a harbour pub. The Band could not wait an longer and finally left without them, leaving them to get home by train.

We hope we never have to leave anyone behind in enemy territory again and that all will stay in contact with the bus organiser in future. Daly never did get his chocolate.

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UUP Sectarian!

There is little to be said about the protests in Sandy Row Belfast by some residents against the alleged presence of Catholics in a block of flats in the District. This follows a series of racist attacks in the wider area.

It is sad to see the evil of sectarianism and racism grip the minds of working class people. But that was always the intention of those who set out to break the six counties from the rest of Ireland at the turn of the last century. It is still the intention of those who dominate unionism today.

The failure of a former Lord Major of Belfast and a member of the Unionist Party to condemn the anti-catholic hysteria is symptomatic of the sectarianism inherent in the six county state. We remain convinced that no amount of tinkering with an internal settlement will ever overcome the bigotry in the North.

HELP REQUIRED

As you maybe aware, we are in the process of opening up the Free Derry Bookshop to the public in order to provide a political book service and space for ongoing development of republican socialist politics within the North West area and Derry City in particular. As it stands at present we do not have enough material to be as effective as we want to be.

We urgently need help and assistance with items such as books, pamphlets, magazines, videos, DVD's, cassette tapes of music and spoken word etc in order to allow people to avail of a lending library and radical book service relating to issues such as republicanism, socialism, Marxism and class struggle politics including Irish history and culture. As well as issues relating to World History etc.

The Free Derry Bookshop request support and solidarity in the coming days and weeks ahead for a drive from friends and supporters in order to establish a centre where all our class can gain knowledge and information.

We invite you to ask friends, family members and supporters to help donate any of the above items.

We welcome support on this project, all items requested can be left into Free Derry Bookshop. The Free Derry Bookshop is staffed at present between the hours of 11am - 2.30pm from Mondays to Fridays. And from 12noon to 3pm on Saturdays.

Yours in solidarity,

**The Free Derry Bookshop
Collective, 45 Great James
Street (First Floor), Derry
Tel:028 71262999**

A Family's Struggle Continues

Despite Loss Of Plea For Documents Surrounding Vol John Morris's Murder

The parents of Irish National Liberation Army Volunteer John Morris from Tallaght, Dublin have vowed to continue their fight for justice despite the Loss Of Plea for documents surrounding their son's murder.

John (then 26) was gunned down and murdered by Free State forces at Inchicore seven years ago. The Morris Family lost in their bid to overturn a coroner's jury findings at the inquest into the death of their son on June 5, 1997, the day after he was shot dead.

They also lost a High Court challenge which related to the coroner's decision not to release statements and other relevant material relating to the garda investigation into the killing to them before the inquest.

Solicitor Gregory O'Neill for the Morris family, in an affidavit said "Mr Morris' parents had sought material from the garda investigation because they were concerned about rumours they had heard their son had been fired upon by gardai on at least two occasions and had been wounded and that he had been lying on the ground when he received a fatal gunshot wound to the back of the head."



Mr O'Neill further stated that he got some documents some days prior to the inquest but this disclosure was inadequate. The State had agreed to furnish some documents and the coroner had allowed Mr O'Neill and the Morris' into a room where they had two or three minutes to examine books of statements running from 600-800 pages.

However this 'Justice' Aindrias O Caoimh concluded by saying that the State itself had correctly submitted they could not accordingly show they had been 'prejudiced or damnified'. Adding that the parents of volunteer John Morris had 'not satisfied him that the failure to furnish the documents sought at the time of the inquest had resulted in a failure to carry out an effective, fair and independent investigation'.

Despite this attempt to seek justice for the brutal murder of their 26 year old son, Anne and John Morris stated that they intended to carry on the fight for justice despite the Loss Of Plea for documents surrounding their son's murder.

IRSP EXPRESS SOLIDARTY WITH MORRIS FAMILY

The Irish Republican Socialist Party sympathised with the Morris family in their latest set back in their fight for justice for John. A spokesperson in Dublin said that no-one should really be surprised by the court's decision.

"First of all let me say that the IRSP wish to put on record our sympathy and solidarity with the Morris family during this obviously difficult time when the doors of our so-called legal system are continually slammed in their faces.

"The Court system in Ireland has almost always supported their armed forces in disputed cases such as the cold blooded murder of our friend and comrade Vol John Morris. It didn't matter that John was a volunteer in the INLA. It would not matter to them if John was simply a civilian going about his business such as in the John McCarthy case where

the Gardai used excessive force to kill a man with obvious psychological problems. If the Gardai take it upon themselves to kill they know they will not be held accountable for their crimes. History alone has taught them that. The Gardai are part and parcel of this rotten state that sees members of the judiciary cleared of having child porn on their computers on technicalities. This is the same rotten system that tortured, tried and convicted members of the IRSP for the Sallins train robbery despite no evidence being produced other than statements obtained through the use of beatings and torture.

"This system cannot be reformed into something that has at it's core the best for the working people of Ireland. Only by dismantling it and putting in it's place a system that does indeed cherish all of the children of the nation equally can we find true justice in Ireland"

Turning Up The Heat:

NIPSA Workers Dig-In As Strike Spreads

After 20 weeks of industrial action there is no weakening of the resolve of low paid NIPSA members to secure a fair pay increase for 2003.

The support from the members for all aspects of the industrial action has been excellent, demonstrating clearly their determination to see the dispute through to a successful conclusion.

Selective action over the past week has included members at MOT centres, Larne Port and the Child Support Agency. The response amongst the selected groups has been over 80%. The NIPSA Civil Service Executive meets again on Monday 5 April with a view to escalating the action.

A number of NIPSA members who went sick with stress because of threats from management over the work to rule have had their pay docked.

All of these members had certificates from their GPs and yet management have decided to treat their sick leave as industrial

action. This unbelievable action is illegal, and stands, as a further indication of how far Department for Social Development (DSD) management will stoop to intimidate and harass union members.

It is understood that DSD Personnel Branch were about to process the pay of the members involved in the normal way, until the personal intervention of department director Thomas O'Reilly and personnel officer Pat Magee imposed the illegal

sanction on ill NIPSA members.

Two of the six NIPSA members who were suspended from duty for one week, and then took selective action for one week, were removed from the payroll by pay branch.

However, when they returned to work, someone "forgot" to put them back on the payroll. As a result they received only one week's wages for the last month.

STRABANE NIPSA REP' ATTACKED, AGAIN!

As reported some weeks ago a leading NIPSA activist in Strabane was deliberately driven into by a scab in Derry. Two weeks ago the same activist was attacked outside a Strabane bar by the brother of a known scab. The attacker was a well known local thug. Unfortunately for the attacker the NIPSA representative got the better of him in the attack.

As a result the original attacker, unsurprisingly, ran off to the shelter of the PSNI and lodged a complaint. It will be interesting to see if the PSNI lay charges against a man who was simply defending himself against an assault, when in the previous incident they found nothing untoward in a scab deliberately driving his car into the same man on a picket line!

Europe: Anti-Working Class Agenda

Irish Republican Socialists Party International Department Mayday Satetment

The International Department of the Irish Republican Socialist Party issued a statement on the occasion of International Workers' Day, reiterating their position on the Irish presidency of the European Union and in opposition to the anti-working class agenda of the European Super-state.

The IRSP spokesperson emphasized the 'irony' of an Irish Euro-President ushering in the radical expansion of member states taking place on May Day 2004.

"The IRSP cannot overlook the irony of the fact that the expansion of the European Super-state which is bound to have serious negative repercussions for working people throughout Europe or that this expansion, which is likely to put the final nails in the coffin of the so called 'Celtic Tiger' is to be ushered in under an Irish Euro-President.

" As the nations of the former Comecon nations of Eastern Europe, along with Cyprus and Malta, are brought into a newly expanded Europe, multi-national corporations from Europe and from abroad will once again relocate to wherever they are best able to exploit working people. Transfer their operations to wherever the cost of human labour power can

most cheaply be had, thereby ensuring that wages everywhere are eroded and exploitation is increased.

"The brief mirage of Ireland's much talked about economic growth will then falter and be trampled under the stampede of capitalists in search of lower wages.

"We cannot and do not blame our working class sisters and brothers in the newly admitted nations of the EU. The imperialists have virtually starved them under the strain of severe austerity programmes imposed as the price of EU entry. Instead we extend our hand to them, as fellow working class people; as comrades. If we fail to unite--if we fail to hang together, as the old saying goes--we shall surely be hung separately.

"It is not having to pay fair, living wages that causes the problems of the capitalist system, it is the relentless pursuit of profits without concern for the quality of human life. Without the brains and muscle of working class people, not a single industry could operate--no wealth could be produced. It is the drive for profits in order to support the useless parasites of the capitalist ruling class that there is no need for.

"Those who amass their wealth through the exploitation of working people--who contribute nothing other their own self-agrandisement and their conspicuous consumption of luxuries, while millions endure crippling poverty--that the world can well do without.

Concluding the statement, the IRSP International Department spokesperson added, "The Irish Republican Socialist Party offer our profound solidarity with our class sisters and brothers throughout the world. As we reflect on this holiday celebrating the working people of the world, we are filled with admiration and pride for all that our class has created; the great advances that have been possible only because of our classes collective efforts.

"Moreover, we recognise how much greater might be our class's contribution to the advance of humanity, were it not for the greed, inhumanity, and tyranny of the capitalist class. In offering our solidarity, therefore, we clasp the hands of our working class sisters and brothers throughout the world, and remind them, as well as ourselves, that only through our collective efforts can we gain our liberation.

"Every victory they make, is an advance for us. Every triumph we gain, moves them forward as well. We have created all the wealth of the world we see arrayed around us. Let us reclaim it, as our own."

Leader of Iraqi Council Killed in Suicide Blast in Baghdad

In another in the long list of "bad days" for the US led Coalition in Iraq, the head of the US controlled Iraqi Governing Council Ezzedine Salim was killed in an attack on his vehicle on Monday 17th May as he waited to enter the compound to his place of work.

A former Newspaper editor from the city

of Basra he was a leader of the Darwa party and was the highest profile Iraqi to be killed by resistance fighters since the ill-fated occupation of Iraq began.

This attack is a serious blow to Bush and Blair's plans to install a puppet regime in Iraq on June 30th and also to their political careers in the US and the UK.

Four Bombs at British Banks ahead of Blair Visit to Turkey

The Marxist-Leninist DHKC-P was being blamed for the detonating four blast bombs at branches of the British owned HSBC bank in Ankara and Istanbul ahead of a visit to Turkey by Tony Blair.

The small bombs caused little damage other than shattered windows and slight structural damage but that was not the

point. A source said, "The DHKC were showing the world that they have the ability to strike at will and using the opportunity ahead of Blair's visit to attack British Banks shows that the DHKC have both the means and the ability to launch attacks at anytime and any place. The DHKC are becoming more active and I am sure there will be more such attacks"

IRSP Retrace Original May Day in Derry

In the only event marking May Day in Derry, Republican Socialists in the city held a short ceremony on the spot of the very first May Day commemoration in the city way back in the 1890s.

A few dozen IRSP activists attended the ceremony at the junction of Northland Avenue and Northland Road. The international flag of workers, a plain red flag, and the original Starry Plough were held aloft throughout the short ceremony to signify the struggles of workers both internationally and in Ireland.

John Hogan from the local cumann of the IRSP speaking at the event gave an explanation as to why the IRSP chose the location of the day's proceedings: "Amidst the rapid development of worker unionisation local trades councils took-off during the 1890s throughout Ireland in towns and cities creating more class awareness.....Here in Derry, over one hundred years ago, the first ever May Day rally was held where we gather here today. Although small in number it was a gesture by radical activists of the 1890s to mark international workers day whilst

knowing fully that they were not alone. Here too, speakers voiced their objection to the boss class as they called for unity between the skilled and unskilled workers, between the 'trade and the spade'.

Putting in context the day itself Mr Hogan said: "Today in Dublin the EU, under the presidency of Ireland, is expanding to include ten more countries into it's fold. It is indeed ironic that the international day of the worker was chosen, we would say cynically, to expand the exploitation of workers and the 26 County's central role in this is shameful to say the least.

"On May 1st back in 1886 the American Federation of Labor had called a general strike in support of an eight hour day. It was during one such strike in Chicago as factory protests flared the police murdered four labour activists. In response, a local workers paper called a mass demonstration in the Haymarket area of the city the following evening. During this demonstration a police agent threw a bomb into the crowd killing several workers as well as

police. This in turn was used by the authorities to further discredit the growth in what was then the growth of the Labour movement. Hundreds of strikers as well as many activists were arrested and tortured, eight of them finally wrongfully charged with the bombing. As a result four were hanged, one committed suicide and three spent many years in prison before finally being pardoned for a crime they didn't commit."

Returning to the plight of present day workers in Derry Mr Hogan said: "Today, poverty and hopelessness are taking a firm grip despite the fly by night European investments and so-called peace jobs. The growth of employment agencies is increasing and this is a serious threat to the rights of workers across the country. An example of their dubious practices is sickening to say the least. If you gain employment through one of these firms you can expect them to steal up to fifty per cent of your entitlement in wages as their fee for getting that job. This is legalised theft that must be opposed by all workers."

Belfast Mayday Solidarity

Members of the IRSP in Belfast turned out to celebrate international workers day by attending one of the city's largest rallies in years. A spokesperson for the Belfast Cumann used the day to highlight the proposed introduction of Water Charges, labeling it 'double taxation'.

He said "The regimes on the island of Ireland are engaged in raising revenue through service taxes and stealth taxes. Campaigns are already up and running against the introduction of water charges in the north, in the south the wider community is engaged in fighting against bin taxes. We salute all those involved in these campaigns, especially those who have been imprisoned for having taken a principled stand.

"The message is already clear: working people throughout this island, working together, can defeat the imposition of unfair taxes. Double taxation must be thwarted!"

Derry IRSP 200Club £100 Weekly Winners

Week 1: Michael Devine, Galliaigh	Week 8: Mrs K McMonagle Carnhill Estate
Week 2: Teresa Anderson, Shantallow	The IRSP in Derry extends congratulations to the winners and our thanks to you for your continued support. If you would like to participate then contact:
Week 3: Hugh Moore, Shantallow	Derry IRSP on 028 71 262999
Week 4: Joe Melarkey, Galliaigh	
Week 5: Yvonne Barr, Galliaigh	
Week 6: E O'Donnell, Waterside	
Week 7: Connolly McClelland, Waterside	

"Disruptive Prisoners"

The Scottish Parliament has backed measures allowing Political Prisoners to be transferred from Six County to Scottish Jails. British Governor in Ireland, Paul Murphy wants the power to remove "Disruptive Prisoners" across the Irish Sea in a bid to help with their pacification process. Scotland's Deputy Justice Minister Hugh Henry said the power would only be used in "exceptional circumstances". He added they would have the final say on which Prisoners were transferred.

The Ard Comhairle of the IRSP totally condemned these draconian measures backed by the Scottish Parliament. When Paul Murphy states that he wants to remove disruptive prisoners, what he is actually saying is he wants to remove those Political Prisoners who will not submit to a criminalisation policy, and have the resolve to organise and execute prison protest against any attempts to suppress their political identity. Not only will this measure serve to isolate the chosen "disruptive" Prisoners from their Comrades, but will also cause immense hardship for their loved ones many of whom would find it extremely difficult to raise funds for visits.

This is a very serious issue that can be resolved around a united broad front campaign involving the participation of all republican and progressive groupings opposed to such draconian measures. If we allow this measure to go unchallenged, what will stop the securocrats in the future from sending Irish Republicans to prisons in the Isle of Man, Jersey, Falkland Islands, Gibraltar, Jersey?

Disclaimer

There is an A4 sheet entitled 'Starry Plough Bulletin' which purports to be for a 32 County Irish Workers Republic. It arrives through the post to our offices and with a Newcastle upon Tyne postmark. No doubt there are other people and organisations that also receive this publication. It purports to be an anti Good Friday agreement and regularly castigates the Provisional Republican Movement. We do not know who prints this publication. It has no forwarding address nor is connected to any organisation.

It has nothing to do with the IRSP or any section of the Republican Socialist Movement.

Zionists Wall Up the Living: Pile Up the Dead!



Free Palestine: Resist The Zionist Occupation!

The International Department of the Irish Republican Socialist Party today condemned the assassination of Hamas founder and leader, Sheikh Ahmed Yassin. Sheikh Yassin was killed along with his son and two Hamas fighters when the Zionist occupying Palestine blew up the car they were driving in with an air-to-ground missile.

"While the Irish Republican Socialist Party has made no secret of its support for the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine as the Palestinian revolutionaries most similar to itself in seeking to wed the national liberation struggle in Palestine with the struggle of the working class for socialism," said

a spokesperson of the IRSP's international department, "and disagreed with Hamas on many programmatic issues, we nonetheless salute the resolve demonstrated by Sheikh Yassin consistently in resisting the Zionist occupation of Palestine. "Sheikh Yassin sought a sectarian, religious state, whereas the IRSP remains strongly secularist and anti-sectarian. Sheikh Yassin was a life-long opponent of the secular, Pan-Arabist, and socialist views that once informed many anti-imperialist movements throughout the Arab Nation, beginning with his opposition to the anti-imperialist regime of Gamal Nasser. These are not views we share and we do not wish to misrepresent ourselves on these matters. That

having been said, however, we recognise that the Zionist occupation of Palestine also represents a sectarian, religious state, one that exists to provide a surrogate for the imperialist powers of Europe and North America. The Israeli Zionists enslave and murder the people of Palestine, destabilise the entire region, and help to perpetuate some of the most reactionary regimes existent today in the Middle East through their presence.

"Despite our differences, we salute the courage and determination of Sheikh Yassin in resisting the Zionist occupation, as well as resisting the false 'peace' talks through which Israel sought to entrap the Palestinian nation. There is only one kind of peace

that Israel seeks for the nation of Palestine, and that is the peace of the dead. The wall they are presently constructing is intended to serve as a tomb for the Palestinian Authority and the Palestinian nation. This cannot and will not be allowed to happen.

"For many throughout Palestine, Sheikh Ahmed Yassin was an incarnation of the militant resistance to the Zionist occupation." In closing, the spokesperson said, "The IRSP express our solidarity with them, in this hour of their grief and salute the unwavering resistance they and the whole of the Palestinian people have waged."



Basque Politician Says ETA Willing to Give Up Arms

The leader of a banned Basque political party was quoted as saying he believed separatist guerrilla group ETA was prepared to give up violence and negotiate with the Spanish government.

Asked by a Basque newspaper if he believed ETA was willing to abandon violence, Arnaldo Otegi, leader of Batasuna, said: "I am convinced of it."

"Their latest statements, taking a clear position toward the new government of Spain to sit down and talk, point in that direction,"

Otegi was quoted as saying in the interview, published on Deia newspaper's Web site.

ETA has killed nearly 850 people since 1968 in a bombing and shooting campaign for an independent Basque state in northern Spain and southwestern France.

Spain, the United States and the European Union consider ETA to be a terrorist organization similarly to how the British consider the INLA and various IRAs who fight for national liberation in Ireland.

Last month it called for dialogue with Spain's incoming Socialist government but pledged to maintain its armed campaign, according to a communique carried by the Basque newspaper Gara. The Socialists, elected on March 14, dismissed the offer.

Batasuna, accused by Spanish authorities of being ETA's political wing, was outlawed last year by a court under a new law allowing political parties to be banned for not condemning terrorism.

Intifada: Some facts!

Since the Intifada started in Palestine the number of dead has been 3, 828.

Palestinians who died were 2, 874 and there were 886 Israelis a ratio of 3 to 1.

Of the Palestinian deaths at least 326 were killed in Israel's targeted assassination attacks.

160 of these were innocent bystanders including 25 women and 36 children

Kanehsatake Police Station Closed by Community

A police station inside a native American controlled area of Canada has been closed down by members of the community. Community members have closed the Kanehsatake Police station. The Kanehsatake community has decided to shut down the police station until after the elections in June. The police vehicle that was taken from the police station has been reported stolen. Kanehsatake has requested that the Kahnawake Peace Keepers come to Kanehsatake and take all ammunition and other police equipment for safe keeping, given that the police station will not be manned. In the basement of the Kanehsatake police station there were more than 6000 rounds of ammunition and over 80 rounds of tear gas as well as listening devices and Canadian Department of Defense paraphernalia.

Update: Presently there are neither police officers nor a police force operating within the community of Kanehsatake. It was decided after a squad car was stolen by the illegally imposed police sanctioned by James Gabriel, Canada, and Quebec that the police station should be closed till after the upcoming June elections or till further notice.

Contrary to corporate media reports NO community members stole ammunition or police equipment. It was decided by the community of Kanehsatake to have all the ammunition and police equipment removed from the police station and stored in a secure location out of the hands of community members and out of the hands of James Gabriel's non-sanctioned police force.

Aside from the risk of theft of the above mentioned items the community also stated that the removal of ammunition and equipment also eliminated an excuse for either Gabriel's police, the Sûreté du Québec, or the RCMP to intervene in order to secure these items. All is calm at this hour however, community members are assuming the duties of patrolling the territory of Kanehsatake and also keeping watch for outside police who would try to forcibly enter the community.

Source: Kanehsatake Mohawk Voice

Easter Monday Derry 2004



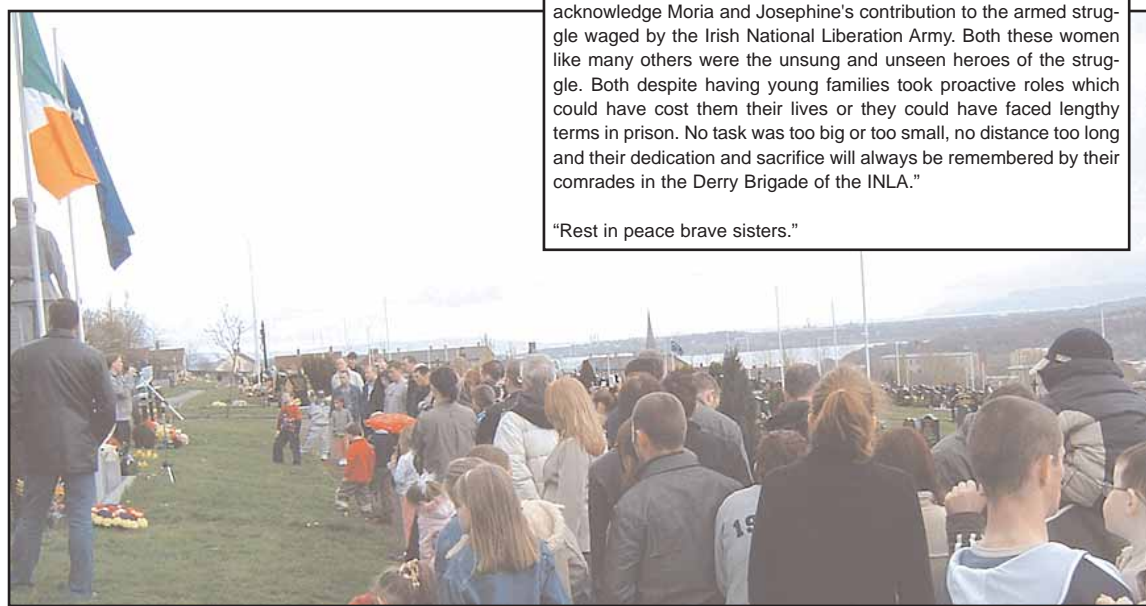
The IRSP in Derry held an Easter Commemoration on Easter Monday at the Republican Socialist Plot in the City Cemetery. The event was the first time the movement in Derry formally marked the Easter Rebellion in around ten years and is a reflection of the sustained growth of the IRSM in the city.

The event began with a march, led by a twelve person colour party, from the gates of the cemetery, paused at the graves of two recently deceased former members of the IRSM, Moria White and Josephine Kelly. Flags were also lowered at the Cu Chulainn statue which marks the graves of other republicans who died in struggle.

During the ceremony special tributes were paid to Moria White and Josephine Kelly by a female comrade:

"I would just like to say a few words on behalf of the movement in tribute to two of our comrades and sisters in struggle who passed away recently. Moria White and Josephine Kelly. Firstly I would like to extend our deepest sympathy to their families. We would like to acknowledge Moria and Josephine's contribution to the armed struggle waged by the Irish National Liberation Army. Both these women like many others were the unsung and unseen heroes of the struggle. Both despite having young families took proactive roles which could have cost them their lives or they could have faced lengthy terms in prison. No task was too big or too small, no distance too long and their dedication and sacrifice will always be remembered by their comrades in the Derry Brigade of the INLA."

"Rest in peace brave sisters."



Scottish Socialist Party Conference



Scottish Republican Socialists were honoured to welcome comrade Terry Harkin from the IRSP to speak at a fringe meeting during the SSP annual conference (Edinburgh, March 27/28). Unfortunately problems with printers meant that the meeting wasn't as well publicised as it might have been and the attendance was relatively small but this didn't distract from a positive meeting which will hopefully pave the way for further republican socialist co-operation and solidarity.

Terry's talk covered many angles - globalisation and imperialism, left unity and sectarianism - but always tied it in with the struggle at home and the struggle against British imperialism that is sadly lacking in the analysis of the SSP.

The reason for the invitation had been due to a motion from the CWI on "Northern Ireland" calling for protestant and catholic working-class unity with not the slightest mention of partition, imperialism or the 'workers in uniform' parading down the streets of the occupied 6-counties. The item was left to the very last on Sunday and debate was restricted to a couple of speakers from each side.

Given the opportunity to adopt a republican socialist position on the 'Irish question' (from the SRSM) conference rejected it as well as rejecting the social imperialist motion from the CWI. So where does that leave the SSP?

Illusions in Billy Hutchison and the "socialist" PUP? Who knows. It was the only option not on the table. The British left have always been soft on the actions of their own ruling-class to such an extent that they are part of the establishment and no threat to capitalist rule.

Terry had talked about the sectarian middle-class left groups that are an obstacle to working-class liberation and unfortunately they were there for all to see. The SWP speakers from the floor denounced the CWI motion and tried to introduce a slight mention of partition to their contribution but when it came to the crunch they couldn't bring themselves to vote for a motion from Republican Socialists. The ISM (the largest faction in the SSP, ex-Militant and a break away from the CWI) were conspicuous by their absence apart from one 'comrade' who got up to denounce the 'language' of the SRSM motion. Maybe the truth about British imperialism still rankles those who've spent a lifetime in the Brit Left?

Terry also made the point during our meeting that the difference between the media exposure of the likes of Eamonn McCann and Bernadette McAliskey, was simple - 'who's the bigger threat to the imperialists?' As the SSP grows and wanders further down the road of soft-left reformism so too does the media exposure grow - the parallels seem quite clear. The defeat of this motion was only

another step away from a revolutionary perspective and makes us question further whether the SSP has any chance of leading the Scottish working-class to liberation and socialist revolution.

Furthermore they turned their back on the chance to constitutionally entrench support for a Scottish Socialist Republic - as this was 'undemocratic'. The vociferous pro-British wing of the party now has free reign to continue their attacks on the fundamentals of SSP policy and the SRSM is left victim of sectarian student left posturing. Left unity is all very well but it must be principled unity. The SSP is trying to bridge the gap between social imperialists and republican socialists and will one day have to make up its mind. Its ironic that support for an independent Kurdistan could receive unanimous backing from the SSP, but that bitter divisions exist over support for Scottish & Irish Socialist Republics. This should be the fundamentals of a republican socialist approach to the 'national question' but the SSP still has a long way to travel.

So thanks again to Comrade Harkin, to the republican socialists from Cymru, Euskal Herria and the IRSC who at least managed to bring some sense to proceedings.

Onwards to the long-overdue Republican Socialist International.

A WORLD TO WIN!

Cambodian Hotel Workers Need Your Support

Hundreds of members of the Cambodian Tourism and Service Workers' Federation (CTSWF) were fired from their jobs in retaliation against a peaceful, legal one-week strike.

Employers have unilaterally rejected rulings of the Cambodia Arbitration Council instructing them to comply with Cambodian law and distribute 100 percent of the service charges billed to customers to the employees on a regular monthly basis. The employers are seeking to break the union, in direct violation of Cambodian law, in a move that would rob hotel workers of a significant source of their income.

To show your solidarity, please visit:

http://www.labourstart.org/cgi-in/solidarityforever/show_campaign.cgi?c=26

Wave of Strikes in Kenya

The public sector in Kenya is experiencing widespread discontent over low wages and poor job security. The concerns have arisen from recent salary reviews for teachers, court workers, university staff, police, and Members of Parliament resulting in raises, while workers in the state-owned corporations' and employees of the central government were excluded.

Workers at KenGen and the Kenya Power and Lighting Company (KPLC) have given notice of their intention to strike within the next three weeks, an action that could leave the country without power on a widespread basis and cause disruption of all industrial production. The move by the power workers prompted the communications workers of Postal Corporation and Telkom Kenya that they were prepared to strike over managements intention to sack 6,000.

Elsewhere, the 8,000 workers of Nairobi City Council's water and sewerage department are considering a strike due to attempts to cut back the workforce and a move to transfer staff to the payroll of a new company, the Nairobi Water Company, in order to roll back compensation.

On top of these actions, about 140,000 employees represented by the Union of Kenya Civil Servants (UKCS) are demanding a 600 per cent pay rise demand, effective as of July of last year. In general, the Kenyan government is taking a hardline position of refusing any pay increases and seeking large layoffs of workers in many sectors, but the government is unlikely to be able to contend with widespread strike actions.

Government Halts May Day Demonstrations in Egypt

Egyptian security forces prohibited a peaceful demonstration by trade union leaders and members of the working class, which had been planned for May Day. The workers were demanding a 40 per cent increase in wages. Access to public squares in Cairo were blocked and march participants were forcibly dispersed. There were reports of march participants being beaten by security forces.

Regarding the issues being protested, Essam Abdel-Hamid, writing in the Nasserist Party's newspaper, Al-Arabi said, "The price of basic staples has gone up between 33 and 109 per cent -- onions being the exception as their price has increased by 500 per cent. Over five million people live in shantytowns, and over 100,000 Egyptians are diagnosed with cancer every year as a result of pollutants."

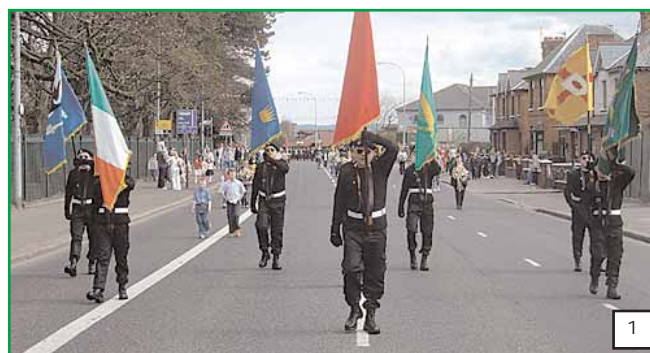
Strikes are strictly restricted in Egypt and there have been recent changes in Egyptian labour law were have turned decisions over wage increases to a new commission which has been dragging its feet. The law also restricted workers access to challenging adverse conditions in the courts and discontent is widespread.

If you would like to send us reports for publication:
plough@irms.org



2004

11th Anniversary of Rising



1: Socialist Martyrs Memorial Flute Band form up for their first march, 3: Colour Party lowers flags at
11th Anniversary of Rising (Proclamation), 6: Andy Gallagher (Chair), 7: John Murtagh (Prisoners Statement), 8: Terry
11: Republican Socialists remember Easter 1916, 11: Colour Party on the Falls Road.



Marx, Engels, the Daughters of Marx & the Irish Revolution

Peter Urban

Previous articles in this series have dealt with early Irish figures in the Republican Socialist tradition, and they will be returned to again very shortly. However, a discussion of the early history of the Republican Socialist current in Ireland would not be complete without some discussion of the relationship of Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels—who first developed Scientific Socialism—to the revolutionary struggle in Ireland.

The General Council of the International Workingmen's Association first took up the issue of Ireland generally in 1867. At that time, Marx and Engels were the primary advocates of the cause of the Irish nationalism on the Council. Following the formation of Irish sections within the IMWA and the admission of a corresponding secretary for the Irish sections onto the Council, Marx and Engels continued to provide unfailingly staunch support to the Irish sections and their representative on the Council.

Marx's strong feelings on the Irish issue were demonstrated often within the General Council of the International, as they were during an early debate on Fenianism, when, as he wrote to Engels, he had yielded the floor to another member rather than deliver his own speech on the subject as, "our subject, Fenianism, was liable to inflame the passions to such heat that I (but not the abstract Fox) would have been forced to hurl revolutionary thunderbolts instead of soberly analyzing the state of affairs and the movement as I had intended."

To Marx, the solution of the 'Irish Question'-Irish national liberation—was the key to solving the 'English Question' for socialists and he saw that as the revolutionary 'key' for the rest of Europe. Marx viewed England as possessing "all the material prerequisites necessary for the social revolution," but lacking "the spirit of generalisation and revolutionary fervour." The Irish, whom Engels called, "the most revolutionary element of the population", he believed might supply this spirit. Marx viewed the General Council's resolution on amnesty for the Fenian prisoners as only:

an introduction to other resolutions which will affirm that, quite apart from international justice, it is a precondition to the emancipation of the English working class to transform the present forced union (i.e., the enslavement off Ireland) into equal and free confederation if possible, into complete separation if need be.

He considered Ireland of such great importance because he believed that Ireland was "the bulwark of English landlordism." Of the demise of this last key foundation of feudalism's continued existence

in England Marx wrote:

If it fell in Ireland it would fall in England. In Ireland this is a hundred times easier, since the economic struggle there is concentrated exclusively on landed property, since this struggle is at the same time national, and since the people there are more revolutionary and exasperated than in England.

Further, Marx argued that Ireland was "the only pretext the English Government has for retaining a big standing army," which could be used against the English workers in struggle.

For Engels, the campaign around the Fenian prisoners had yet another significance, as shown in a letter he wrote to Ludwig Kugelmann:

The Irish, too, are in a very substantial ferment in this business, and the London proletarians declare every day more openly for the Fenians and, hence—an unheard-of and splendid thing here-for, first, a violent and, secondly, an anti-English movement.

A sentiment reiterated by Engels many years later in a letter to Eduard Bernstein on the actions of the Irish Land League. Engels wrote: "The Irish are teaching our leisurely John Bull to get a move on. That's what comes from shooting." (British Leftists quick to attack the armed national liberation struggle in Ireland, please take note).



Engels relationship to Ireland and the Irish national liberation struggle went beyond political advocacy. Engels had, during the course of his life, two women as domestic partners—the second, following the death of the first. The women were sisters, Lizzie and Mary Burns, whose father was a leading Fenian in England. Perhaps as a result of these romantic and personal relationships, Engels made several visits to Ireland, undertook to learn the Irish language, and began work on a history of Ireland, which

unfortunately remained unfinished, as pressing business of the international socialist movement left him insufficient time to complete it.

Two of Marx's daughters also played significant roles in relation to the Irish national liberation struggle. It was Karl Marx's daughter Jenny who first exposed the plight of the Fenian prisoners outside of the British Isles. She wrote a series of articles under the pseudonym, J. Williams in the French newspaper, Marseillaise, detailing the barbaric treatment of the prisoners, which, according to Engels, won the release of most the prisoners within a few weeks of the articles publication. Jenny went on to become the regular correspondent for the Marseillaise on Irish affairs.

Marx's youngest daughter, Eleanor (Tussy) Marx-Aveling, was, according to Marx in a letter to his daughter Laura, a 'head centre' (leader) of the Fenians. This claim was likely made in jest, but Eleanor devote a great deal of work for the benefit of the Irish during the period of the First and Second Internationals. Later in her life, both Eleanor and her husband and English socialist-Edward Aveling, became initial subscribing members (financial backers) of the Irish Socialist Republican Party, when James Connolly first launched it in 1896.

The work of the Marxes and Engels on behalf of the Irish struggle has yet to be surpassed in the non-Irish socialist community and has, in fact, been largely ignored. Even many modern Irish Marxists have failed to recognize the importance of some of Marx's comments on Ireland. Marx's observation that Gladstone offered his Irish Land Bill at the very moment that the import of cheap corn and cattle from the United States threatened to depreciate the value of Irish land holdings, has generally not been explored, though it provides an altogether unique perspective on the passage of the Irish Land Bill. Moreover, Marx's conclusions regarding the importance of the resolution of the Irish Question to the English and European social revolutions, which might have provided a reason for the international socialist community to take note of Ireland, has received little attention from Irish socialists.

NEXT ISSUE: MARX, ENGELS AND LENIN ON IRELAND AND THE NATIONAL QUESTION

First International Resolutions on Ireland 1866-1870

The initial contact between the Fenian movement and the International Workingmen's Association was established in January of 1866, following a series of articles by Marx on the Fenians in the London newspaper, The Workman's Advocate. The articles had come to the attention of the Fenians, and the wife of imprisoned Fenian leader O'Donovan Rossa wrote to Marx, thanking him for the articles and sending an appeal for support of the convicted Fenians. The following month, the General Council of the International voted unanimously to approve a resolution by Peter Fox to send a deputation to the home secretary, Sir George Grey, to request mitigation of the prisoners' treatment. Grey refused to receive the deputation from the International, so the statement that had been drawn up was instead published in The Commonwealth, a newspaper then used as the official organ of the IWMA.

Eugene Dupont, the Corresponding Secretary for the French sections of the IWMA and another follower of Marx's in the International, said on the issue of physical force that the Irish had been forced to this tactic having no other recourse; asking: "Is not this Irish emigration to America by millions the most eloquent legal protest?" He went on to denounce the English workers who faulted the Fenians, arguing that these workers and the Irish revolutionaries shared the same enemy, "the territorial aristocracy and the capitalists."

It was during the resumed debate on Fenianism that Marx yielded the floor to the Englishman Peter Fox, because of his own passions running too high on the subject, but more importantly, because he preferred that the resolution in support of the Fenians come from an Englishman. Marx having deferred to Fox resulted in a somewhat

watered down resolution compared to the spirit reflected in the debate. It read:

That this meeting desires that a settled peace and amity between the British and the Irish nations should be substituted for the war of seven hundred years between Englishry and: Irish and with this view, this meeting exhorts the friends of Irish nationality to bring their cause before the British people and advises the latter to accord an unprejudiced hearing to the arguments advanced on behalf of Ireland's right to autonomy.

In striking contrast to Peter Fox's speech, the speech that Marx was to have delivered was a lengthy explanation of the social roots of Fenianism and a strong message of support. He described the nature of English rule at that time as the "quite business-like extinction," and the British government as "only an instrument of the landlords." This state of affairs, he continued, contributed to the distinguishing characteristics of Fenianism, making it a "Socialist lower class movement." The conclusion of his undelivered speech called for repeal of the Act of Union between England and Ireland as "an essential article of any future English Democratic Party."

In 1869 a second campaign was launched to win amnesty for the Fenian prisoners still being held in British jails. In England, this campaign was primarily organized by the International. The Council organized a mass demonstration around the demand for amnesty, on October 24, 1869, which drew almost 100,000 demonstrators. In a General Council meeting following the demonstration, Marx argued that the "main feature of the demonstration" was that "at least a part of the English working class had lost their prejudice against the Irish." Hermann Jung added that, while the English had traditionally represented the Irish struggle as one of race, the demonstration "had shown that it was a struggle of classes."

The leading Irish members of the First International will be the subject of the next article in this series.

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ANTON PANNEKOEK

Peter Urban

We have said that Rosa Luxemburg's chief contribution to Marxism was to remind revolutionary socialists of Marx's position that the liberation of the working class must be undertaken by the class itself.

Beyond this, she helped to restore an understanding within the socialist movement that capitalism is internally unstable, to a lethal extent, but that this alone cannot guarantee the success of the socialist revolution. Because of this, she can be seen as a forerunner of the Council Communist tendency.

One of the most prominent leaders of the Council Communist tendency was the Dutch revolutionary socialist, Anton Pannekoek. Pannekoek also went on to become an astronomer and mathematician of world renown.

There are a host of universities, observatories, and research facilities of astronomy in the Netherlands named after Pannekoek today and his History of Astronomy remains in publication in several languages, including English. Pannekoek entered the Sociaal Demokratische Arbeiderspartij (SDAP) as a young student and immediately became associated with its left wing.

Anti-militarism was the SDAP's foremost concern and prompting it to break with the Second International and to emerge as perhaps the most consistent voice for positions in opposition to colonialism and imperialism within the socialist movement prior to the First World War.

The SDAP was led by Nieuwenhuis, who was among the first critics of class collaboration within the Socialist International and an early opponent of participation in capitalist parliaments. During the First World War, socialist opposition to the war was chiefly centered around Luxemburg and Liebknecht in Berlin, a group influenced by Pannekoek during several years in Bremen, Pannekoek and Gorter's group in Holland, and Lenin's Bolsheviks in exile in Zurich.

These four groupings met each other and worked closely together in Zimmerwald, Switzerland, where they became known then and now as the Zimmerwald Left, the forerunners of the Communist International.

Ultimately, around 1920, the activists who made up the Zimmerwald Left divided into two distinct camps. One of these was the Bolsheviks and those who formed the first Communist Parties, the other became known as the Council Communist movement, giving rise to Communist Workers' Parties in several countries and, like the Communist Parties'

Third, resulting in the formation of a Fourth International (unrelated to that of the Trotskyists, who more than a decade later, called their International the Fourth as well).

It is from Pannekoek's book, The Workers' Council, written during the World War II, that this tendency derived their name. In the work, Pannekoek returned to the Historical Materialism of Marx and Engels, arguing that the distinct character of each class gives rise to specific forms of organisation best suited to its unique interests.

He observed the model of the workers' councils that emerged as vehicles of revolutionary change in the 1905 Russian Revolution and formed the basis for Luxemburg's work on the Mass Strike.

He witnessed the councils again become the vehicles employed by workers in revolutionary struggle in Russia, Germany, Italy, Austria, Hungary, and even Ireland, in the case of the Limerick Soviet, between 1917 and 1921.

Observation of this historical reality, coupled with an earlier critique of class collaboration and reformism by Social Democratic parties in parliaments throughout Europe, led Pannekoek to conjecture that the party was a revolutionary organisational form that arose in response to the needs of the rising capitalist class and was chiefly suited to function within the confines of capitalism. When the working class organised itself for revolution, however, it did so through new and unique forms of organisation, which corresponded to its needs and interests.

Among the unique attributes of the workers' council was that it was exclusively an organisation of working people, generally based in the workplace, so that the exclusion of other classes was a natural outgrowth of the circumstances out of which it arose.

Unlike the party, the council cannot survive on an ongoing basis within a stable capitalist system—it quite literally is revolutionary or it is nothing. Because its character is formed from having arisen in the course of intense class warfare, it functions without recourse to the existing laws and governing bodies of capitalist society.

This character of the council makes it an appropriate vehicle for workers to begin building a parallel government while engaged in revolutionary action—it provides both the means to organise to destroy capitalism, as well as the means for the administration of socialism.

Another attribute of the council is that it is immediate to the work-



ers. Councils arose spontaneously on factory floors, in workshops, etc. There was no mediation between the worker where he lived, where he worked, as person and the political organisation of the workers.

No artificial division between the person and the "citizen", such as Marx had critiqued, brought about through the mediation of electoral processes and legislative bodies. The council represented the rule of working people in their immediate surroundings, often directly exercised.

When the rule of the citizens came in place of the rule of the absolute monarch, this could not mean that for his arbitrary will, the arbitrary will of everybody was substituted. It meant that henceforward, laws established by the common will should regulate the public rights and duties. So now, in the realm of labour, the command of the master gives way to rules fixed in common, to regulate the social rights and duties, in production and consumption.

To formulate them will be the first task of the workers' councils. This is not a difficult task, not a matter of profound study or serious discordance. For every worker these rules will immediately spring up in his consciousness as the natural basis of the new society: everyone's duty to take part in the production in accordance with his forces and capacities, everyone's right to enjoy his adequate part of the collective product.

This perspective on the necessity of the working class creating its own forms of organisation in the course of revolutionary struggle leads to a very different concept of the revolutionary party within capitalism. Rather than viewing the party as the means by which a revolution is organised, Council Communism sees the party as chiefly a vehicle for increasing the class-consciousness of working people.

Organisation for the purpose of contesting elections to capitalist parliaments had been seen to have a negative impact on class consciousness, in that it encouraged working people to look to others (their party's elected members of parliament) to bring about the transformation of society they sought, rather than encouraging them to see this as something which they should undertake themselves.

Moreover, participation in capitalist parliaments was seen to have resulted in an increased emphasis on reform, which had a negative impact on workers' embracing the need for revolutionary change.

The growing focus on reforms contributed to a growing tendency for the parliamentary section of the party to engage in coalitions with capitalist parties and

therefore fostered class collaboration.

Accordingly, council communism rejected parliamentarism, because its impact on the consciousness of working people had been demonstrated to be directly the opposite of what their objective was.

Parliamentarism encouraged workers to see themselves as disempowered and emphasised the role of elected members of parliament in making social change

Parliamentarism discouraged class war by encouraging class collaboration through parliamentary coalitions

Parliamentarism reinforced the idea that capitalist law, based as it was on the right to private property, was legitimate and appropriate to working people, rather than encouraging workers to acknowledge their own right to expropriate the fruits of their collective labours from the ruling class, to reject private property as a right, and to reject the authority of the capitalist state to discipline the workers and oppose their struggle to overturn capitalism

By encouraging reformism, parliamentarism encouraged support for imperialism, by encouraging workers to see capitalist production as a vehicle for improving their standard of living.

In contrast, Council Communism sees the revolutionary party as focused chiefly on increasing the level of class-consciousness among working people. Accordingly, it supports making programmatic decisions on the basis of that objective.

If the question arose as to whether a pact with a capitalist party might be worth undertaking, because the collaboration could deliver an increase in the minimum wage, Council Communism would hasten to point out that the question is about achieving a reformist improvement within the confines of capitalism's continued existence.

Accordingly, that question is rejected, and instead the question is posed: "will a pact with a capitalist party to raise the minimum wage have the effect of moving working people's consciousness towards greater recognition of their specific and unique interests as workers and encourage their understanding of the need for carrying out a revolutionary overthrow of the capitalist system?" The programme that is likely to be adopted when the question is asked in this fashion is a very different one than in the former.

The next article in this series will look at Council Communism's approach to workers' union organising in the context of introducing the views of Hermann Gorter, whose Fourth International the great Irish socialist Jim Larkin participated in.

Lessons From Vietnam

Liam O'Ruairc

Fifty years ago, on May 7th 1954, the French army surrendered in Dien Bien Phu to the victorious Vietnamese forces. The fact that a small nation of peasants was able to defeat the French colonialists and later the US, the largest imperialist power in the world is of immense significance.

The struggle of the Vietnamese people for national liberation and socialism provided inspiration to colonized and oppressed people all over the world. Today, Iraqi patriots resisting US and British occupation forces from Fallujah to Najaf will draw many important lessons from the people's war in Vietnam. Why were the Vietnamese successful? In 1961, General Vo Nguyen Giap summed up "The Factors of Success":

"The Vietnamese people's war of liberation was victorious because it was a just war waged for independence and the reunification of the country, in the legitimate interests of the nation and the people, and which by this fact succeeded in leading the whole people to participate enthusiastically in the resistance and consent to make every sacrifice for its victory. The Vietnamese people's war of liberation won this great victory because we had a revolutionary armed force of the people, the heroic Vietnam People's Army.

Built in accordance with the political line of the Party, this army was animated by an unflinching combative spirit, and accustomed to a style of persevering political work. ...It is an army led by the party of the working class. The Vietnamese people's war of liberation was victorious because we had a wide and firm National United Front, comprising all the revolutionary classes, all nationalities living on Vietnamese soil, all the patriots. This Front was based on the alliance between workers and peasants under the leadership of the party. The Vietnamese people's war of liberation ended in victory because the existence of people's power ...under the leadership of the party. It devoted its efforts to mobilizing and organizing the whole people for the Resistance; it brought material advantages not only in the free zones but also in the guerilla base. The Vietnamese people's war of liberation attained this great victory for the reasons we have just enumerated but above all because it was organized and led by the Party of the working class...

In the light of the principles of Marxism Leninism, it was this party which proceeded to make an analysis of the social situation and of the balance of forces between the enemy and ourselves in order to determine the tasks of the people's national democratic revolution...It was the Party which found a correct solution to the problems arising out of the setting up and leadership of a people's army, people's power and a national united front. It also inspired in the people and the army a completely revolutionary spirit which instilled into the whole people the will to overcome all difficulties, to endure all privations, the spirit of a long resistance, of resistance to the end....

If the Vietnamese people's war of liberation ended in a glorious victory, it is because we did not fight alone, but with the support of progressive peoples the world over, and more especially the peoples of brother countries, with the Soviet Union at the head." (People's War, People's Army).

Apologies to the reader for such a long quote, but it sums up very well the decisive factors which allowed the victory of the people's war for national liberation and socialism: a just cause, a party an army and a united front (both of them under party leadership), a revolutionary theory, international support, and the existence of an alternative government. The French and US forces had a great deal of technical know-how but no sense of political know-why.

The decisive strength of the Vietnamese patriots was their ability to put politics in command. They relied on a strategy of politicizing the masses and mobilizing them on an economic, political and military level. The current resistance of Iraqi patriots is not comparable to the Vietcong precisely because they lack their kind of political leadership. Note that the achievements of the Vietnamese revolution are not only extraordinary in terms of a successful struggle for national liberation, but also on how it rebuilt the country from scratches.

Vietnam is one of the world's poorest countries, which half a century ago was still in the middle of colonialism and feudalism. It had to go through 40 years of wars and massive destructions. The US army, in its own words, brought the country "back to the stone age". However, in 25 years of socialist construction, it was able to achieve more than many countries in terms of social and economic development. The World Bank begins its report on poverty in Vietnam by stating that "the achievements of Vietnam in terms of diminishing poverty are one of the greatest success in the history of economic development". (Vietnam Development Report 2004, www.world-bank.org.vn/news/) From 1945 to 1999, the number of medical doctors has increased 700 times (from 51 to 37 100).

Today, Vietnamese people have a life expectancy of over 68 years against 38 in 1945. Infant mortality is 42 for 1000 births (against 135/1000 in neighboring capitalist Cambodia for example). The world average of infant mortality is of 83.2. Economic growth over the last few years averaged 7 percent, and the country aims to become an industrialized nation by 2020! (Do not forget that a country like Belgium, for example, took about two hundred years to evolve from an agricultural to industrial economy).

The UN recognizes that in Vietnam "the government places the individual human being at the center of development and promotes human potential and the well being of all". (International Development Targets / Millennium Development Goals Progress - Viet Nam. July 2001 (www.un.org.vn)).

The World Bank acknowledges that the benefits of economic growth have benefited the population as a whole rather than a rich minority. It notes that "the greatest success of the period of economic growth is that it has not been matched by greater inequality." (Le Vietnam realise ses engagements, Evaluation de la Banque Mondiale (rapport 2003) in Faites connaissance avec le Vietnam, ed. The Gioi, Hanoi 2004).

Those spectacular achievements of socialist Vietnam should not obscure the fact that there remain many challenges to face. One of the most significant issues facing the country is the problem of corruption and bureaucracy. The Communist Party of Vietnam itself recognizes that there is not enough struggle against bureaucracy and corruption. One of the resolutions of its ninth congress concluded that the problem of corruption was a life or death question for the party. (Report on half term of ninth Party Congress's resolutions announced, Nhan Dan (www.nhandan.org.vn), 4/02/2004).

"FREE JAILED ACTIVISTS OF DHKC-P & ANTI-IMPERIALIST CAMP" - IRSP International Department

The International Department of the Irish Republican Socialist Party joins with revolutionaries around the globe in denouncing the arrest of Comrades of the Revolutionary People's Liberation Party-Front (DHKP-C) throughout Europe. The Irish Republican Socialist Party wish to express our solidarity with these Anatolian revolutionaries who have become the scapegoat of European imperialism in the wake of the bombings in Spain, as well as with the activists of the Anti-Imperialist Camp who have bravely defended them. We further condemn the arrests of three Italian members of the Anti-Imperialist Camp in Perugia.

We in the IRSP have long maintained comradely relations with the DHKP-C, who have set an example for revolutionaries around the globe by their courage and iron will in the face of adversity, repression, a death. Members of our movement have stood beside the members of the DHKP-C on death fast, and DHKP-C members have stood at the

grave-sides of the martyred hunger strikers of the Irish National Liberation Army. We have come together to speak out against the isolation of political prisoners and prisoners of war, especially those of the class war, in the past. We speak out again now in solidarity with them and in disgust over the imperialists of Europe using the pretext of their 'war on terrorism' to terrorise revolutionaries within the Turkish and Kurdish communities of Europe.

Regarding the arrests of three Italian members of the Anti-Imperialist Camp, the IRSP recognise that the comrades of the Anti-Imperialist Camp have been targeted by the Italian ruling class for their militant defense of the armed resistance to the US/British invasion and occupation of Iraq, as well as for their efforts to bring anti-imperialists from around the world into dialogue and collective action with one-another. We call upon revolutionary socialists and anti-imperialist activists worldwide to join in the defense of these activists and continue to support the efforts by the Anti-Imperialist Camp to forge stronger bonds of solidarity between revolutionary organisations throughout the world.

Anti-capitalists and anti-imperialists can no longer continue to accept such repression by the ruling class. The working class, in nations throughout the world, can no longer continue to prop up a capitalist system which is maintained through the left of their labour power and leaves them with only misery; a system in which useless parasites grow fat while working people starve by the hundreds of millions. Anti-capitalists and anti-imperialists must stand together now and demand an end to these witch-hunts, this repression, and this tyranny.

Peadar Baile
Co-Secretary, International Department
Irish Republican Socialist Party

Teagmháil Contact

The Irish Republican Socialist Party has established Cumainn in all major cities and towns throughout Ireland as well as Republican Socialist Committees in Europe, United States & Canada. Each IRSP cumann meets on a weekly basis to activate, educate and organise events locally such as public and political educational meetings, solidarity protests, pickets and demonstrations from community to workplace struggles. The Irish Republican Socialist Party has active Cumainn, as well as individual members and supporters in the following towns and cities across Ireland, to contact and get involved with the nearest IRSP Cumann in your area write to your nearest contact address listed below:

Ireland: irsp@irsm.org

**Ardglass, Armagh, Cork, Limerick,
Newry, Galway, Sligo, Waterford,
Wexford:**

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Bray, Dublin, Dundalk:

Email: dublinirsp@hotmail.com

Europe: irsp@netwizards.net

IRSP has members, supporters and contacts active in many working class campaigns and prisoner solidarity in towns and cities throughout England, Scotland and Wales, and across Europe, write to our International Department for further details on how you can actively participate.

IRSP International Department

Email: irsp@netwizards.net

North America: irsp@netwizards.net

Irish Republican Socialist Committees of North America

2057 15th Street, Suite B, San Francisco, CA 94111, North America.
Tel./Fax: 415 861 1355 Email: irsp@netwizards.net

IRSC has members, supporters and contacts active in working class struggles and prisoner solidarity throughout United States, Canada and Latin America. Write for further details on how you too can actively participate.

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Official IRSP Website:
<http://irsm.org/irsp/>

IRSM Statements:
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**Ex-Republican Socialist POW
Support Organisations:**

Teach Na Failte (Strabane):
31 Patrick Street, Strabane, Tyrone
Tel/Fax: 028 71 88 46 16

Teach Na Failte (Belfast):
392b Falls Road, Belfast, BT12 6DH.
Tel/Fax: 028 90 238 321

Teach na Failte Online
www.teachnafailte.org

Prisoner of War Website:
<http://irsm.org/irspows/>

Turkish Death Fast Committee:
www.geocities.com/turkishhunger-strike/

Free Dessie O'Hare Campaign
www.irsm.org/irsp/free_dessie

James Connolly Society:
www.wageslave.org/jcs/

Larkspirit:
www.larkspirit.com

Cork IRSP Online:
www.irsm.org/cumann/cork

Republican Socialist Forum
<http://rsmforum.proboards23.com/index.cgi>

This is *Republican Socialism!*

The Irish Republican Socialist Party is an organisation created by and for working class people, to aid working class liberation in Ireland and internationally with others who share that common goal. The IRSP stands in the tradition of James Connolly, seeking an end to all forms of exploitation and the creation of a 32 county socialist republic, with the working class collectively owning the means of production, distribution, and exchange, as well as democratically administering society.

Socialism

The socialism we embrace is the kind that liberates, not enslaves. We strive towards a society that functions to meet human needs, not the need for profit. Our socialism is a means of liberating our class from all forms of oppression, whether economic, political, religious, cultural or social. It is a socialism that envisions our class controlling their own destinies and that of the nation as a whole.

National Liberation

The struggle for national liberation cannot be separated from the class struggle. Any attempt to isolate one from the other will result in failure. It is meaningless to speak of a free nation, if the overwhelming majority remain oppressed, and national sovereignty is lost through multinational corporate control of the economy just as much as by partition. At the same time, someone who refuses to challenge British imperialism in Ireland cannot claim to be fighting for socialism and the continuation of partition props up the divisions in the working class of Ireland that hold us back from our own liberation. We have no choice in whether or not we wish to consider the interconnection of the national and class questions, reality forces us to do so.

We define the national liberation struggle as that struggle which seeks to force a British military withdrawal from the occupied six counties. The destruction of the pro-British loyalist armed forces. The withdrawal of British political influence from all parts of Ireland. The ending the partition of the island of Ireland and the overturning of both the partitionist governments presently administering political affairs of Ireland. The gaining of collective economic control of the nation's resources by the nation as a whole and the eradication of any control or influence exercised by foreign capitalists over any aspect of the Irish economy. The recognition of a separate Irish cultural identity and the establishment of revolutionary 32-county socialist republic.

We aim to build a strong alliance in Irish society of our class in towns and cities, agricultural workers in the country-side, unemployed workers, working class refugees, linked as a movement internationally with other like-minded liberation struggles.

We firmly stand-by the struggle for a republic. On that we are inflexible, but our struggle for the republic is a means to an end. For us, the national liberation struggle is but an aspect of the struggle for socialism.

Loyalism & Nationalism

We distinguish between loyalism and Protestantism. We recognise the right of everyone to their own religious beliefs, provided they do not use these beliefs to oppress others. We have no quarrel with Protestant workers and welcome them to join us in struggle. However, we stand totally opposed to the political

ideology of loyalism. Loyalism is a reactionary, sectarian and pro-imperialist ideology, with which we can make no compromise. We recognise that nationalism in the context of the Irish struggle is progressive, but we also recognise that nationalism can play a reactionary role. The national chauvinism of the Tories, National Front, etc. is counter-revolutionary and anathema to socialists. The nationalism of an oppressed country is vastly different from such reactionary jingoism. We support all struggles against imperialism throughout the world.

Class mobilisation

Only by mobilising our class north and south - Protestant, Catholic and Dissenter - can the goal of national liberation and socialism be achieved. Workers have distinct interests as a class, ultimately opposed to any other class, we must join together as a class to win control of society.

For a fighting union

As republican socialists, we take lesson from battles that have gone before us, in the community and in the workplace. We must reclaim our unions and organise the unorganised. We remain committed to the revolutionary industrial unionism of Larkin and Connolly. As republican socialists we see the creation of a fighting 'rank and file' trade union movement as something that still holds potential and we support the building of a revolutionary shop stewards' movement.

Equality

Our class faces daily, relentless assaults inflicted on us from many quarters and a constant onslaught of attempts to divide us. The IRSP oppose and fight against all forms of inequality and oppression, including that of women, travellers, lesbians, gays, or other sexual minorities, refugees, Africans, Asians, and any other oppressed sector of the working class. We oppose racism, Zionism, sexism, homophobia, national chauvinism, and anything else which divides our class. We support reproductive rights and unhindered access to contraception, including a woman's right to choose abortion. We are opposed to religious sectarianism and seek the complete separation of church and state and a secular society.

Our Earth

The increasing destruction of our environment is due to mismanagement of industrialisation and the inevitable product of a system, which puts profit before all else, that is, capitalism. The IRSP is committed to sustainable and renewable energy sources, preservation of the ecology and biodiversity of our planet, with protection of all species and the promotion of a healthy environment for all people and animal life.

Revolution not Reform

The IRSP believe that the present class system cannot be reformed out of existence. There exists no parliamentary road to socialism and the liberation of our class. We need to build an organised working class movement with the politics capable of leading the fight against capitalism. Our class are entitled to control over all the wealth of society and to obtain it through any means necessary.

If you agree with us, then we urge you to join the Irish Republican Socialist Party and help build a movement that can accomplish these aims and objectives. Be part of the Irish revolution!

Vol John Morris
Dublin Brigade I.N.L.A.
Killed in Action 5th June 1997

**Commemoration
& Memorial Unveiling**
Sunday 13th June 2004

Assemble 2pm
Old Mill Public House
Old Bawn Road, Tallaght
For March to Bohernabreena
Cemetery - Prominent Speaker

Dublin's Homeless Scandal

This Is A Recent Interview
Carried Out By A Starry Plough Reporter

Homelessness is about a lack of security, lack of belonging, lack of privacy and lack of safety. People sleeping out in doorways, parks, in derelict sites and in abandoned cars experience the most extreme form of homelessness. According to the official Government count, over 350 people on any given night are sleeping rough in the Dublin area, at least one third are under the age of eighteen. In 2002 nearly 1,500 Children were part of Families experiencing homelessness.

But unfortunately this is just the tip of the iceberg. The 'invisible' homeless, people who live in emergency accommodation: in shelters, hostels, refuges, in B&Bs or double share with friends and relatives, make up about 10 times the number of people sleeping rough. They are also in need and equally without a home. The Starry Plough visited a number of locations around Dublin to speak to some of the Homeless, the first place we visited was incidentally Dublin County Council, the first People we spoke to were Georgie, and Stumpy. The following is there own words.

Georgie: *I am originally from Buckingham Street and I have been sleeping rough for the past 7 years. My marriage broke up in 1997 due to my*

drinking and gambling, my brothers and sisters are very good to me and look after me as best as they can but I don't like intruding on them because they have there own lives and families to rear. I hate living on the streets especially when the weather is wet and cold as it has been for the past few nights. It isn't to bad here because the big arc lights around the building give off some heat, but sometimes the security guards ring the police to move us on. I don't know how all these fucking refugees can be given the best housing and our own are left to live on the streets. Years ago you could get a beds it for 50 - 60 pound now they are nearly 200 a week and the only people who can afford them are refugees, how can this be, why are we been discriminated against"

Stumpy: *" I am living on the streets a few years now, drink is my demon, but I don't deserve this. I am originally from Strabane Co Tyrone. I used to be a printer and the factory closed down so I couldn't afford my rent so I was fucked out on to the Streets. Believe it or not I never really used to drink, its living on these streets that turn you to drink or drugs, it helps to blot out my shitty existence. A friend of ours threw himself into the river, about two weeks ago. He was pulled out and brought to hospital. The*

hospital kept him in, as he was suffering from severe depression. Mixer was homeless just like us, some nights he got a bed in a hostel, most nights the hostels were all full and he slept on the street. During the day, he walked the streets, bored, tired and hungry. While he was in hospital, I went to visit him.

He told me: *"I can't go on living like this anymore". "Living like what?" I said. "I can't go on living", he said, "knowing that nobody cares". Mixer almost lost his life, not from lack of food, or the cold or an illness brought on by living on the streets. He almost lost his life because he had lost his dignity. He felt that his life was of no value to anyone, that he was worthless, that he wasn't worth caring about. He felt useless, that really whether he lived or died would make no difference to the world or to anyone in it. His sense of his own worth was so destroyed that whether he lived or died didn't even make any difference to himself. Mixer is now in Dundrum mental hospital, at least now he has a roof over his head and three square meals"*

Social welfare office: Sue and Pat agreed to speak to the Starry Plough out of a group of Four Homeless People huddled together in a makeshift tent.

Sue: *I have been sleeping rough for the past 5 years and am originally from Crumlin. I was married for 22 years to an Englishman whose hobbies included regularly punching the head off me. He fecked off back to England when the police came looking for him after breaking eight of my ribs, I wasn't working so I couldn't afford the rent, so I had to leave my flat. We all get about 130 euro a week on the dole to live on, how the Fuck do they expect us to pay a deposit for a flat especially when the eastern Health Board don't help with deposits anymore, how can we pay rent, feed and clothe ourselves, it's a sick joke, we are some of the coldest people in Ireland but we are not even entitled to a fuel allowance. I know people who dream of winning the lotto, every day I pray for a roof over my head that is not an entrance porch to some Government building. All I want is my own little place with my own key, but however hard I pray I still lay down with the sky as my blanket.*

Pat: *I am living on the streets for the past 2 years and am originally from athlone. I got into a lot of trouble and ended up in prison, my family disowned me so I moved to Dublin with no money and a head full of dreams, and unfortunately things didn't go to plan. The clinic would-*

n't give me a deposit for a flat, I couldn't get a job and the Social welfare wouldn't give me any dole because I had no fixed abode, it would be funny if it weren't so serious. I got six months for shoplifting which cost the state thousands to accommodate, feed and clothe me. I now have my dole sorted out thanks to someone who lets me use there postal address. I can't see any way out of the life I am living, In order for me to qualify for rent allowance the new Government law states that I have to be able to pay for my own accommodation for 6 months. Death will be my saviour I just hope it happens quickly, I don't want to suffer this life anymore.

Starry Plough: *As I and my Colleague make our way home in the drizzling rain my thoughts turn to Georgie, Stumpy, Sue and Pat who bed down for the night in the very places that are supposed to alleviate the desperate plight of the Homeless, the unemployed and the needy.*

The Government say they are building an extraordinarily successful economy and that we have never had it so good. We are told that there is no end in sight to this success. But if our economic success leaves some people feeling under-valued, feeling neglected, feeling that they have no place in society, feeling that the rest of us are so busy that we have no time or inclination to care for them, then we are building our Society on sand, and our so called economic success is built on inequality. And that is how many people are feeling today, and who could blame them.

Reclaiming May Day's Values

Members of the IRSP from across Dublin took part in several protests coordinated throughout the city on what was to be the most high profile Mayday the island has ever had.

A spokesperson for the Irish Republican Socialist Party stressed that there was an urgent need for workers to take back international workers day from those in power and to combat all efforts to demonise workers who oppose the construction of a European Super-state.

An Ard Comhairle representative stated: "May 1st is our day to remember past struggles through which our class achieved many important advances for working class people. It is also a day on which we express our solidarity with others engaged in similar struggles as ourselves worldwide, in pursuit of common class interests and our shared goals, the Emancipation of Our Labour!

"Today in Ireland, no one should be hoodwinked by any promise of some kind of 'Euro Disney democracy' that 'gives' workers the right to

celebrate international workers day and demonstrate freely on our own streets.

"While thousands intended to peacefully protest against a capitalist Europe and all that the concept entails, the Irish 26 counties' regime made their views about such 'democratic rights' quite clear, by arming themselves against Irish workers and attacking them. The PSNI sent water cannon to Dublin for use on May Day against protestors. This, in stark contrast to the backdrop provided by the Irish state media hype over the past several months, is a continuation of the policies that have whipped up an atmosphere of fear and intimidation on the streets of our capital.

"Thousands of riot police, Irish military personnel and expanded weaponry-provided to the Dublin regime by the crown forces occupying six Irish counties - were deployed to 'control' legitimate acts of protests planned in connection with the observance of May Day. Let us speak frankly, this is nothing other than the shape of things to come

and the repression that should always be anticipated whenever working people take to the streets in opposition to the powers that be.

"As republican socialists on May Day we proclaimed our class solidarity and hail the unity between workers the length and breathe of Ireland, of Europe and throughout the world. We remain steadfast in our solidarity with the working class refugees now resident in Ireland and we refuse to allow the 26 county regime to further criminalise any resident, as they are clearly hoping to do through the forth-coming racist referendum.

"The IRSP congratulate all those opposed to the 'Fortress Europe' agenda and who actively participated in International Workers' Day events in Dublin and throughout the country. Irish workers must reclaim International Workers Day from official parades sanctioned by the ruling class and create working class resistance to efforts to create a capitalist European Super-state and against the demonisation of any workers who openly oppose this multi-national nightmare. A European Union that will serve as yet another tool of repression for the capitalist class and will perpetuate slave labour, racism, and poverty for the masses of working people, throughout Europe and worldwide."

"In Iraq and Afghanistan, the forces of occupation are attempting to consolidate their power in those nations and throughout the entire region, so as to maintain their economic interests. Though documents have been made available which reveal that a major reason for this effort is to ensure American control over oil supplies, the loss of which would put the European Union into a strangle-hold, the capitalists of Ireland, Britain, and Europe as a whole will not take any effective action to protect their own sovereign interests. The needs of capitalism must always supersede any particular interests.

In contrast, the IRSP support the resistance fighters presently engaged in liberation struggles against Anglo American imperialism, because we know that imperialism's interests are directly counter to those of working people everywhere. The Anglo/American axis of imperialism, under the guise of its 'war against terrorism' is seeking to swiftly erode civil and human rights of people around the world.

In conclusion, the IRSP Ard Comhairle spokesperson added, "It may be a cliché, but it is no less true for that - the world can no longer afford the rich. It is long past time that the working women and men here in Ireland, throughout Europe, and around the globe stood up and demanded what is rightfully theirs.

It's like James Connolly said a century ago, "our demands are quite modest, we only want the Earth!"

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FOR UNCENSORED POLITICS

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Please ensure that when writing to keep your letters brief and to the point. Due to time and space many are unfortunately withheld from print. We would encourage contributors to email correspondence but ordinary mail is also accepted.

Republican Prisoners Support Network

A Chara,

Six months ago, the Republican Prisoners Support Network (an independent, non-aligned group of former Republican prisoners, relatives and concerned individuals who campaign for the rights of Republican prisoners, both sentenced and on remand) stated that it would closely monitor the implementation of the Steele recommendations.

Last month, the prisoners were moved to their own wing. We are worried by the fact that conditions of detention have deteriorated in segregated wings. The Republican prisoners now have to face the following: Sentenced and Remand prisoners are separated in contravention of Steele.

Review recommendations: they are held under almost total lockdown, Only two prisoners are allowed out of cells at a time, Restricted to cell leave based on whim of prison staff, Denied Education provisions, Denied facilities of any sort; no tables or chairs, Forced to take exercise in a tiny yard alongside loyal-

ists, separated by short wire mesh barrier, Forced to endure severe sectarian abuse at exercise, Denied hot meals for last half of this week, Denied hot showers, Offered filthy, unsanitary washroom facilities, Denied the right to housekeeping their own landings - criminal prisoners from another house will be sent in to clean their living areas - Faced with grave endangerment from such housekeeping staff as loyalists may qualify for this housekeeping position, Under 24-hour surveillance with "CAMP X-Ray style microphones and cameras in all parts of landings

This does not even take into account the continuation of closed visits, the use of sniffer dogs and the despicable attitude of prison warders towards the families. The battle for political status goes on.

For the Republican Prisoners Support Network, Leo Martin (Chairperson), Eddie Duffy (Vice-Chair), Liam O Ruairc (Press Officer)

With Thanks & Pride From Comrade Billy Lynch's Family

Comrades,

The wife, son, father and family circle of the late Billy Lynch wish to thank all his many friends who sympathised, sent cards, flowers and supported them in any way.

Everything was greatly appreciated. Old friends and new friends from all over the world sympathised together. Billy would have enjoyed them all in the one place and as he would have said "The craic would have been mighty". Billy lived his life as a republican Socialist from the early 70's and never wavered or changed his viewpoint.

He always said "I have great friends in every camp" and we saw that was very true. Billy only ever asked for a starry plough to be placed over him when he died and we all felt very proud as he was carried from his home with the flag over his coffin.

To our many great friends, from the bottom of our hearts, we thank you.

To all of Red Action it was great to see and hear from you all. Billy always said we would never lose touch and we didn't, you will hear from us often. To all his friends in Kansas City Ancient order of Hibernians, I.N.L.A., I.R.S.P. Belfast, Dublin, Scotland, I.R.P.W.A., Republican prisoners at home and abroad, Teach Na Failte republican Socialist ex-prisoners. 32 County Sovereignty, Continuity I.R.A., Na Fianna Eireann Dublin, I.R.B.B., Working Class Action Dublin, AFA Ireland and also Linda.

You are all in our thoughts and prayers. Billy will be deeply missed and life will not be the same without him.

Patsy and Liam Lynch

Republican Socialist Martyrs ★ Flute Band - Belfast ★

Are you 12 years and over and interested in joining the Republican Socialist Martyrs Flute Band?

If you are in the Belfast area then why not become involved in our flute band?

We can train you in flute, drums or colour party and new members are always welcome so if you are interest-

ed or if you know anyone who is then get in touch. If you do not want to join the band but can provide time towards fundraising etc then get in touch also.

For details contact:

Costello House,
392 Falls Road,
Belfast.
Tel 90 238 321

Cuimhneam

Fallen Volunteers and political activists remembered

Members of the Republican Socialist Movement whose anniversaries occur at this time:

The staff and volunteers of the Irish National Liberation Army remember with pride our comrades whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Vol. Brendan McNamee	Assassinated	6 June 1975	Co Antrim
Vol. Miriam Daly	Assassinated	26 June 80	Co Antrim
Vol. Jim Power	Killed in Action	7 May 1981	Co Antrim
Vol. Matt McLarnon	Killed in Action	12 May 1981	Co Antrim
Vol. Patsy O'Hara	1981 Hunger Strike	21 May 1981	Co Derry
Vol. Paul McCann	Killed in Action	15 June 1984	Co Antrim
Vol. John Morris	Killed in Action	5 June 1997	Co Dublin

'If you hoist the green flag and remove the English army....unless you set about establishing a Socialist Republic all your efforts will have been in vain.'

The Ard Comhairle and Membership of the Irish Republican Socialist Party remember at this time our comrades who died in the struggle for a Socialist Republic.

Vol. Brendan McNamee	Assassinated	6 June 1975	Co Antrim
Vol. Miriam Daly	Assassinated	26 June 80	Co Antrim
Vol. Jim Power	Killed in Action	7 May 1981	Co Antrim
Vol. Matt McLarnon	Killed in Action	12 May 1981	Co Antrim
Vol. Patsy O'Hara	1981 Hunger Strike	21 May 1981	Co Derry
Vol. Paul McCann	Killed in Action	15 June 1984	Co Antrim
Vol. John Morris	Killed in Action	5 June 1997	Co Dublin

"Whenever death may supound us, let it be welcome, provided that this, our battle cry, may reach some receptive ear and that other hands reach out to pick up our weapons, to entone our funeral dirge with the staccato of machine gun fire and new cries of battle and victory ever onward, Venceremos"

Republican Socialist POWs in Maghaberry, Portlaoise and Castlereagh remember with pride the volunteers of the Irish National Liberation Army who gave their lives in the struggle for Socialism.

Vol. Brendan McNamee	Assassinated	6 June 1975	Co Antrim
Vol. Miriam Daly	Assassinated	26 June 80	Co Antrim
Vol. Jim Power	Killed in Action	7 May 1981	Co Antrim
Vol. Matt McLarnon	Killed in Action	12 May 1981	Co Antrim
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Vol. John Morris	Killed in Action	5 June 1997	Co Dublin

"When the freedom of our country and class has been won, let us guard it well, remembering it was paid for in the blood of those now dead. The building of the revolutionary party is the only tribute befitting our comrades."

O'Hara, Vol Patsy, INLA. In proud and loving memory of our friend and comrade Patsy who gave his life in the struggle for national liberation and socialism in Ireland. Always remembered and never forgotten by your comrades in the Republican Socialist Movement, Derry City.

Insertions:

If you would like to place an notice into Cuimhneamh then please contact the Starry Plough office with details as soon as possible before you want it to appear. Our contact details are on page 2. Family notices are especially welcome.

National Wolf Tone Commemoration

SUNDAY June 27th 2004

Bodenstown,
Co. Kildare

Check with IRSP representatives
for details closer to the time and for
local travel arrangements

An

The Starry Plough

Camchéachta



Pairtí Poblachtacht Soisialach na h-Éireann

LONG LIVE THE RESISTANCE!



More than a year after U.S. President Bush declared victory in its attack on Iraq, the combined forces of Britain and the U.S. are mired in an ever-worsening quagmire, while a growing and relentless resistance picks off dozens of their soldiers and civilian mercenaries each week.

Despite ten years of crippling embargoes which left the Iraqi populace weakened and malnourished, despite bombings that shattered their infrastructure and destroyed the military, despite a year of occupation by roughly 150,000 soldiers, the Iraqi resistance appears to go from strength to strength, inflicting spiraling casualties on the invaders. The lesson of Vietnam is being learned anew by the armies of imperialism—an army of occupation can never defeat an indigenous national liberation struggle. U.S. soldiers complain over repeated extensions of their time spent in Iraq and their families become increasingly restless and outspoken in wanting their loved ones returned to them; but the Iraqi resistance fighters cannot join in the chorus of complaints. This is because they already are home; they have nowhere to retreat to. They have only the choices of death or victory, because they have already determined that life on their knees is an unacceptable option.

The U.S. imperialists now project that the war in Iraq will cost them over \$400,000,000,000—a cost that is causing deep cuts to be called for in domestic spending. Britain will spend considerably less, but there too war expenditures are using up funds that might be spent on the needs of the citizens. The identification with the imperialist adventure that many have been deluded into embracing—the result of class-consciousness having been impeded by capitalist ideology—will soon be colliding with the reality of the situation. The war only benefits the rich, for working people it spells disaster.



Around the globe anti-imperialists are recognising that the battles being waged in Iraq are central to their own struggles. The occupation and fight against the resistance shackles the armies of imperialism in place in Iraq, limiting their ability to respond to challenges they confront in Venezuela, Columbia, the Basque lands, the six counties, and elsewhere. The costs of the war and occupation prohibit them from purchasing peace in the class war at home through reformist measures. The successes of the resistance fighters help to counter the propaganda image of the imperialists as being impossible to challenge. Accordingly, anyone who opposes the continuation of capitalism at home must support the resistance to imperialism in Iraq.

At this moment in history, it matters little if one is Sunni or Shia, Muslim or Christian or atheist, Arab or African or European. The dividing line is simply this: Are you for or against imperialism? All those opposed must defend the Iraqi Resistance. It is not sufficient to oppose the war. The war is now a reality that cannot be denied. What remains is to choose a side. To support the armies of the occupation is to align oneself with imperialist oppression, capitalist exploitation, violation of national sovereignty, and brutality against humanity. The only option in opposition to these evils is to support the resistance.

How can we support the Iraqi Resistance here in Ireland? We must oppose any attempt by the Irish government to provide support—violating our historic neutrality—to the U.S. or Britain in their military efforts. We must demonstrate our solidarity in the streets and make others aware why we support the resistance. We must oppose the so-called “war on terrorism”, including changes in European security measures designed to fall in line with it. We must insist on the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Iraq and we



must demand that the U.S. and Britain pay compensation for the destruction and disruption and loss of lives, so that the nation can be rebuilt. We must oppose any attempt to impose a constitution or governing bodies chosen or shaped by any foreign power and insist on the democratic rights of the Iraqi people to create their own institutions and laws. Despite their having been manipulated by the forces of imperialism, we must also insist on the rights of the Kurdish people to national liberation, something the imperialist occupiers have sought to deny.

There is, however, something even more central and immediately present that we must do in support of the Iraqi Resistance—we must join in a worldwide resistance movement. We must resist the efforts of imperialism to enslave and exploit the working peoples of the world. We must resist the exploitation of capitalism right here at home. We must defend the national sovereignty of Ireland and oppose the continued occupation of Ireland by foreign troops. We must challenge the continuation of religious sectarianism, which is designed to divide the working class of this island. The struggle against imperialism begins at our own doorsteps and stretches to the battlefields of Iraq and beyond. We do not have to travel thousands of miles to encounter the British Army occupying Iraq; there are nearly 20,000 of them right here on the island of Ireland. The U.S. corporations that have flocked like vultures to pick the skeleton of Iraq clean have operations in our own cities. When we challenge the forces of imperialism and capitalism right here in Ireland, we join in the resistance. There is only one war in which we have any interests and that is the class war, whose front stretches from Baghdad to Belfast to Boston, to Beijing. The working class must become a worldwide resistance. When we are, no force on earth can defeat us.

FOR NATIONAL LIBERATION & SOCIALISM!