

# 7 STARS



10P

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Nov. '83

A NEWSLETTER FOR I.R.S.P. ACTIVISTS & SYMPATHISERS

ANOTHER TIME.....

ANOTHER PLACE.....



TONY D'ARCY, Died on Hunger Strike, 16th April 1940.

CONTENTS: Editorial....Local News....Brave Tony D'arcy...Iran....Songs...

FOR NATIONAL LIBERATION & SOCIALISM



Mc NUTT — Mc MONAGLE COMMEMORATION

ASSEMBLY: FREE DERRY CORNER 2.30p.m.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 28th. 1984

ALL LOCAL PATRIOTIC BANDS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND. ANTI-IMPERIALIST BANNERS WELCOME

GUEST SPEAKERS WILL INCLUDE A MEMBER OF THE IRISH SOLIDARITY MOVEMENT IN SCOTLAND

"THEY MAY KILL OUR REVOLUTIONARIES....BUT NOT THE REVOLUTION !!!

We remember with sadness and pride our comrades Colm Mc Nutt and Neil Mc Monagle, both of whom were murdered by plain-clothed British soldiers. The shooting dead of Colm Mc Nutt on the afternoon of December 12th. 1977 at William Street, and the assassination earlier this year of Neil Mc Monagle on February 2nd., near his home, are events which must be remembered so as to remind the world of the ever-presence of British imperialistic barbarism, under the guise of 'peace-keeping', which in reality amounts to a situation of undeclared martial law. Our party salutes their memory and pledge that the fight for national liberation and socialism will never cease untill victory in our-generation has been achieved.

IN MEMORIAM CARDS, dedicated to the memory of hungerstrikers, Michael Devine and Patsy O'Hara are available from The Secretary; James Connolly House. Donations towards same will be given to the P O W Welfare Fund which runs twice-weekly a bus to Long Kesh and Magilligan concentration camps. The card bears a poem written a few years ago by a friend of the dead comrades.

" THE ARMAGH WOMEN "

written by Derry journalist & women's rights campaigner

NELL MC CAFFERTY £1.75 (post free)

This book has been withdrawn by the publishers owing to a legal action. The I.R.SP Bookshop has a limited number available. Proceeds will go to the POW Welfare Committee. Write to the Secretary; James Connolly House. Use postal orders or cheque payable to "IRSP DERRY".

The Derry Comhairle Ceantair Secretary has written to the locally-based Campaign Against Show Trials (CAST) pledging maximum solidarity to the relatives of those incarcerated on the so-called 'evidence' of paid perjurers who have been promised immunity by the notorious R.U.C. On October 2nd. the party's P O W welfare bus will be made available for a conference in Coalisland and comrades will also help stewart the CAST demonstration on October 9th. Further assistance was also discussed when the party's area organiser met with the CAST chairperson, Mr. Michael English, and during their 1 hour discussion items of mutual interest were decided up. Mr. Connolly Brady, an IRSP comrade, released recently after 10 months on remand with 3 other comrades, all of whom were held on the word of one man, who later retracted, will address the CAST demonstration. A number of civil rights campaigners will attend to show that there is indeed still a fight for basic social and legal justice. The CAST demo will mark the 15th. anniversary of the city's first ever civil rights march on October 5th. 1968.



INFORMERS AND SHOW TRIALS

SINCE ITS INCEPTION THE SIX-COUNTY STATELET HAS NEVER EXISTED WITHOUT THE DENIAL OF HUMAN AND CIVIL RIGHTS, EMBODIED IN THE 1922 SPECIAL POWERS ACT, 1973 EMERGENCY PROVISIONS ACT AND 1974 PREVENTION OF TERRORISM ACT. THE LAST 14 YEARS HAVE SEEN INTERMENT WITHOUT CHARGE OR TRIAL, JURYLESS COURTS AND ROUTINE PHYSICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL TORTURE AS PART OF THE 'CONVEYOR-BELT SYSTEM' OF JUSTICE. THIS SYSTEM TOOK PEOPLE FROM THE 6 COS. NATIONALIST COMMUNITY, EXTRACTED 'CONFESSIONS' UNDER DURESS AND CONVICTED THEM. 94% OF CASES BROUGHT BEFORE JURYLESS COURTS CONCLUDED WITH A PRISON SENTENCE, AND BETWEEN 70 - 90 % OF THESE CONVICTIONS WERE BASED UPON SELF-INCRIMINATING STATEMENTS OBTAINED DURING INTERROGATION (figures quoted in 1973 BENNETT REPORT and 1978 AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL REPORT).

The 1978 Amnesty International Report on physical torture and the subsequent international reaction causes the cessation of routine physical abuse of detainees. The juryless Diplock courts and the bulk of the 'emergency' legislation remain. The notorious RUC and Army have now refined their 'psychological techniques to the point where selected persons may now be used to give evidence in a juryless court in cases in which there is no corroborating evidence.

This use of informers in show trials seems to be the latest attempt to contain nationalist dissent to British rule in Ireland, and a reaction to the defeat of the 'criminalisation' policy heralded by over 100,000 votes cast for anti-imperialist candidates in the aftermath of the 1981 hunger-strikers heroic protest.

When detained, a person who has been targetted as a potential informer will be solitarily confined on 23-hour lock-up and subjected to the 6 constant factors of fatigue, tensions, isolation, uncertainty, use of vicious language and a permeating atmosphere of repression. These factors combine to produce psychological disorientation and vulnerability to the extent that application of the hard & soft technique of interrogation and the carrot and the stick technique of coercion increases the likelihood of the detainee making false allegations against someone else, especially if 'suggestions' and 'pointers' are provided by the interrogating teams. These conditions for 'successful' detention are laid down in William A. Sargent's seminal study "Battle Of The Mind".

CARROT & STICK TECHNIQUES OF COERCION

Most informers are recruited after initially having 'broken' under interrogation and incriminating themselves, in many cases of things they had not even done, or after being told that there is sufficient evidence (sometimes that of other informers) to convict them. The main plank of the carrot & stick technique then becomes the inducement of immunity from prosecution or a reduced sentence, contrasted with the threat of certain conviction and a long sentence. Similarly, the prospect of a long sentence served in the company of those about whom information if not testimony had been given, is contrasted with a reduced sentence served in England away from hostile fellow-prisoners, with the actual length of served sentence decided by the Home Office rather than the Northern Ireland Secretary.

In many cases the stick of a long sentence is doubly effective because a former prisoner who has been released 'on licence' after completing half of his sentence will have to serve the remaining half upon reconviction before starting the new sentence — this was an important factor in the recruitment of Black in 1982. In cases in which indemnity from prosecution is not offered, deals have been made of only 2 — 4 years in jail for murder (Irish Times, 24/5/83), or sentences passed with no recommended minimum terms (Kirkpatrick, 3/6/83) — the usual recommended minimum term for murder in the courts of British-Occupied Ireland is at least 20 years.



The inducement of indemnity for life from prosecution is backed up by bribes of sums as large as £100,000 and more, with the promise of a new identity for informer and family in a different country with a more way air ticket provided, including provision of job (with prior job training), house, money in the bank, and "people watching you, making sure you're all right" (Irish Times 21/4/83) — all arranged through "the expertise and international connections of MI 6, the Brit intelligence service" (Sunday Times, 18/9/83).

The threat of a lifetime in prison is coupled with threats to make life intolerable for the informer's family — by circulating rumours of the informer being a police undercover agent for years (Irish Times, 21/4/83), rumours of martial infidelity (Sunday Tribune, 18/4/82) — and with straight death threats. Fear and uncertainty to self and family, compounded by total isolation, is a major psychological lever.

Once trapped in this web of inducements and threats and having agreed to inform and testify, any attempt to retract statements is met by renewed isolation and increased psychological pressure ('protective custody') — this has been the case with Pat McGurk since February 1982, Bobby Brown and Tommy Mc Kiernan between July 1982 and March 1983 (both retracted), and Raymond Gilmour between July 1982 and July 1983.

Informers are described as 'converted terrorists' by the RUC Chief Constable. Informer Bobby Quigley was asked by Defence Counsel in July 1983 when he was 'converted'. He replied, "On the road to Castle-reagh". THE REALITY IS THAT RECRUITED INFORMERS ARE "THE VICTIM OF INTIMIDATION, BLACKMAIL, BRIBERY, TRICKERY AND INDUCEMENTS" (Fr. Paul & Fr. Murray, letter to the Sunday Press, 8/5/83).

The carrot & stick technique of psychological coercion leaves no obviously visible mark on the informer, apart from a face described as 'immobile as an identikit mask' (Magill, August 1983). Thus when the informer is reported as looking fit and well at the show-trial, the British public finds it credible that the uncorroborated 'evidence' is uncoerced, voluntary and given of free will, because it seems as though there has been no pressure on the person to testify. People in Britain and elsewhere think of physical brutality when they think of RUC malpractice, perhaps because they remember Castlereagh in the '70s, more generally because reports of British police malpractice tend to be about physical abuse. Consequently the isolation of informers and the psychological control over detainees exercised by the RUC has gone largely unremarked, most reports focussing on the show-trial itself. But as Patricia Hewitt, then General Secretary of the National Council of Civil Liberties (NCCL) remarked... "the real trial has shifted to the police station and doesn't take place in the court... what happens in the courtroom is largely top-dressed to what has already taken place in the police station" (Irish Times, 17/4/83).

#### " PROTECTIVE CUSTODY "

Once having been recruited, the informer is held in complete isolation from family, friends and community to reinforce the psychological control — in some cases the informer's family had been abducted to be with him, "by men using unmarked cars and vans with military escort" (Guardian, 20/1/83). This 'protective custody' extends to being taken to England and abroad to places such as Cyprus. Apart from the questionable legality of armed RUC guards in other countries, 'protective custody' outside the UK means that the informer, and in some cases his family too, are outside the jurisdiction of the courts, making redundant any attempt by family and friends to apply for a ruling of unlawful detention (Case reported in THE GUARDIAN, 7/5/83).



'PROTECTIVE CUSTODY' is instrumental in psychologically 'turning' informers, so that they act increasingly out of a sense of identification with and reliance on their RUC custodians. Contact with family (if still free), friends and community would break this psychological dependence — 'protective custody' is in fact protection of the recruited informer from anything and anybody that would counter the RUC's psychological control. Why otherwise do informers have to be 'protected' against their own mothers ???

### SCHOOLING & 'EVIDENCE'

Once the informer has been recruited, he can be manipulated into making statements against persons whom the police want imprisoned. This is not limited to acquaintances of the informer — there are many accounts of persons being offered bribes to testify against others, whom they didn't even know. Also the informer may name people to improve his market value by incriminating people he hardly knows, or in whom he vaguely suspects the police may be interested.

Acting out of an increased sense of identification with the RUC fostered by isolation and physical and psychological dependence, informers then allow their evidence to be concocted and schooled in such a way as to maximise the chances of convictions being secured. Thus, in a show-trial which resulted in the conviction of 35 people, 21 of them on the informer's testimony alone, Black's solicited evidence ran to 15,000 words, leading the SUNDAY TIMES to marvel that "Black's memory for detail was astonishing" (7/8/83). Astonishing it would have been, if it were human memory unassisted, but Black's recital included the output of some of the RUC's computer's 500,000 files, which record details such as the colour of the paint on a door or of wallpaper in a room, and classify the population under such categories as 'potential terrorist' and 'suspect'.

With this level of schooling of 'evidence', the Law has become what Frank Kitson, then Brigadier commanding the Brits in Belfast, described as, "little more than a propaganda cover for the disposal of unwanted members of the public". (Low Intensity Operations, 1971, Page 69). In July 1982 General Kitson became C-in-C of UK Land Forces.

### BILL OF INDICTMENT —

#### NO PRELIMINARY HEARINGS

Having recruited the informer and schooled the evidence, the next step is to present the informer at a public preliminary hearing, at which a magistrate decides, whether to return defendants for trial. The preliminary hearings are the first appearance in public for the informer since recruitment and subsequent 'protective custody', and provide the first opportunity that his family (if still free) and friends have to establish any sort of contact. This break in the RUC's psychological control and isolation of the informer led to 2 informers retracting their statements in 1982 — Sean Mallon and Clifford McKeown.

As well as embarrassing the RUC and exposing the coercive methods used to recruit informers, these retractions threatened the whole tactic of using informers in show-trials. The RUC, the 6 County DPP Barry Shaw and the Brit Attorney-General Michael Havers responded by resurrecting and reinterpreting the almost defunct BILL OF INDICTMENT procedure to dispose with the customary preliminary enquiry. (The Bill of Indictment is on the statute book to give the Crown the power to bring a case to trial if a magistrate perversely refuses to return it to trial, i.e. it is to be used after a preliminary hearing.)

Thus at the scheduled preliminary hearing of the Mc Gurk informer case, the magistrate was told by the Crown lawyer that his role was redundant, having been superseded by a Bill of Indictment granted a few days previously by the Lord Chief Justice, by which the Crown could take the case directly to trial without a preliminary hearing. Defence counsel said the Crown had done this out of fear that Mc Gurk, isolated for 7 months, "would not deliver the goods — not testify" (IRISH TIMES, 22/9/82). A meeting of 60 solicitors in Belfast a week later issued a statement



# ANNIVERSARY

The Party has learned with deep regret of the death of J. Hammond this summer, at the age of 41. Untill recently he was President of the NUJ. He travelled to Ireland often & openly supported our fight for freedom.

A leading member of the I.R.S.P. in the Bogside travellers to a number of meetings in Britain to mark the Bloody Sunday Anniversary. While coming from the plane at the airport in Manchester a few members of the Special Branch made his acquaintance, and offered him the delights of accomodation in one of their many plush cells. Reluctant, but without much ehoice he obliged. After an hour he was asked to provide his hosts with details of comrades in Britain, the Troops Out Movement, RCP, and various solidarity movements. Not in a mood for polite conversation of this variety he declined to engage in communication. Another hour later the cell door opened to be informed; "There are a bunch of commies outside in zero freezing amid a snow blizzard picketing for your release". Door slams. Silence. At 3.30 a.m. freed due to political pressure. Barrister & solicitor take our comrade to their home. Before the release another comment; "we couldn't deport a well known civil rights man, that movement had too many friends here in high places. But we'll make your tips expensive. End result, £250 fine for not providing info to the S.B. £30 court costs...SOME FREEDOM THAT. Thanks to appear in next issue to picketeers.



condemning the "fundamental breach of accepted legal procedures" represented by the judicial manoeuvre which resulted "in the prisoners being returned for trial on unsworn and untested statements " (IRISH TIMES, 29/9/82).

Nevertheless, the bill of indictment was subsequently used in the Black case too, leading a lawyer to comment that "the prosecuting authorities have sought to protect their witness and to screen him from proceedings in open court -- the accused do not enjoy such luxuries ". (Irish News 27/10/82). Besides avoiding any break in the RUC psychological control, the bill of indictment also serves to prolong the informer's isolation, during which his evidence may be further schooled and his testimony researched.

Preliminary hearings and any subsequent 'trial' have also been severely prejudiced by deliberate leaks from the RUC Press Office, with persons being named before they appeared in court and even before they had been charged. These leaks, accompanied by misinformation about the importance of the 'information' given by a newly recruited informer, amount to a fresh 'psy-op' tactic to influence public opinion on the use of informers in show-trials, described by a lawyer as... "a deliberate show with police connivance for public consumption -- instead of trial by informer we have trial by television and radio news " (Irish Times 12/9/83)

### THE SHOW - TRIAL

Having recruited the informer, kept him under psychological control in 'protective custody' for months or years, carefully rehearsed the 'evidence', dispensed with the preliminary enquiry if necessary, the stage is now set for the show-trial itself. Remembering that any break in psychological control over the informer will result in the collapse of the case, the physical lay-out of the court-room is such that the informer, "fully visible to the press alone" (Magill, August 1983) can never clearly be seen from the public gallery, "his police minders obscuring any real view of him " (Sunday Press 23/1/83) with a human curtain of RUC Special Branch. Guards are packed into the courtroom: "almost 80 prison warders and police in the public gallery " (Guardian, 4/8/83), "almost 100 RUC and prison officers in the court" (Irish Times, 12/4/83)

In the Black show-trial, the informer's parents, who had not been in contact with their son for 15 months, cried out to him as soon as he appeared in court. "Black was immediately rushed out by 3 guards " (Guardian, 13/1/83), the parents expelled from the court, and the judge pre-empted any further break in the RUC psychological control over Black "by announcing that any disturbance would be met with an instant jail sentence of up to 2 years" (Sunday Press, 23/1/83).

In this environment the show-trial takes place with the informer giving testimony, where in the majority of cases it is the only evidence against the defendants. There being no independent corroborative evidence to support the informer's statements. These statements are the word of an alleged accomplice, and it is an established rule of judicial practice that it is dangerous to convict on the evidence of such a person, quite apart from the history of unsupported "supergrass" evidence long having been discredited in criminal law because of disbelieving juries.

But the legal process in the 6 occupied-counties does not include a jury for 'scheduled offences' -- so the show-trial is before a juryless court. In the absence of a jury the informer delivers his schooled evidence in a "slow monotone" (Guardian, 13/1/83), "eyes never deviating, very still, unfolding his arms but 4 times during 6 hours" and "face immobile as an identikit picture" (Magill, August 1983). Defence cross examination is handicapped by having no preliminary hearing at which to assess and probe prosecution evidence, and by not always being able to see or hear the informer at the show-trial itself -- a defence complaint that the informer Quigley could neither be seen nor heard at a hearing in July 1983 was overruled for "reasons of security" and the informer remained hidden behind his minders.



When summing up, the judge is in the ludicrous position of advising not the jury, but himself on the admissibility of the informer's testimony as reliable on sufficient evidence on which to convict. Nevertheless, in all informer show-trials to date the judges have accepted the credibility of the informer as a witness, despite instances of inconsistent evidence and previous perjury by the informers. Even though the prosecution have refused consistently when asked to give details of inducements offered, there is no hesitation in hailing an informer as "one of the most convincing witnesses I have ever heard" (Judge Kelly — a former Unionist politician, Black show-trial, 2/8/83).

The judges in the show-trials have been described as "political hacks without a shread of humour or independence, working for mercenary motives at the expense of the human and legal rights of the citizens" (Fr. Faul & Fr. Murray, statement, 15/9/83). The informer show-trials have been compared by the Chair of Parliamentary Labour Party's 6 County Group to the "show-trials conducted by Hitler and Stalin" (Martin Flannery, M.P. statement, 11/9/83). As in those earlier show-trials in Germany and Russia, the courtroom scene is the final act, carefully stagemanaged, presided over by a compliant judiciary brooking no interruption from the immediate audience, the whole product geared to the scribes of the larger audience who will read the papers next day and who are oblivious of the preceding months and years of soliciting, recruiting and schooling of the informer; the 'protective custody' of isolation with the carrot and stick coercion and psychological control; the whole history of extortion, bribery, intimidation and trickery.

#### " A MATTER FOR THE JUDICIARY " ???

The official response when defending the use of informers in show-trials is that it's "a matter for the judiciary"; in fact decisions to offer immunity are "taken at the highest level of the RUC and the DPP's office in Belfast, ratified by the Brit Attorney - General Michael Havers" (Irish Times, 12/4/83). Similarly, offers of a reduced sentence served in an English jail are "the subject of discussions between the office of the DPP in Belfast and the Attorney-General's office in London" (Irish Times, 4/6/83). But these decisions and offers never surface at the show-trials, there being no attention paid to the circumstances of the informer's recruitment, and no jury to satisfy. The judiciary do not act as a brake because the actions of government law officers do not come under scrutiny in the courts. This cocking of the judicial head at weighted scales of justice comes as no surprise. The systematic physical abuse of detainees during the 70s was publicised worldwide in the 1978 Amnesty International Report, but in the period 1976-8 less than 15 statements of the 2,293 persons appearing before the single judges in the juryless courts were ruled inadmissible on grounds of ill-treatment (figures quoted in Bennett Report, 1979, Page 52). When physical torture was "a matter for the judiciary disquiet was audible. Now, with the soliciting, recruiting and schooling of informers for use in show-trials, there is once again the unquestioning judicial rubber-stamp of conviction.

#### THE SCALE OF REPRESSION

Over 300 people, facing 700 charges on the evidence of 26 informers (figures quoted in Sunday Times, 11/9/83). Some have interned by remand for nearing 2 years. Some of the accused were formerly solicited to "join the pay-roll" by the RUC. In the case of informer Mc Gurk there has been no preliminary hearing because the Crown moved a bill of indictment and those charged on Mc Gurk's word have been interned since February 1982 without even having appeared in court to hear the nature of the prosecution case. This adds up to a system of internment on remand. The show-trials themselves, the public 'reaching' of verdicts to legalise the convictions already decided upon in the police station, are now in full swing. Already scores of people have been sentenced to thousands of years' imprisonment in a paid perjury system that "would not be tolerated anywhere else in Western Europe" (Irish Times editorial, 6/8/83). We in the I.R.S.P. conclude; **THERE CAN BE NEVER ANY JUSTICE IN THE 6 COUNTY STATELET, MERELY CHANGES OF EMPHASIS IN LEGAL & MILITARY REPRESSION. BRITAIN'S REPRESSION OF THE NORTH IS IRREFORMABLE— THE ONLY ANSWER IS BRITISH WITHDRAWAL.**



## N E W S       F R O M       A B R O A D

As we struggle for our own national liberation and a socialist republic, it is indeed heartening to read of the great achievements made by the people of far away Korea who celebrate the 35th. Anniversary of the founding of their Democratic People's Republic this autumn. At an international conference of revolutionary journalists held in that country, British journalists did much to highlight our struggle and documents received by 7 Stars clearly reveal a keen knowledge and interest in what is happening to our downtrodden people throughout British-occupied-Ireland. Some of those journalists will travel to Derry for the Bloody Sunday commemoration and we look forward to fruitful dialogue. We are confident that such links with the people of Korea, and other nationalities around the globe, will result in weakening imperialism and strengthening our own internationalist perspective.

The Glasgow Irish Freedom Action Committee (GIFAC) has accepted an invitation to attend the Colm Mc Nutt — Neil Mc Monagle commemoration which will be held on Saturday 28th of January. In a reply to our local secretary the GIFAC comrades expressed their thanks at the invitation and consider it a great honour to participate in the First Anniversary Commemoration of Comrade Mc Monagle's cruel assassination at the hands of British imperialist agents, near his home in Shantallow on February 2nd. this year. We for our part in the IRSP know only too well the excellent work that GIFAC is doing, and appreciate the practical gestures of solidarity extended to one of our leading comrades who visited several areas of Scotland to speak at meetings and conferences. We will look forward to their January visit.

The Wolfe Tone Band in Glasgow has, via GIFAC, requested our assistance in providing accomodation for their members who wish to attend the commemoration, and to march in the Bloody Sunday demo next day. Our party secretary has therefore communicated with the Patsy O'Hara & the Michael Devine memorial bands, on this matter and plans are now in progress to meet their needs during thier brief visit to our city.

In the last week of September the IRSP acted as host to a three person delegation from France. Discussions in Derry covered providing the visitors with an historical background to our struggle, and on the more practical side it was mutually agreed to maintain contact on various matters so that French comrades can be kept fully informed on what is happening here and how best they can help.

In the middle of October a four person delegation from Iran will visit Belfast and Derry. They have indicated their desire to participate in the demo planned by the Campaign Against Show Trials (CAST), and to meet with that committee and members of the hunger strikers' relatives. A press conference cum meeting will be held on Monday October 10th. in the city. Those wishing to attend should report between 1.30 and 2 P.M. on that date at James Connolly House, 8 Chamberlain Street. We are saddened by the events in Iran and hope that our efforts may expose the barbarism of the Islamic regime. A telegram expressing our views will be sent to Tehran during the delegation's visit here. In addition the Derry party have requested the Ard Comhairle (National Executive) to discuss this issue and state publicly our position vis-a-vis the oppression that has existed since 1979.

This newsletter is being mailed to our many contacts abroad who should also obtain the STARRY PLOUGH from our head office; 34 UPPER GARDINER STREET, DUBLIN I. This is the party's national newspaper and is published monthly, price 20p. Another paper is published in Belfast and is called SAOIRSE (meaning 'FREEDOM'), also 20p. and available from; The Secretary, 392 Falls Road, Belfast II. All correspondence to 7 Stars should be mailed to; The Secretary, James Connolly House, 8 Chamberlain Street, City Side, Derry.