

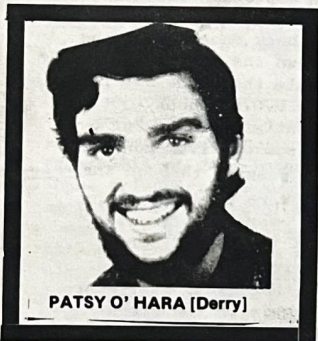
SAOIRSE

IRISH REPUBLICAN
SOCIALIST PARTY

10p ■ 15p abroad



HUNGERSTRIKE INTENSIFIES



PATSY O'HARA [Derry]

Since our last issue, three more men have joined Bobby Sands on Hunger Strike in the H Blocks, Long Kesh. They are Francis Hughes from Bellaghy, Co. Derry, Patsy O'Hara from Derry City and Raymond McCreesh from Camlough, South Armagh.

Frankie Hughes once described by the R.U.C. as "the most wanted man in the north", went on Hunger Strike on the 16th March, three years to the day since he was captured, 78. Frankie was on the run for three years prior to his arrest and during that period he was constantly active despite a massive manhunt to capture him and his comrades. Frankie was finally captured after he and a comrade were involved in a gun battle with an SAS undercover



RAYMOND MC CREESH
[Camlough]

squad. Two of the Brits were shot, one mortally, but Frankie was seriously wounded and captured some time later suffering from loss of blood. Frankie has been sentenced to life + 69 years.

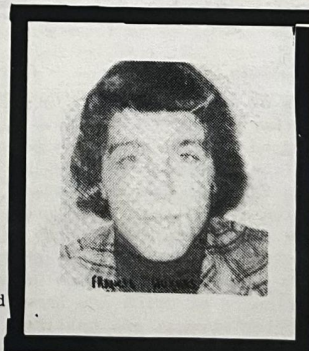
Patsy O'Hara who is 24 years old was just 12 years old when he marched in the Civil Rights marches in Derry. When he was 14 he was shot in the foot by an SAS undercover trying to infiltrate the no go areas and spent 5 weeks in hospital. He was still on crutches on the 30th January 1972 (Bloody Sunday) and unable to follow the march, he returned home to listen to it on the radio while his friends continued on. After Bloody Sunday he joined the Republican Clubs but left in 1973 when it became apparent to him that they were abandoning the National Question. In 1974, he was interned and released when internment was phased out. After his release he joined the I.R.S.P. Before he was sentenced to 8 years on January 1980, he had already spent 2 periods on remand, one 10 months, the other for 4 months on trumped up charges in the north. In the 26 counties he was the victim of another trumped up charge.

Raymond McCreesh, also 24, was born in the village of Camlough, Co. Armagh. He attended Newry Technical College and served 2 years apprenticeship as a sheet metal worker before being arrested at the age of 19, charged after 3 days interrogation in Bessbrook and convicted on charges of conspiracy to kill British soldiers, possession of firearms and IRA membership. Since being sentenced in March 77, he has forfeited his visits rather than wear the prison uniform for even a short half hour per month. He only took his

visit with his parents on February 7th last to inform them that he was going on Hunger Strike.

Bobby Sands is now into his fifth week of his fast and has lost over 20lbs in weight since he began his fast. Bobby is now in the prison hospital so as to further isolate him from his comrades and deprive him of their support. The other three Hunger Strikers are also suffering from headaches and Patsy has been experiencing stomach pains.

In the light of Bobby's decision to contest the Fermanagh-South Tyrone seat, we would wholeheartedly support his stand for his just demands. Should Bobby win the election, it would expose clearly British intransigence on the prison issue if they



cont. from P.1.

allow him to die after polling so much support for his cause. Remembering that Bobby will be extremely ill when the election is over, should he die for Political Status with the total support of the nationalist people, Britain will stand condemned before the world. Do not let Bobby or his suffering comrades die.

ACT MILITANTLY, SUPPORT HIS ELECTION ON THE 5 DEMANDS, BURN THE BRITISH CENSUS AND NEVER STOP MARCHING IN SUPPORT OF THE PRISONERS - POLITICAL STATUS NOW!

MILITANT YOUTH MARCH

A well attended march took place on Sunday last in Belfast by the militant youth of the nationalist ghettos. The march from the bottom of the Whiterock proceeded to College Square North where it met with the expected line of sectarian bigots of the R.U.C.

Militant youth gave vent to their anger at being prevented from entering the city centre when entering the city centre. Rioting broke out and the inevitable came with the firing of plastic bullets to disperse the youth. Several youths were hit by the plastics but were not deterred by their militant actions.

The rioting drew crowds from Divis Flats to help the youths. Women beat pots on the balconies in support, and the police were forced to withdraw to a safe distance.

Youths built makeshift barricades across the Falls Road and kept the Brits out of the flats. Youth showed the Brits exactly what they thought about British rule. Support from the residents of Divis Flats was a great show of solidarity of the nationalist people's resistance to British rule and its inhuman stand against the prisoners.

Dear Editor,

Members of the Republican Clubs of the Workers Party (RCTWP) have started to harrass the young people of the Grosvenor Road New Housing Estate. People of the area have stated that large groups of them are coming from Cyprus Street Club, which is only a short distance away. Most of them under the influence of drink and armed with hurley sticks, are telling

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READER'S LETTERS

the young lads of the area to go indoors to their homes. When they refuse they are beaten up.

Only last week they attacked a young man's home, broke the windows of the door and entered his home beating him up and also his father. The young man received 14 stitches to his head, he also had severe bruising to his face and back.

People of the area have complained to the idiot Councillor Jim Sullivan, his reply was "I don't know anything about it" and he refused point blank to say anything more about it.

They (members of the RCTWP) have recently been stopping young and old people and asking where they are going and where they are coming from and other personal questions about their families, the Brits and Peelers wouldn't even ask you. These tactics being used by the RCTWP are an indication of worse things to come.

Signed: Resident Grosvenor Road

Dear Sir,

I would like to express the people of Turf Lodge's concern of the empty flats and maisonettes in the estate. One example is a block of flats that has been empty for at least 4 weeks now. The

Housing Executive come out and brick up the empty building a few days after the people leave but not to the extent that would stop the children getting back into the empty flats to play.

On Sunday, 15th March, this block of flats was set on fire while young children were playing inside and outside the building, two fire brigades were called to put out the fire which was well alight. If they had not been out on time it could have resulted in serious injury to a crowd of children who had gathered around to watch the fire. If these flats had fallen, the gable wall may have landed on top of a row of houses no more than twenty feet from the flats.

I would also like the people to know that in Armonagh Parade, gas was leaking very heavily from a couple of wrecked maisonettes. All we need is one child to go into a place like this and strike a match we all know what the result would be. Maybe it would take something like this to happen to make Belfast City Gas Council and the Housing Executive do their job quick and prompt.

In other words we would like to see empty blocks of flats and maisonettes sealed off and knocked down as soon as possible before someone is seriously hurt.

Signed: Turf Lodge Resident

Dear Editor,

I wish to have a statement printed in your paper concerning flooding in Monagh Drive. The street has been flooding for about 18 years, it effects 7 or 8 houses. Every time heavy rain falls, the water completely covers the road and footpath. I live in number 40 Monagh Drive and suffer from Atopic Exccema and asthma.

For instance, in January of this year, the water was so bad it came right over the steps around the front garden so that meant the water ran through the gap under the front door down the hall and kitchen and we had to open the back door to let the stream go down the back. However in January, while the place was flooded I phoned the D.O.E. about 10 times, and got no satisfaction. But by accident a team of river control workers were passing through the estate, they were good enough to radio to the emergency flooding department of the D.O.E. They

did not arrive until 24 hours later. So that meant that every time the people in the street wanted to go out we had to walk through water about 8 inches deep by about 50 feet long.

The D.O.E. arrived the next day so I went out to show the men where the grates were as they seemed to have difficulty finding the grates under the water. After I showed the men where the grate was, he turned to me and said that if I paid my bloody rent and rates along with everyone else in the street there would be no need for him to do the job he was sent out to do. Anyway with me trying to keep the water out of my house, I got an infection in my skin and was brought into hospital for 12 days.

I'm sorry I have no photo of the street flooded, the photos were brought to the Workers Party in Turf Lodge, as they said they were

fighting the case on behalf of the people. But they failed to make any statments along with the photos.

PS. The workman also stated that the estate was filthy, so could not see how anyone was paying rent or rates.

Signed P. Conlon, Turf Lodge

German Hunger Strikers Critical

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Angelika Speitel

AT PRESENT BEING FORCE-FED



Lutz Taufer
AT PRESENT BEING
FORCE-FED

Amid a total news blackout, a Hunger Strike has now been in progress in Germany since February 2nd. of this year. About 60 prisoners of the Red Army Faction and other anti-imperialist groups started off the Hunger Strike to protest about prison conditions.

PRISON CONDITIONS IN WEST GERMANY

The West German State applies special programmes of imprisonment only against those prisoners who come from militant anti-imperialist resistance groups. These prisoners are subjected to isolation torture in the silent cells of the new "High Security Wings" - many for over 4 years, with no association periods either. The isolation cells are air-conditioned, soundproofed, white-walled and constantly lit. Surveillance of the prisoners is total, cameras and microphones are stationed in each cell on each wing and around exercise yards. If prisoners do have association it is behind a partition window of bullet proof glass. Visits are for 1 hour per month in similar conditions, if permitted at all. Strip searches take place for prisoners and visitors before and after every visit or association.

The prisoners state:- "

" In this situation, after having for years been isolated from each other, cut off from every political movement and development and from the outside world, we are determined to make this separation come to an end by using the one effective means we have: the collective unlimited hunger strike, to get the conditions necessary for a collective process of learning and working "

In the past, the German State has reacted to R.A.F. activity on the outside by murdering helpless prisoners. After the plane hijack at Mogadishu they tried a " final solution " and murdered four prisoners.

CONDITION OF HUNGER STRIKERS

Of the 60 prisoners who started the Hunger Strike, 34 remain. Some prisoners belonging to other groups have been offered concessions and have come off. There has been no concessions offered to the R.A.F. prisoners.

All of the prisoners are now being force fed except for 10 women, six of them being held in Berlin and four in Lubeck.

Two of the women in Berlin are very dangerously ill Gabriele Rollnick has lost her sight, and Gudrun Sturmer's kidneys are failing.

Two prisoners were very ill before they started the Hunger Strike, Verena Becker has open tuberculosis and Gunter Sonnenberg is still suffering from brain damage, he received after being shot and captured in 1977.

STATE REPRESSION

Hundreds of people have been arrested in Germany for handing out leaflets or protesting about the prisoner's condition. They have been arrested under a law which says it is an offence to publicise a 'terrorist' group. The German press has supported state repression at all times and has conspired to keep news of the Hunger Strike quiet. In a sinister development the press has attacked two groups who have been active on the Hunger Strike issue. These are " Women Against Imperialism " (Germany) and the "International Committee for the Protection of Prisoners and Against Conditions of Isolation ". They say that the R.A.F. always recruits new members from these groups. These attacks are obviously paving the way for the arrest and destruction of both groups.

The policy of criminalisation of political prisoners in Western Europe and the attempts to break them in the prisons is a co-ordinated one. It is an attempt to deny the political nature of their struggles both inside and outside prison. A victory for prisoners in part of Europe would have an enormous effect on prison conditions in other parts of Europe.

The I.R.S.P. calls on all Anti-Imperialist forces to support the German Hunger Strike. Send telegrams or messages of solidarity or protest letters to:-

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE PROTECTION OF PRISONERS AND AGAINST CONDITIONS OF ISOLATION
C/O BOX 152,
182, UPPER STREET,
LONDON N.1

Telegrams of protest to the German Ministry of Justice

BUNDEJUSTIZMINISTERIUM,
MINISTER SCHMUDE,
53, BONN 2,
WEST GERMANY

The Mole Croaked It!

The I.R.S.P. deeply regret the death of Sir Maurice Oldfield, former head of Britain's Secret Intelligence Service M16. He will be sorely missed by all socialists and anti-imperialists in Ireland.

Maurice was given the arduous task of combatting the national liberation armies after the Warrenpoint ambush and Mountbatten's execution. Poor Maurice found the job too nerve-wrecking so he was forced to retire, dying shortly thereafter.

More than anybody, Maurice also known as M from the James Bond books, and George Smiley, aided the forces of communist subversion throughout the Western world. He will be deeply missed by his comrades in the K.G.B. old boy's association, political commissar Anthony Blunt and the Roger Hollis family circle.

IRELAND the Problem, Task and Remedy



The people of Ireland, nor for that matter we in the I.R.S.P. cannot rely on the present labour movement in Ireland to approach the task radically nor to create this new social order which will benefit all, because the existing labour movements are neither radical nor revolutionary. In fact, they are very much a part of the established decadent order. You have only to look at the likes of Conor Cruise O'Brien, not so long ago a T.D. in the Labour party, to realise their counter-revolutionary content. Though undoubtedly isolated elements within it are progressive. The Trade Unions by and large reflect the conservatism of the Labour Party and are in no way radical.

In reality the established labour movement in Ireland serve only to confuse the workers and the Irish people as a whole, by clouding the real issues and participating in the bourgeois system. They lend credence to capitalism against the interests of those they claim to represent, the workers of this country. Little have they achieved since the days of Larkin and Connolly, they've actually regressed, if anything.

So therefore our only alternative is to look outside the established labour movement if we are to make progress. By our actions and hard work we can hope to influence the ordinary workers within the Trade Union movement and such labour organisations hoping that the more progressive and revolutionary elements will follow our progressive and revolutionary example, we must give this lead.

That will mean agitation on behalf of the oppressed people and keeping the full light trained on the failures of both the labour movement and the capitalist system in general. This work will not be easy, it will mean confronting the system, upheaval within the community and general strife. It will take rugged determination to see it through, demonstrating all the time that this movement (IRSP) is dedicated to upholding the interests of the workers, their long term interests and immediate ones.

Revolutionaries and socialists can do very little through individual actions. Our actions must be organised and concerted to achieve our aims and ideals. It is only when united as a cohesive revolutionary body that progress can be made and that we will be able to implement our policies and tactics with maximum effect. The I.R.S.P. must be this cohesive body, as its stated aims are to establish a 32 county democratic socialist republic, a workers republic where the wealth of the country (the land, seas and waterways) and the means of production, distribution and exchange are in the hands of the workers.

It is imperative that we unite the national struggle with the social struggle. The democratic revolution must be an integral part of the national struggle as national liberation means socialism, and socialism means national liberation. The two are inseparable. A 32 county Republic without socialism would not be worth fighting for as 90% of the people would be no better off with independence alone. The class difference would still be maintained, instead of being obliterated. Hard work, determination, consistency, competence and the will to succeed should be the hallmarks of a revolutionary socialist movement.

Imperialism in its visible and more subtle forms must be attacked in the 6 cos. ie. the occupation forces, their allies and collaborators, and their politico-military masters. In the whole of Ireland we must attack capitalism and all its manifestations, its agents, (whether native or foreign) and the whole infrastructure of bourgeois society. All forms of exploitation whether social, sexual, racial must be challenged.

In fact a climate must be engendered where all forms of oppression and exploitation no longer can flourish and where the will for freedom is total. Apologists for capitalism must be exposed, their real interests examined thoroughly and shown to the people for what they really are. Never should we lose sight of the international dimension of the struggle, republicanism and socialism are both international in concept. War, and all such manifestations of capitalism know no boundaries, they are a danger to all of humanity with the vast array of nuclear weapons in their armouries under the control of warmongers like Reagan and Haig. Therefore, as internationalists, we must support campaigns for unilateral nuclear disarmament, and similar humanitarian programmes.

NO STATUS — NO CENSUS!

We must also support genuine liberation struggles throughout the world as our cause is theirs. There are clear parallels between the struggles of the Irish People and the struggles of the peoples of El Salvador, Namibia, Nicaragua, Palestine or wherever liberation is the first need of the people. This emphasises the international aspect of our struggle. We are all opposed basically to capitalism in all its various forms ie. imperialism, colonialism, war and exploitation in general. There are many other tactics and methods in the making of revolution, I have included only those that immediately spring to mind.

One fact which remains clearly however, is that without national and social liberation we will continue to be oppressed, so both are essential and a necessity in Ireland today. If not we will continue to be trampled into the gutter and oppressed.

It is up to those who are concerned, and politically aware to set about chieving it. Little glory and a lot of hard painstaking work is entailed, with a lot of suffering and hardship, but we must never be deterred. The righteousness of our cause should carry us through. It gives us the mandate to make revolution even when the revolutionary fervour is at its lowest ebb. The fruits of our hard work and sacrifice will only be reaped when we have actually achieved our aims.

SEAMUS GREW, SEAMUS COSTELLO CUMANN, CAGE 10, LONG KESH

U.W.C. Strikes Again!

The recent regrouping of the Ulster Worker's Council (U.W.C.) under the watchful eye of the U.D.A., has given rise to much speculation. We believe that this speculation is a deliberate attempt to obscure the political reality and danger that lies behind the regrouping of the U.W.C.

The U.D.A. who have stated their support for the U.W.C. indeed the U.W.C. hold their weekly meetings in the U.D.A. headquarters at Newtownards Road, view the U.W.C. as a promising vehicle and will provide the necessary "muscle" which John McMichael claims is absent in the 6 Co. state (nb. see Ulster VOL 1 No.2 Aug 78). Various shades of Unionist and Loyalist opinion are in disarray. Many see Paisley's Carson Trail as a threat to their won position. The widening differences of opinion between Paisley, which incidentally began after the previous stoppage in which the U.D.A. believe Paisley sold them out, has necessitated the U.D.A. under the umbrella of the U.W.C. to provide their own safeguard against Paisley rising to power on the backs of the Loyalist people.

Council (U.A.C.) during the 1974 stoppage to enforce the strike is bound to be repeated in any future stoppage. The thinking behind the U.W.C./U.A.C. stoppage in 1974 is evidenced by a statement from the U.A.C. in May of that year

"If Westminster is not prepared to restore democracy....then the only way it can be restored is by a coup d'etat".

This statement is almost identical to that made by John McMichael when he spoke recently of going into nationalist areas to "liquidate" the enemies of Ulster.

It is obvious to even the most casual observer that the politics and policies of the U.D.A's New Ulster Political Research Group are to be articulated by the U.W.C. and what better way of promoting the idea of an "independant Ulster" than by proving that only they can run it. The U.D.A. do not fail to recognise the treachery of the British and they know that the Ulster state is dying if not dead, as a political entity. With Paisley's attempt to sweep the poles in May 81, they have no choice but to make their play.

It must be clearly stated and understood that the U.W.C. in no way represents a movement amongst progressive elements within the Protestant working-class to combat the economic policies of the British government. Rather, that it represents the heightening of Loyalist fears and exposes not only the contradictions of Unionism but the power mongering and disunity within their camp.

Perhaps it is fit to conclude with a quote from Bill Craig who when speaking on behalf of the U.W.C. on the 21st May 1974, referred to the assembly as a

"Bankrupt, discredited junta owing its existence solely to the presence of thousands of troops".

I am sure Mr. Craig won't mind if I borrow this quote as it seems to articulate fully our position on the U.W.C. and the 6 Co. state in particular.

The I.R.S.P. deeply regret the loss of Frank Maguire, an active, and tireless supporter of the political prisoners in H Block and Armagh. Frank Maguire the Independent Westminster M.P. for Fermanagh South Tyrone was elected as an anti-unionist despite Austin Currie's attempts as an S.D.L.P. candidate to split the nationalist vote. Frank worked on behalf of the protesting prisoners constantly throughout the blanket protest, he will be sorely missed by his friends in the H Block/ Armagh campaign and the prisoners in the coming period.



The U.W.C.'s meeting with shop stewards in key industries is designed to broaden support for a stoppage in the face of any agreement over the London/Dublin summit. The use of the Ulster Army

ARMAGH PRISON PICKET

A very successful picket was held outside Armagh Prison on Sunday 8th March- which was international Womens Day. Over 1,000 people, who travelled to Armagh to show their solidarity with the women prisoners, were able to assemble at the corner of the prison wall closest to the wings containing the 29 protesting prisoners and from this vantage

point they shouted messages of solidarity to the women inside.

Among the crowd were several hundred women from England, Scotland, Wales, Germany and Holland, who had travelled to Armagh for International Women's Day. Messages of solidarity and support from many International Groups and Women's groups were read out.

The picket which lasted for 1½ hours was addressed by several speakers including Christine Carney of the National H Block/Armagh Committee, Chris Mc Auley, Sinn Fein, Nell Mc Cafferty journalist, Margaret Mc Mullen of the H Block/Armagh youth Committee, English Pacifist Pat Arrowsmith and representatives of the Belfast and Dublin International Women's Day Co-ordinating Committee which has organised the picket.

There was a large number of journalists present probably because there was a possibility that Bernadette Mc Aliskey would be there but Bernadette was not yet sufficiently recovered from the murder bid made on her life in January and had instead sent a message of solidarity which was received with loud applause.

The demonstration ended with a number of songs and the chanting of Political Status slogans. The presence of the large contingent of women from abroad and the large number of media people was felt to have contributed to the R.U.C. decision not to prevent the demonstration reaching the prison wall.

Womens Conferences

The International delegations had arrived in Ireland on Saturday 7th, and conferences were organised in both Belfast and Dublin at which these women from abroad could discuss the Armagh campaign and the relationship between Women's Liberation with Irish Women.

Several hundred women, the majority of them from abroad attended a conference in Divis Community Centre which was addressed by speakers from Women Against Imperialism, Sinn Fein, and the National H Block/Armagh committee. This comprised the 1st half of the Conference after dinner there were addresses from International representatives including a P.L.O. woman from London and two German representatives. At the conference the catering and the creche were organised and run by men and were very successful.

The Dublin Conference, which was held in Liberty Hall and also had a creche was smaller (about 80-100 women) and this allowed for more informal discussion among the women which may provide a basis for future political campaigns between women from various anti-imperialist groups.



Letter From H Block

I am writing this letter to beg you to help save the lives of my comrades who are at present on Hunger Strike. You are probably aware that a Hunger Strike previous to this one took place at the end of last year and that it was ended with a suitable solution, well that was the case at the time.

On the 18th December 1980, the British Government approached the Hunger Strikers with an assurance that our 5 just demands would be met. Acting in good faith the Hunger Strikers ended their fast and by an act of goodwill we started to phase out the no-wash protest. But with the passing of time it became clear to us that the British government did not intend to keep their word. We have always tried and will continue to try and bring the protest to an end. But the British government seem to be very indifferent as to whether or not the protest ends or continues.

We have completely phased out our no-wash protest and it is with no light-heartedness that we have embarked on a second Hunger Strike. We fully realise the consequences if the British government continue in its apathetic attitude. That is why we are calling on your help. The British government tried to trick us the last time. We will not be tricked or bluffed like the last time. Our comrades are determined to see this through. The British government are callous enough to let them die. But they will not be able to let them die if enough raise their voices and demand they get their just demands.

It is up to you, will your conscience let you stand by and do nothing? I beg of you to support the Hunger Strikers, not from your chair at the fire, but actively on the streets or wherever protests occur. I urge you not just to pay lip service but to write to your MP or anyone else who is in a position to bring pressure to bear on the government. It is with a sense of urgency I write, already the Hunger Strike is 4 weeks old. I beg of you, don't let them down, for if you do, they may die.

Yours faithfully,

Republican Socialist P.O.W., H4

IS IRELAND FOR NUCLEAR WAR ? 7



"If there is to be any clear association between two sovereign states, it cannot be while one is strongly non-aligned as your country is, and neutral and Britain which is a very staunch part of NATO....."

"However there is no doubt in anybody's mind that the Irish State is totally committed to the West, and to Western democracy, but it would be important to us, for the two nations to sing with one voice over defense".

Michael Mates, Tory MP describing the importance of a military alliance between Britain and Ireland in support of NATO.

"There were certain historical reason why the Free State was neutral in the second world war. This does not mean we are ideologically neutral or politically indifferent. We share the basic democratic, political and economic values with our neighbours in Western Europe".

Brian Lenihan, Fianna Fail's Minister for Foreign Affairs, outlining his government's plans to commit Ireland to a NATO backed takeover for the installation of mobile radar stations, and nuclear missiles for use against the Eastern Bloc countries.

Although Lenihan does not state that the government is at present abandoning its neutrality policy, the implications are clear that when NATO is ready, it will approach the Irish Government with a view to basing their missiles in Ireland. Lenihan admits his government supports the West against the East. It is only a matter of time before NATO will be knocking on Ireland's door demanding to be let in.

Already Sean McBride, speaking before a C.N.D. meeting in Belfast exposed British plans to base at least 20 cruise and pershing missiles belonging to NATO in the occupied 6 counties, another strategic reason Britain remains in the North.

Is Ireland going to be allowed to be used as a political and military pawn by one super power against the other equally power crazed country? Since the ending of the second world war the major power blocks have been arming themselves for a third world war, a nuclear war. Nothing short of disarmament would save the world from this war. So much money is spent on nuclear arms, 1 million dollars a minute according to UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim. If it ceased its spending for only 400 minutes, the world health authority estimate that malaria could be completely eradicated. Just imagine what disease and poverty could be eradicated for 100's of millions

of people if nuclear disarmament was accepted worldwide.

Mr. Lenihan and the government he represents seem to believe the people of Ireland naturally support his mad plans for nuclear destruction. There is a third path between the two super powers. Ireland still has the opportunity if the people desire this, of joining this group and campaigning for nuclear disarmament. Not surprisingly many of the non-aligned countries are the underdeveloped countries which suffer so much from disease and poverty and wish to end their suffering as oppressed starving people ignore by East and West.

In the recent debate on neutrality, one Fine Gael deputy asked Charlie Haughey if he would agree that the government appeared to be equivocating on our policy of neutrality. Haughey stated that under Article 29 of the Constitution the government could not sign any international agreement before placing it before both houses of the Oireachtas. Ryan pointed out that "only the Dail had the right to involve this country in a war".

We would assert that only the Irish people have the right to decide whether they live or die, as they chose when they resisted British conscription during the first world war. Now, as the super powers race insanely towards a third world war by continuing the arms accumulation. The Irish people have to decide whether they join the British alliance and NATO against the East or whether they support the non-aligned oppressed people who could live without disease, without their children starving if the arms race ceased.

While revolutionaries are fundamentally opposed to pressurising bourgeois governments, simply by protesting to them peacefully. On the issue of nuclear warfare involving the whole world, the voice of a united Irish people has to be heard now. In the form of mass marches, protests and petitions for nuclear disarmament in Ireland and throughout the world.

If the Irish government ignore the people's protest then the destructive nature of capitalism and its child imperialism will be exposed to the world. Its up to the Irish people to ensure by action that we do not fail in our task.

STATUS NOW

HUNGER STRIKE FUTURE ACTIVITIES

- Sunday March 29th - County Rally in Tyrone
- Saturday April 4th - Dublin March to coincide with Eurovision Song Contest.
- Sunday April 5th - Census Burning Demonstrations County Rally - Derry, Monaghan
- Saturday April 11th - Rally at Belfast City Hall
- Sunday April 12th - Ulster Provincial Rally
- Wednesday April 15th - National Day of Industrial Action
- Saturday April 18th - International Day of Solidarity including National Rally in Dublin

CAMLOUGH DEMONSTRATION

On Sunday 22nd of March, Ray McCreesh and Patsy O'Hara joined the Hunger Strike in Long Kesh.

In McCreesh's home village of Camlough, Sough Armagh, 2,000 people including representatives of the McCreesh family came out to support the prisoners. The original plan to march from Camlough to Newry was changed because of the funeral of a local schoolboy. Instead the demonstration, accompanied by two local bands marched to a nearby gaelic football pitch where a rally was held.

Speakers at the rally included representatives of the local and National H Block/Armagh committees, Sinn Fein and I.R.S.P. A letter from the women prisoners in Armagh urging support for the 5 demands and expressing solidarity with the Hunger Strikers was read. Further demonstrations are planned in the area.

RUC THUGS

The R.U.C.'s brutal handling of the nationalist people's peaceful H Block protest continue unabated, as was evident after the latest Hunger Strike protest last week in the Markers.

A peaceful roadblock in Cromac Street by the Markets/Ormeau Road Hunger Strike Committee was savagely disrupted by the thugs of the R.U.C. after only 10 mins. of the roadblock, over 20 police waded into the protesters forcibly evicting them from the road, making 3 arrests, violently manhandling the innocent men being arrested. Several youngsters were pushed roughly across the road, some were even trampled upon by the sectarian thugs.

After the road was cleared, the protesters marched up Cromac Street in protest of the R.U.C.'s attacks. This march was also disrupted with attempts at arrests of some protesters with some people being punched during the scuffles. These bigoted thugs will not deter the people of the Markets/Ormeau Rd. from supporting their comrades in prison.

VICTORY TO THE P.O.W.'s

HUNGER STRIKE FIGHTING FUND

DONATIONS ARE URGENTLY NEEDED FOR OUR HUNGER STRIKE FIGHTING FUND IN ORDER TO PRODUCE POSTERS AND LEAFLETS TO COUNTER BRITISH PROPAGANDA AND ORGANISE SUPPORT FOR THE HUNGER STRIKERS.

DONATIONS SHOULD BE SENT TO..... HUNGER STRIKE FIGHTING FUND
392, FALLS ROAD
BELFAST 12



BURN YOUR CENSUS APRIL 5th

On April 6th, the British Government is collecting a Census form containing personal details on every individual in the 6 counties. The Brit's Census which takes place every 10 years is an intensive survey of the entire population, detailing information concerning the family background, religion, the place of work of the individual and other general details of people's lives. This Census will be costing 2 million pounds in the 6 counties alone, it will cost tens of millions throughout England, Scotland and Wales, just so the government can present an accurate intelligence assessment of every individual throughout the country.

The Census must be opposed by everybody for three basic reasons. Firstly it is obviously a blatant waste of people's money to gather low level information on people, when the money could be used for creating jobs or building badly needed houses. Secondly, here in the 6 counties the Census is used to monitor the whereabouts of nationalist people who are in direct conflict with the British state. Thirdly, we would call on all people who support the political prisoners in H Block and Armagh to actively boycott and burn the Brit Census forms instead of returning them. This would be an effective protest in solidarity with the Hunger Strike in the H Blocks at present. A Mass Boycott with burnings of forms would be an expression of militant support for the prisoner's cause - political status.



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