

saoirse

Newspaper of the
Irish Republican Socialist Party



NOVEMBER 1986

25p

ONE YEAR ON



LOYALIST MURDER GANGS

DIPLOCK COURTS

STRIP SEARCHING

SHOOT-TO-KILL

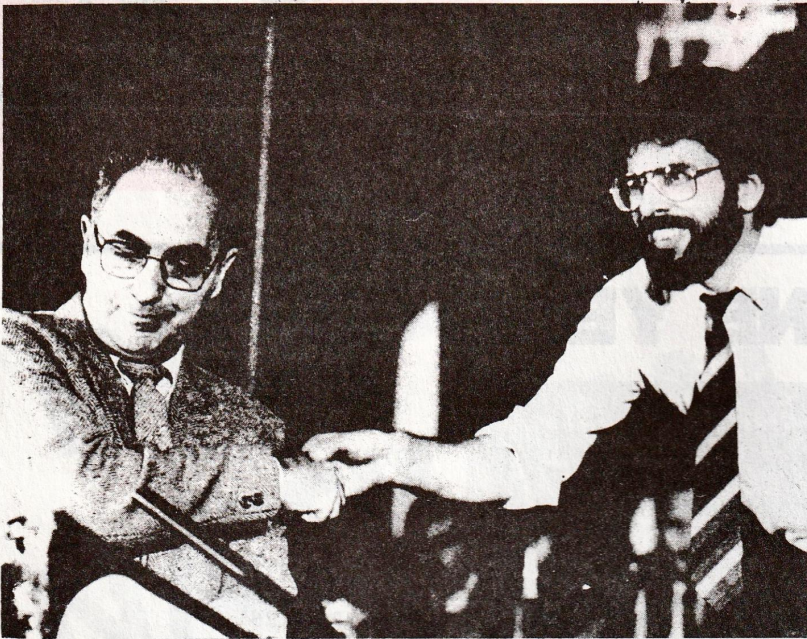
SUPERGRASSES

PLASTIC BULLETS

U.D.R



NON-ABSTENTION A PROGRESSION?



The much publicised Sinn Fein Ard Fheis is now history. Sinn Fein with the backing of the IRA are committed to taking their seats (if elected) in Leinster House. Despite protests of "betrayal" by traditional republicans, the motion dropping the hallowed but ultimately dead-end policy of abstentionism in the 26 Cos. was carried by the necessary majority.

Despite the leadership's call for unity some 30 delegates led by Ruairi O'Bradaigh, Daithi O'Conail and Sean Keenan left the Ard Fheis and went to a hotel where they announced the formation of Republican Sinn Fein.

Yet how deep are the divisions between the two Sinn Feins? The abstentionist section base their objections on the "illegitimacy" of the present Leinster House regime and the almost automatic corruption of those who forsake traditional republican ideals by taking part in a treasonable asse-

mbly. The fact is that Leinster House is the actual functioning seat of power/legislature in Irish politics while the ephemeral almost mystical Second Dail, traditionally regarded as the legitimate government of Ireland by republicans, has no realistic bearing on the Ireland of today.

The "authority" of the Second Dail was relegated by the Provo Army Council to second place behind the "real politik" of taking seats in Leinster House, thus opening the way for Sinn Fein to drop the abstentionist clause from their constitution. It was clearly realised that the vast bulk of the Irish people look upon Leinster House as the government of Ireland and the only way to represent people is in a structure they recognise, no matter how flawed.

On the other hand, Republican Sinn Fein should not be construed as necessarily any more right wing than the main body of

Sinn Fein. Their basic philosophies remain the same; an independent 32 Co. Ireland with the "cutting edge" of the IRA leading the fight against British occupation. Where they differ is in degrees of "purity". The abstentionists believe that republicans who take part in "treasonable" Leinster House Politics soon become indistinguishable from the parties of the establishment. They tend to become involved in compromise politics, usually to gain votes and/or public stature, and thus gradually become assimilated into the whole dirty mess of Irish establishment politics. Looked at in this light, it could be argued that the abstentionists are right in that they are clearly totally non-reformist and uncompromising in their pursuit of revolutionary nationalist goals. They will remain incorruptible simply by avoiding the source of the corruption.

The truth is that there is very little political difference between Republican Sinn Fein and Sinn Fein. While tracing their pedigree through the Second Dail

to Wolfe Tone and the United Irishmen, the Republican movement are ignoring James Connolly's basic tenet that national liberation 'without social revolution is only exchanging one set of masters for another. The abstentionists are neither more nor less clear on this issue than the bulk of Sinn Fein.

The taking of seats in conjunction with the armed struggle is a generally progressive move, if the tak-

CRAIGAVON NEWS

☆☆PUBLIC AMENITIES☆☆ PRISONERS☆☆

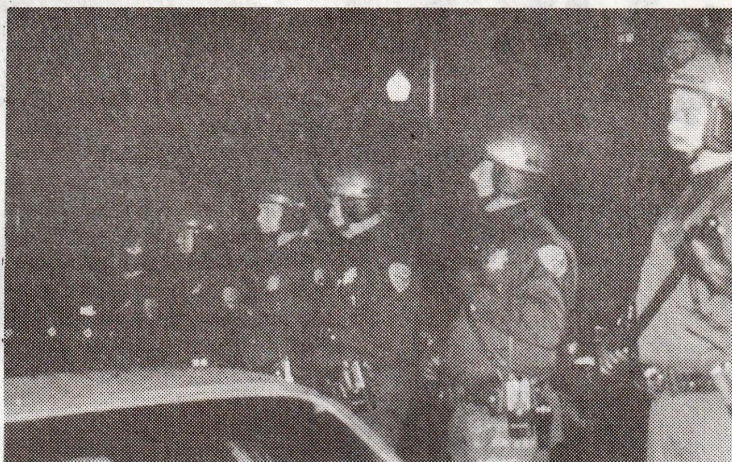
The public amenities of our area are still being used as Party political football. Although we as Republican Socialists do not get over-excited at seeing our Public buildings or town centres used to push one point of view (you get used to that in this the most reactionary part of the reactionary six counties). We think it's time and that we have the right to know who is paying for pushing this Party's point of view.

It is a well known secret that it costs ratepayers £2,000 per month for security at the Brownlow Leisure Centre to keep the Union Jack flying after the flag was twice removed. The flag is also flying at Pinebank Community Centre in a Nationalist area, not as a sign of patriotism but as goad to the nationalists living in the area and the proof that the Hatches', Calverts' and McCuskers' of Unionism are our lords and masters. Boy, have they a lot of catching up to do.

Craigavon Prisoners Aid is an organisation set up about a year ago when this area had ten or eleven prisoners. It was not an attempt to replace Green Cross or P.D.F. Rather it was an attempt to de-sectarianise the issue of Republican political prisoners. Prisoners' Aid only pays our supplements to all Republican Prisoners (Provisional and Republican Socialist) at times coinciding with parcels being allowed into the gaols. While our aims and pay-

ments are small we treat all Republican prisoners as they treat themselves in the prison, "as equals". We hope to continue this work and our next payments are due at Christmas. We appeal to all Republican, Socialist supporters don't forget our Prisoners and at least send one Christmas card to one prisoner.

SEAN HUGHES



The IRSP totally condemns the brutal and inhuman treatment of a Belfast man - Sean Hughes - by the French authorities. Sean Hughes was arrested in mid 1986 and has been held ever since in a French jail on arms charges.

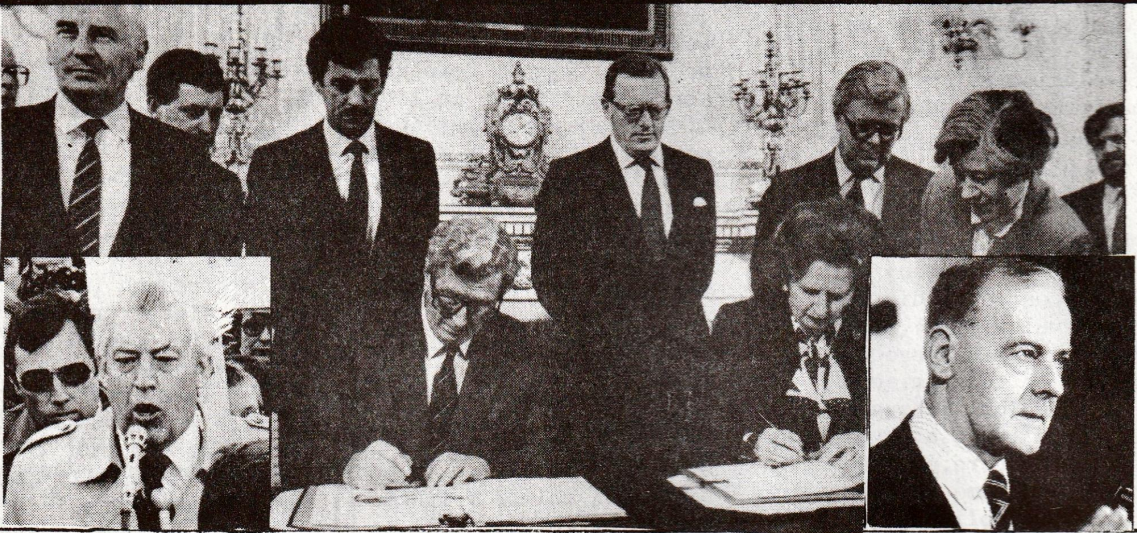
In the past three weeks, Sean has been strip-searched more than thirty times and in the last few days he has been subject to a forced hair cut which has left his scalp and head with multiple cuts and abrasions. The French authorities have also, not only censored his mail but on

numerous occasions they have stopped it completely.

Since his arrest in the summer, Sean has been held in almost total isolation and has been refused visits from his family and friends. He has also been denied access to see his young child who was born after his arrest.

The IRSP totally condemns the actions of the French government in this matter. Sean Hughes is only another case in the ever increasing catalogue of French inhumanity to Irish POW's.

ON THE HIGH GROUND



One year on it is time to assess that boggy man of loyalism - the Anglo-Irish Agreement. It has posed a number of vital questions for Irish revolutionaries. Whose interests does it represent? What is its aim and how achievable are its goals? Furthermore, what strategy can republicans develop that not merely weakens the Anglo-Irish process but strengthens the forces of anti-Imperialism.

The Anglo-Irish Agreement is a formally binding agreement between two Governments outlining their common objectives in relation to Northern Ireland. Both Governments are capitalist.

Take the 26 County Coalition Government. Despite the collaboration between the Labour Party and Fine Gael, the Coalition represents capitalist interests in the South. The Labour Party is not socialist, but it does articulate and represent the interests of the higher echelons of the trade union movement and skilled sections of the working class integrated into the 26 County state system. These interest groups have vested interests in the maintenance of capitalist

stability. Despite massive unemployment, soaring emigration and rampant poverty the "Labour Aristocrats" have

no great wish to rock the status quo. Hence their support for the Anglo-Irish Agreement. They see it as a guarantee of keeping the North's problems from overspilling into the 26 Counties and upsetting the industrial stability they have so assiduously established. References to "working class unity" by the 26 County Labour Party is just sentimentalising and sloganising. They prefer class collaboration to genuine working class unity.

Fine Gael, the senior partner in the Coalition, representing the multi-national and large farmer sections of the ruling class and historically tied to leading sections of British Capitalism since 1922 have of course their own naked class interests to protect. Permanent stability they see as best guaranteed in a frame work that re-integrates the 26 Counties into a European framework of political, military and economic union.

The British see the situation similarly. They also

represent the economic and military cost and would prefer to see that burden being taken on by other sections of world capitalism; i.e. the USA. In the global context the USA, opposing progressive movements world-wide, see it as only logical for them to involve themselves in this situation and keep Ireland safe for world capitalism. Hence their long term cultivation of leading Irish political figures such as Garrett Fitzgerald and John Hume through movements such as the Trilateral Commission. These represent, whether they like it or no, USA investments in Ireland. To all intents and purposes they are USA political agents.

The use of force by Irish nationalists has very restricted success historically. By limiting our struggle to national horizons, by ignoring or glossing over the world wide struggle between Imperialism and Socialism, republicans are tying one hand behind their backs. The fact is that the struggle for Irish independence is inseparably tied up with the struggle for Socialism.



Whether Republicans like it or not, we are part of the international struggles of the working class. The task facing us at the moment is to stall the closer integration of Ireland, north and south, into the Western European capitalist set up. Hence our demands for a unitary state independent and neutral with the working class in control.

With James Connolly we share the view that simply replacing the colour of the pillar boxes from red to green will not stop the oppression of the working class. Hence support of the Irish Republican Socialist Party for a unitary state under working class control is based on the material interests of the working class in Ireland. As is our opposition to the Anglo-Irish Agreement. It is not in the interests of the Irish working class.

But our opposition has nothing in common with the Ulster Says No lobby; a lobby whose opposition to the Anglo-Irish Agreement is based on naked sectarian hatred of Catholics, whether articulated in the well modulated tones of a Molyneux or the hysterical

outpourings of a Paisley.

If there was to be any change in the Anglo-Irish Agreement because of loyalist opposition that would be not merely a set back for the Imperialist strategy but a crushing blow for northern nationalists.

Hence, we in the IRSP, have called for and continue to call for the establishment of a unified northern nationalists self defence campaign with our slogan **DEFEND THE NATIONALIST AREAS: ORGANISE WITH AREA COMMITTEES.**

That slogan has assumed even greater importance with the establishment of the D.U.P. Ulster's Citizen Army. It is quite clear the bigots are prepared to provoke Civil War in defence of loyalist ascendancy. In such an event we have no reason to look for help from either the British or Free State establishments. The only genuine allies northern nationalists will have then will be the working classes of Ireland, Britain and further afield.

There have been recent signs of increasing unity amongst northern nationalists. The failure of the Anglo-Irish Agreement to deliver on its

promises has exposed the nakedness of the SDLP's collaborating policy. Are we to be grateful to the SDLP because we are allowed in our own country to fly our national emblem or speak our national tongue. Must we continue to touch the forelock in humble gratefulness to the British for allowing us to express what we have always been - Irish?

Hence the conference organised by Des Wilson/Mary Nellis/F.O'Hare/J.McVeigh to examine the Anglo-Irish Agreement one year on could be the beginning of a unified nationalist response which transcends party politics, and lays the basis for positive mass opposition to the Anglo-Irish Agreement.

An important battle is now waging for the hearts and minds of northern nationalists. On the one hand the S.D.L.P. backed up by Imperialism and its money; on the other the people of no property backed up only by principles. Moves are afoot to window dress the Anglo-Irish Agreement. The claim for credit for the decision to demolish Divis Flats by the SDLP/

A.I.A. axis is to be followed by the pouring of US/Canadian/Australian money into border regions courtesy of the Anglo-Irish Agreement. What will not be announced is the decision to divert European Social Fund Money from the border regions to loyalist areas now hit by unemployment. Such sleight of hand tactics are designed to strengthen the SDLP and weaken republican opposition.

Therefore republicans and socialists in the face of this propaganda, military and economic onslaught, need to unite their forces, establish 'a broad front of northern nationalists and carry the republican position to all.

A unified political offensive should be launched not only in the 6 Counties but world wide, similar to the Anti-Partition League of over 30 years ago to make the world aware of the true nature of the Anglo-Irish Agreement.

Continuing divisions between republican, between socialists and inter-necine republican feuding play only into the hands of the Imperialists. The IRSP calls for a halt to disunity and for all republicans and socialists, marxists and revolutionaries to stand firm on the high ground of the Republic for unity and independence.

Join the IRSP



SEND TO
An Ruai,
34 Upper Gardiner St.,
Dublin 1.
392 Falls Road, Belfast
8 Chamberlain St.,
Derry.

FIGHT FOR NATIONAL
LIBERATION AND A
SOCIALIST REPUBLIC

BLOCK LETTERS PLEASE

Name (Name)

Seoladh (Address)

Telephone

KING RESPONSE ★

In an attempt to stem the bleatings of Fitzgerald's government about the "pace of judicial reforms", Tom King announced proposed "changes" to the Emergency Provisions Act. The proposed "changes" do not include any reference to the Free State's desire to see three judges sit in the Diplock Courts. This has already been thrown out by Thatcher personally.

The proposals are as follows:

1. Introduce a test of reasonable grounds of suspicion for the exercise of most powers including arrest powers.
2. To shift the onus in bail applications in scheduled cases from the defence to the prosecution.
3. To strengthen the rights suspects in police custody.
4. To make clear the court's discretion to reject confession evidence in scheduled cases in the interests of justice or fairness.

Nobody is under any real illusion that these proposed changes will make any difference to those people appearing in the Diplock Courts or those in police custody. After the Bennett Report, the rights of suspects were supposed to be protected, but allegations against the police have actually increased.

The wording itself is full of ambiguities, what constitutes "reasonable grounds" and the "courts discretion".

The Diplock Courts are part of a cohesive system used by the British government to smash and criminalise any

opposition to it and therefore no amount of tinkering will them acceptable to the nationalist community.

Mr. King reaffirmed the government's intention to continue the use of the "supergrass" system. He pointed out the "fairness" of the system which acquitted so many defendants and how judges were very cautious about convicting on uncorroborated evidence. He neglects to mention that the primary function of the "supergrass" system is to get rid of "undesirable" people by locking them up for up to three years while they await trial and a further one to two years awaiting appeal. He neglects to mention the people in jail under 'supergrass' still awaiting trial.

It is clear that the British government will continue to use 'supergrasses' albeit selectively and that Fitzgerald and Hume's assertion that the 'supergrass' system is over, because of pressure from the Anglo-Irish agreement is nonsense.



● TOM KING

CRAIGAVON NEWS

☆☆PUBLIC AMENITIES☆☆ PRISONERS☆☆

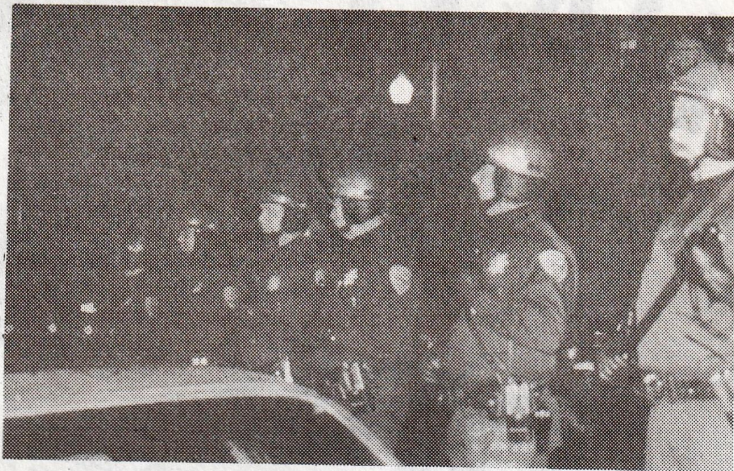
The public amenities of our area are still being used as Party political football. Although we as Republican Socialists do not get over-excited at seeing our Public buildings or town centres used to push one point of view (you get used to that in this the most reactionary part of the reactionary six counties). We think it's time and that we have the right to know who is paying for pushing this Party's point of view.

It is a well known secret that it costs ratepayers £2,000 per month for security at the Brownlow Leisure Centre to keep the Union Jack flying after the flag was twice removed. The flag is also flying at Pinebank Community Centre in a Nationalist area, not as a sign of patriotism but as goad to the nationalists living in the area and the proof that the Hatches', Calverts' and McCuskers' of Unionism are our lords and masters. Boy, have they a lot of catching up to do.

Craigavon Prisoners Aid is an organisation set up about a year ago when this area had ten or eleven prisoners. It was not an attempt to replace Green Cross or P.D.F. Rather it was an attempt to de-sectarianise the issue of Republican political prisoners. Prisoners' Aid only pays our supplements to all Republican Prisoners (Provisional and Republican Socialist) at times coinciding with parcels being allowed into the gaols. While our aims and pay-

ments are small we treat all Republican prisoners as they treat themselves in the prison, "as equals". We hope to continue this work and our next payments are due at Christmas. We appeal to all Republican, Socialist supporters don't forget our Prisoners and at least send one Christmas card to one prisoner.

SEAN HUGHES



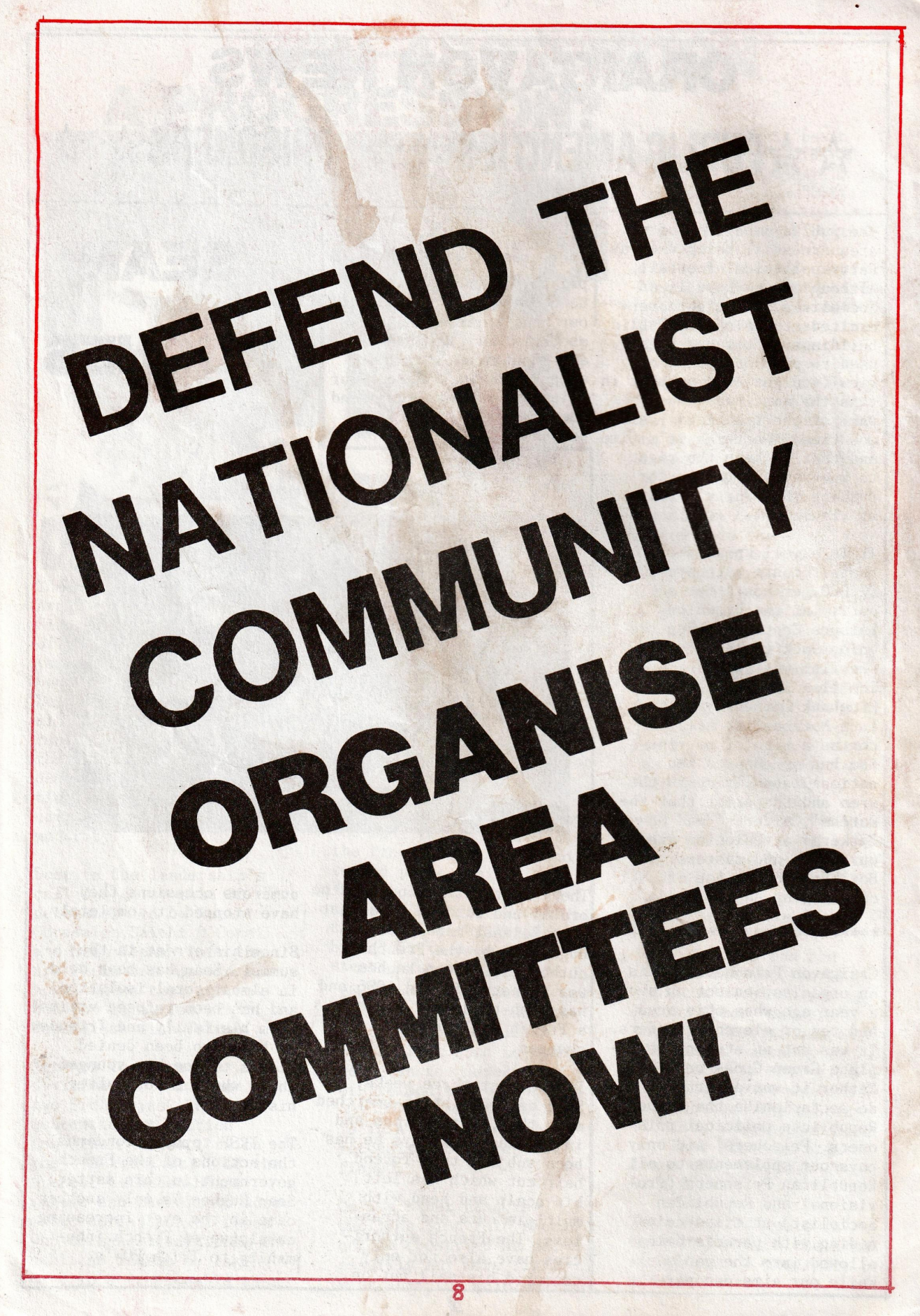
The IRSP totally condemns the brutal and inhuman treatment of a Belfast man - Sean Hughes - by the French authorities. Sean Hughes was arrested in mid 1986 and has been held ever since in a French jail on arms charges.

In the past three weeks, Sean has been strip-searched more than thirty times and in the last few days he has been subject to a forced hair cut which has left his scalp and head with multiple cuts and abrasions. The French authorities have also, not only censored his mail but on

numerous occasions they have stopped it completely.

Since his arrest in the summer, Sean has been held in almost total isolation and has been refused visits from his family and friends. He has also been denied access to see his young child who was born after his arrest.

The IRSP totally condemns the actions of the French government in this matter. Sean Hughes is only another case in the ever increasing catalogue of French inhumanity to Irish POW's.



**DEFEND THE
NATIONALIST
COMMUNITY
ORGANISE
AREA
COMMITTEES
NOW!**