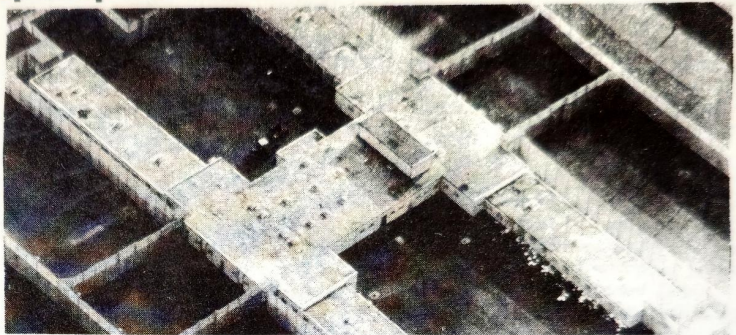


Paper of the Belfast IRSP



10p £ 15p abroad

HUNGER STRIKE STARTS



On March 1st, a second Hunger Strike to the death started in the H.Blocks of Long Kesh. Bobby Sands, officer commanding the Provisional prisoners in the H Blocks began his fast for Political Status after several attempts to end the blanket protest by the prisoners met with British intransigence on the issue.

The following day the Republican and Republican Socialist blanket men and the Armagh women prisoners ended their no-wash, no-slop out protest. A protest forced upon them by the screws attacks upon them while going to the toilet, and the refusal to allow them to use the toilets or washing facilities in the case of the women. This part of the protest was called off so as to focus attention on the Hunger Strike for Political Status and not let the issue at stake be detracted from.

Since the ending of the first Hunger Strike which left Sean McKenna blind after an agonizing 53 days on Hunger Strike, the British government has continued to offer no hope of an end to the prisoners long suffering except by forcing them to Hunger Strike to the death if necessary.

The plain truth is for the prisoners, having dealt with British deceit for 4½ years, death will be inevitable for Bobby Sands and his comrades shortly to join the strike, unless the Irish people pressurise the Brits to an extent where they will have no alternative but to grant the prisoners demands.

Already the giant armoury of the British propaganda machine has been unleashed against the prisoners cause and their supporters. Several prominent pro-Brits have been given wide coverage on the television and in the daily papers to deplore the prisoners actions. Gerry Fitt, Paddy Devlin, and now Bishop Daley have all spoken out against the Hunger Strike. Not one of them even considered that the Hunger Strike came as a result of their own refusal to force the British to end the protest when the option was there. Now however tragic the idea is, the Hunger strike remains the only option left to the prisoners. Will these outstanding 'humanitarians' dare to condemn the British for forcing the prisoners to embark on another torturous fast?

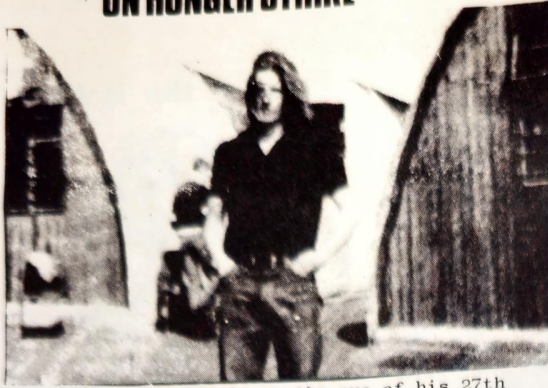
These so called "leading representatives of the nationalist people" are invaluable to the British propaganda machine. They delude the British people into believing the prisoners have little support even from their own areas, they also prevent many faint hearted people from supporting the prisoners.

Let us be clear about the Brits determination not to give in to the prisoners demands. In other words to let men and women die on Hunger Strike. Only a militant mobilisation of the Irish working-class North and South in a nationwide campaign, organising mass marches, protest etc to force the Brits to give in or suffer the consequences of the Irish people's anger. This campaign will have to be waged with the clear understanding that the Brits intend to ride out the storm of protest during the Hunger Strike and around the resultant deaths.

Militancy is the key to winning the demands for the prisoners with or without loss of life. Everybody should be aware that the campaign for Political status should aim to make the six counties ungovernable. Let the British Government and its lackeys realize the consequences if they do not implement the 5 demand.

2.

ON HUNGER STRIKE



On the 1st March, nearly on the eve of his 27th birthday, Bobby Sands begins a hunger strike toward almost certain death. If he does die, nearly one-third of his life will have been spent in Long Kesh and Crumlin Road Jail.

Bobby was kept in jail by the Brits because he fought their occupation of his country. During 1973 - April 1976, he was in the cages of Long Kesh, with status, for possession of four hand guns. Six months after his release, in October 76, he was arrested again along with 3 comrades for a commercial bombing. He was charged both with the bombing and with possession of a hand gun which was in the car which the four were driving. Though there was not enough evidence to convict Bobby of the explosion, he and four others were each sentenced to 14 years for possession of the gun.

Bobby was O/C of the Provisional prisoners during the last hunger strike. He will be joined on hunger strike shortly by the O/C of the I.N.L.A. prisoners, Patsy O'Hara of Derry, along with two other Provisional prisoners.

H-BLOCK STATEMENT

A Chara, Firstly we the Republican Socialist Prisoners in the H Blocks salute your determination throughout the long years, in your efforts to secure Political Status on our behalf. In the early days and throughout we depended on you, our family, friends and neighbours. Your efforts inspired us and gave us the strength to endure in face of daily torture.

Once again we must call on you to demonstrate that dedication on our behalf. In December last year by giving certain assurances to Cardinal O'Fiach and the lads on Hunger Strike, brought an end to the Hunger Strike and inspired us with false optimism. By going back on their promises, they undermined the Christian concern shown by the Cardinal and attempted to demoralise the people who came onto the streets in support of the prisoners.

This was the British intention because they feared the political power the people controlled when organised, and we are confident of your continued support. With your support we are equally confident of victory.

Is Mise P.R.Ø. Republican Socialist Prisoners
H Block 4

Boycott Brit Census

On Sunday, 5th April, 1981, the British government plan to take a census of population in the six counties.

In a just society a census could be a useful exercise - collecting information on the existing scale of housing, education, etc. so that better provision could be made for the welfare of our citizens. In the society in which we live a census serves only as an intelligence gathering operation to facilitate repression.

The last census in 1971, was opposed by many republican and radical groups as a protest against the biased legal system in the six counties. It was estimated at the time that over 10,000 households boycotted the census.

One group which is included in the census against their will is the protesting prisoners. On their behalf and to highlight their demands for political status we are appealing to all who support the prisoners to boycott the census in all forms!

Devlin Joins Fitt

Councillor Paddy Devlin finally made it clear that Trade Unionists should not get involved on the H-Block/Armagh issue. Nor should T.U. leaders be asked to take a stand on H-Block/Armagh. "The suggestion that trade unions should embark on a campaign for this particular purpose," bloats Paddy," is inimical to the best interests of the trade union movement".

Paddy is very confused. He wants socialists in this community to create a coherent left-wing democratic movement". But to his mind socialism only includes equalization of wealth and incomes. Trade unionists, and socialists, must never get involved in 'political' issues, such as the conditions of T.U. members inside Her Majesty's Imperialist Prisons.

Stick to economic issues, Paddy? Sounds very much like that beast that Connolly called 'gas and water socialism'. We want no part of it, and we call on all trade unionists to reject the Paddy Devlins and support the hunger strikers in H-Block/Armagh.

REAGAN'S VIETNAM?

P.3



B-Movie Actor turns
guns

on El Salvador

One of the first actions Ronald Reagan took after his election was to pledge unstinting moral, military and financial support for the ruling military Junta in El Salvador.

As a result of this decision thousands of Salvadorean workers and peasants have been murdered.

On May 14th, 1980, almost 300 peasants were massacred in an incident that U.S. and other Western Intelligence organisations were able to suppress and the so called investigative press and media were somehow able to ignore.

The peasants had arrived at a refugee camp at Las Aradas on the Salvadorean/Honduras border. They noticed 150 Honduran soldiers standing behind a stone wall across the Sumpul River, which constitutes the border between the two countries. On the Salvadorean side, several hundred soldiers from the Chalatanango base were taking up positions behind the nearest hills. Two helicopter gunships flew overhead.

The attack began at 10.00a.m. There was a sudden deafening roar of gunfire which was to continue for six hours. The gunships buzzed low and opened up with their machine guns. Troops had surrounded the settlement. The

obvious escape route was across the river. But on the other bank Honduran soldiers pushed the refugees back into the river, where the Salvadoreans finished off most of the survivors. Those who would not die were beaten on the head with rifle butts.

Officially this was a massacre that did not happen. The Governments of El Salvador and Honduras and the Americans originally denied that any killings took place that day. However, the Honduran Army and the American Embassy later changed their line and admitted that "something happened" on the Sumpul River on May 14th.

Despite these atrocities and the massive repression. Despite all the resources of U.S. Imperialism the signs are that the murderous Military/Christian Democratic Junta is in its final death throes. Recent gains by the liberation forces seem to herald an imminent overall victory.

In any case the courageous struggle of the workers and peasants and the revolutionary fighters in El Salvador will be supported by all Irish Anti-Imperialists.

Defend Ireland's Neutrality

Ireland's traditional policy of neutrality in event of international conflict or war has been placed in serious jeopardy by the recent Anglo-Irish talks. The controversy came to the fore during the Fianna Fail Ard-Fheis this month. All told ten resolutions on neutrality raised the issue and called on the government as one resolution said "to maintain its traditional neutrality policy as outlined by our founder Eamonn De Valera", another asked the government to ensure that no nuclear missiles are placed on any part of the island.

The question of neutrality was raised in relation to the current Anglo-Irish discussions between Haughey's and Thatcher's governments. Some leading Southern politicians are concerned Haughey may be prepared to abandon Ireland's neutrality in return for an agreed constitutional settlement of the Northern War, involving a United Ireland solution. This abandonment of neutrality, if allowed to happen, would mean Ireland would agree to enter into a military defense alliance with her closest neighbours in Europe so as to prevent Russian expansion into European countries like Poland.

Once this alliance was agreed to, it would almost certainly for strategic reasons follow that Ireland be forced to join the NATO pact thus enabling NATO to site its nuclear missile bases on Irish soil. At present Ireland has refused to join NATO, the only E.E.C. country to do so.

The spectre of Nuclear Warfare and its ghastly consequences face Ireland if the government decide to abandon the neutral position in favour of siding with the Imperialist fanatics of America and Britain against the U.S.S.R.

Since the foundation of the neo-colonial State in 1921 the free state bourgeoisie have consistently refused to enter conflicts concerning Imperialist war mongers. But now as the Southern economy becomes more closely linked with international



CONT. ON PAGE 4

continued from p. 3

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capital, notably American, German and British, the lackeys of capital are considering risking the lives of the Irish people while they continue to profit by this foreign and native exploitation of the country's resources. Even when Winston Churchill offered De Valera the six Counties in return of use of Southern Ports during the war, De Valera refused. But now as the Free State capitalists are pressurised by international capital for the use of Irish soil for their murderous missiles, the government seems prepared to consider a change in policy.

Only the Irish people's opposition to this so called military alliance or NATO membership will prevent the ultimate inevitability of having these bases in Ireland.

Neither Haughey's or Thatcher's governments are prepared to see a United Ireland run by the Irish working-class. The United Ireland they envisage in their Anglo-Irish negotiations is the United Ireland of Paisley, of the big farmers, the Irish bourgeoisie, North and South, the United Ireland of the International Imperialists, an Ireland exploited and controlled by themselves, complete with nuclear bases.

The Anglo-Irish talks benefit nobody from the Irish working-class. Its purpose is to isolate the Northern republican population from the Southern working-class people and defeat them through cross-border collaboration, thus destroying the possibility of the whole working-class North and South kicking them from power and establishing a Workers Socialist Republic.

SEAN MacBRIDE SPEAKS

On Tuesday, 17th February, Sean MacBride was the guest speaker at the A.G.M. of the Northern Ireland C.N.D.

Referring to the very real possibility of a 3rd world war (involving nuclear weapons) within the next few years he called for a moratorium on (i.e. a halt to) all nuclear weapons research. This research and the manufacture of nuclear weapons is already costing the "super powers" 1 million dollars a minute - a fact which in itself highlights the madness of the arms race in a world where people are starving and deprived of basic necessities of life because of the so called "economic recession".

Mr. MacBride also mentioned that a recent N.A.T.O. agreement means that the six counties are now to be more fully included in the "West's" nuclear defence plan and at least 20 cruise missiles will be sited here in the event of a nuclear war situation developing.

STATEMENT FROM ARMAGH CUMANN

The Tony Mc Clelland Cumann of the IRSP, Armagh City, would like through the columns of this paper, to alert parents in the Armagh City area to the new repressive tactics now being used by the RUC in a blatant attempt to intimidate and subjugate the nationalist youth of the area.

Members of the RUC in military and civilian vehicles, are cruising about the estates singling out unaccompanied youths and engaging them in meaningless conversation. When the youth attempts to walk away and ignore this harassment, or refuses to answer personal questions they are immediately arrested and taken to Armagh Police Barracks, where they are subsequently charged with offences such as, disorderly behaviour, drunkenness or some similar trumped up charge, without a shred of real evidence to substantiate the charge.

This tactic is double edged. Firstly, the RUC hope by their repression to subdue the youth of the nationalist areas, by instilling a fear of authority in them.

Secondly, and more sinisterly, the RUC are subtly attempting to force these youths to become informers, by promising them that in return for information on political activists in the area, they will have their charges dropped or receive relatively smaller fines or else suspended sentences, thus putting the lives of these youths in great danger. The IRSP has received information about several such cases recently and believe many more have taken place, resulting in many youths living in terror and fear.

We would ask all parents to be vigilant and to heed the word of a member of their own family before that of the RUC.

Have a solicitor visit your son or daughter as soon as you are aware of their arrest so that they will know their rights and to save them from unnecessary physical and mental abuse, and from being framed, falsely charged or blackmailed.

Always question the person about what exactly happened in the barracks, the minutest details. Also keeping in mind that it is possible to take the police to court for wrongful arrest.

The IRSP appeals to all adults that witness such incidents to remain close by in case false charges are preferred, similar to those we have mentioned, so that the truth will be established and justice done, and to save the unfortunate victim from abuse in the courts.

BIG SISTER

P.5



IS WATCHING YOU

In a world where increased technology is popularly equated with increased leisure time; (little is mentioned of its impact on industry as a whole) there is another side to issue about which we hear nothing. The employment of high technology by the British Army and Police is a subject which gives cause for concern.

The Tory Government's policy of Non-Intervention in industry seems to have been cheerfully overlooked in the case of the defense exports industry. Which apart from employing 400,000 workers in over 8,000 companies with exports totalling £1.5 billion, is amongst the fastest growing industries in Britain and given Thatcher's position no doubt that trend will continue.

The use of sophisticated equipment such as Marconi's Heli-Tele T.V. which is fitted to all helicopters to provide full ariel coverage in conjunction with the recently invented COPE (covert observation and Photography equipment), the Heli-Tele can now be used at night. The use of Infra-Ray intruder detector systems (named Tobias and Iris) to protect the perimeters of Army Bases, are an indication of how the war here has progressed.

When the Brits arrived in 1969 they had only three items, IS (Internal Security) equipment. Today they have over 300 items and are amongst the world leaders in this field. While the above mentioned devices may be of a particular interest to a certain section of our population, there is an area of surveillance which undoubtedly affects us all, sometimes known as 'Blanket Surveillance', it employs the use of the Army Computer at Thiepval Barracks, Lisburn and the Police National Computer at Hendon which is run by the Home Office.

The Computer contains intelligence on between 500,000 and 750,000 people or about 50% of the people in Northern Ireland. In accordance with the British Army manual's instructions, all information is divided into 4 sections.

The first and most important is 'P' section or the 'People Bank'. Access to this file is through Address and coded date of Birth (no guess why they get angry when refused this), additionally a flagging system (ie. Red1 etc) gives even more details of activities, politics etc. and activates a pre-conditioned response for eg. arrest, observe etc. The Second Section deals with 4 monthly census and works on a House/Street index so that their information can be updated. It's interesting to note this only applies (Census Taking) in Nationalist Areas. The Third Bank deals exclusively with cars, owner, colour and numbers. A Fourth Section notes the movement of all vehicles through Army/Police checkpoints.

The information collected in this way and through searches, informants and the like, is collated at Thiepval Barracks by members of the 12th and 14th Army Intelligence Corp. Over 200 full-time Army Intelligence Specialists are now operating in N. Ireland not to mention the clandestine activities of M15, M16 and the Army's own SAS. All in all it would appear N.Ireland has a very important place in the hearts of the British Government. Who, one might add, say nothing of this to the British People in who's name and from who's pocket this war is being waged.

However, the future prospects for the National Liberation Struggle in Ireland are far from bleak.

Our increasing successes necessitate the games these people play (albeit dangerous ones - mostly for them it appears !!). In the words of their own Brid. J.M. Glover (See Doc. 37) when speaking about the Liberation Forces in Ireland....

"The Campaign of violence is likely to continue while the British remain in N.Ireland...."

So it is as a sign of our times that 'Big Brother' has given way to the 'Big Sister' MAGGIE!!

WHEN MURDER IS JUSTIFIED

Since the ending of the Iranian Embassy Siege, the S.A.S. have been glorified by the British establishment and the media. They have been portrayed as young British Supermen who are ready at a moments notice to defend their country against terrorism.

In reality, as many witnesses pointed out, they cold bloodedly murdered the Iranian Hostage takers after they had surrendered. This is the picture of the S.A.S. with which the Irish people are familiar. They are no more than a band of paid Professional Killers. The British are not noted for washing their dirty linen in public. The British establishment media etc. have always conspired to hide their brutal repression in many countries throughout the world and especially in Ireland.

In keeping with this tradition the Coroner at the recent inquest into the deaths of the Iranian Hostage takers, reminded the jury of the implications for Britain if they recorded a verdict other than Justifiable Homicide. The jury dutifully did as they were told, despite the witnesses who told of the S.A.S. men holding their victims as they shot them.

It is well remembering the silence of church leaders to these murders. These are the hypocrites who mouth condemnations of Irish Freedom Fighters while turning a blind eye to the brutal repression used against the Irish people.

IRELAND? The Problem, Task and Remedy.



With the capitalist system in Ireland in total disarray, no longer able even to maintain a semblance of stability, the need for national and social liberation in Ireland was never more apparent nor immediate.

There is massive unemployment throughout the land (comparable to the hungry '30s) massive cuts in the already inadequate social services, a chronic housing shortage with none being built and the executive unable to repair existing council houses, an economic recession and dire poverty prevalent, cuts in education, heavy inflation making wages depreciate daily with the result that most of those employed are existing on or below the breadline due to prices rising far in excess of wages, plus a host of other social evils.

Along with that, part of our country is occupied militarily by an imperialist power, resulting in naked repression, murder and imprisonment of large numbers of Irish people in this occupied area with great suffering incurred as a result.

The wealth and mineral resources of the Irish nation are being plundered by international finance capital concerns and multi-national corporations with the help of the nationalist bourgeois government that misrules a truncated republic - 26c.o.s. with oil, gas and mineral rights being handed out for a

pittance to all these conglomerations of exploiters. Irish wealth is taken from the ground or sea bed and exported by them without benefit to the Irish people, instead benefitting a parasitic class of capitalists the world over. The privileged class that misrules Ireland and grants the licenses do not object to this robbery, because they play a part in it, being bought off and made wealthier by the multi-national corporations. In fact many T.D.s, senators and political administrators are on the boards of the foreign companies. Jack Lynch (ex Taoiseach) holds several directorships on a number of multi-national companies.

Only the working class are losing out. The underprivileged section containing 90% of the population shares only 10% of the wealth of the country. For them it is a struggle to exist, many are unemployed, temporarily employed or employed in poorly paid jobs. In fact even those employed in what would be termed decent jobs are struggling as inflation erodes the real value of their wages. They also live insecurely having to save for a "rainy day", the trade mark of insecurity. The constant shadow of insecurity looms on the horizon for them all, never can they save enough. That in itself is psychological oppression. There is no respite for 90% of the people. Those who thought themselves securely employed in long established firms like Courtaulds, ICI, British Enkalon, Euroweld and

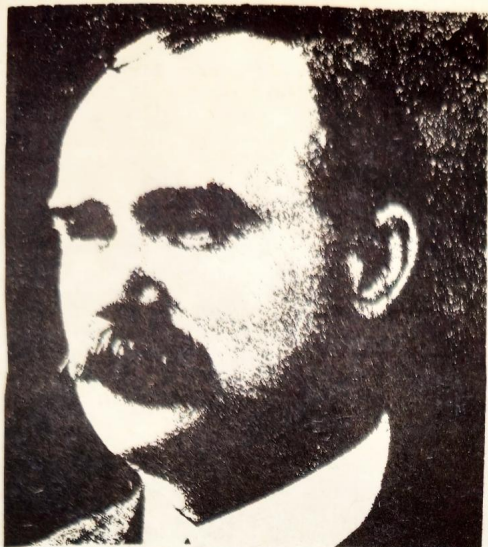
the likes are now unemployed; their "rainy day" has arrived. Only the privileged elite are secure. The recession does not effect them. They just invest in more secure projects and with 90% of the wealth divided amongst the privileged 10% of the population, few of them go hungry, if any.

The very nature of capitalism ensures recessions and boom periods for capitalists and rainy days and insecurity for the working class. It will continue until the mass of the people who produce the wealth do something to change it.

The question is what do we do? We can either do nothing, let ourselves be tramped into the social gutter and accept oppression, or else take steps to alleviate it and liberate our class. The latter being the

positive option. It is clear we must take this route and shake off the shackles of oppression once and for all. Creating a new social order where there will be an equal distribution of the wealth and where the needs of humanity take precedence over property and financial rights.

CONTINUED
IN
NEXT ISSUE



No revolutionary movement is complete without its poetical expression. If such a movement has caught hold of the imagination of the masses, they will seek a vent in song for the aspirations, the fears and hopes, the loves and hatreds engendered by the struggle. Until the movement is marked by joyous, defiant singing of revolutionary songs, it lacks one of the distinctive marks of a popular revolutionary movement; it is a dogma of a few, and not the faith of the multitude.

--James Connolly

H BLOCK SONG

Some say the the H Blocks are a wonderful place
Sure the reason for building them, is a bloody disgrace
There's Hilditch the Governor, and all the screws too
With their hands in their pockets with damn all to do

Tra la la, Tra la lee
Oh the H Blocks of Long Kesh is no place to be Chorus

2

The Kangaroo courts are a bloody great farce
If you don't answer "Sir" its a kick in the arse
We mess up the walls and damage the doors
Its 28 days maybe four on the boards - Chorus

3

The appeal courts of Belfast are a speedy wee thing
Two seconds in the dock and its back to your wind
Then its our grub-time, Oh it's a delight
Sure the Pigs on the farm, they eat better tripe (shite) - Chorus

4

When you go for a visit, the screws are quite rash
Squat over that mirror and give us a flash
We just grin and bear it, what else can we do
When these lumps of lads, are just perverted screws - Chorus

5

We've heard some bad rumours, we hope they aren't true
We depend on support from people like you
If the rumours are right, then they leave us no choice
But to turn to a hunger strike, instead of the voice - Chorus

6

Some men have been here now, for four years and more
If it's forced upon them they'll stay for a score
The pain and the anguish all over the years
Is slowly subsiding as victory nears - Chorus

7

I'll finish my story, I can tell you no more
Just think of us lads and what we've in store
We'll fight for our status, in everyway we can
For the freedom of Ireland and the rights of each man - Chorus



Unity Flats: under siege

P.8

ARMAGH PICKET

The rioting at Unity Flats began after four youths were attacked in two separate incidents. Two were beaten up in Millfield by mobs of loyalists from the Shankill. One received a broken leg and the other is confined to bed because he is badly bruised and can hardly move. The other attack happened at Carlisle Circus when two youths returning home were set upon by about 10 - 12 loyalists men from Denmark Street. They beat them with bricks on the head and face leaving them badly scarred. When the RUC were informed of these attacks and witnesses volunteered to go with them to identify the attackers they (RUC) said they hadn't enough men or vehicles to spare. After another attack in Millfield local people went to the aid of the victim. The RUC immediately began firing Plastic Bullets thus a riot ensued lasting several hours. During which time there were many casualties. An old aged pensioner lying in bed was showered with broken glass after a Plastic Bullet broke her bedroom window. Brits eventually saturated the area breaking balcony lights with their batons and kicking doors.



While the Hunger Strike begins in the H-Blocks of Long Kesh, we must remember that republican women prisoners in Armagh Jail still continue their militant protest along side their comrades in the H-Blocks.

A picket has been organised at the jail for Sunday, 8th March, at 2.30p.m. Buses will leave Belfast at Dunville Park. Also an all women's conference is taking place in the Divis Community Centre at 12.00 noon on Saturday, 7th March, organised by the International Women's Day co-ordinating committee, the conference will discuss women's role in the anti-imperialist struggles throughout the world. Several international delegates are expected.

A creche for children will be available in Divis.

SUPPORT THE ARMAGH PICKET

Casualty List:
Beatings five men injured.
Plastic Bullets:
2 women head injuries.
2 men back injuries.
4 men leg injuries.
3 men arm injuries.
1 man chest injury..

Anyone who wishes to contribute any material for the paper or reply to any of the previous articles, send reply to:
392, Falls Road.
Belfast.

A very successful Social evening was held by the I.R.S.P. in the Turf Lodge Community Centre, Friday 27th February. The purpose of the Social was to raise funds for a Memorial plot in Milltown Cemetery in honour of our Republican Socialist dead.

The I.R.S.P. intends to set up a Memorial Committee in order to raise funds for a memorial to be erected on the site in Milltown. Anyone who wishes to help in any way should contact the I.R.S.P. centre.



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



JOIN the IRSP