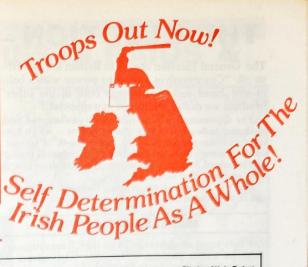
# TROOPS

Paper of the Troops Out Movement 20p

Vol. 6, No. 9, July 1983



## NICKY KELLY ENDS FAST

## THE WICKLOW BOY by Christy Moore

As I walked past Portlaoise Prison An innocent voice was heard to say 'My frame-up has almost been completed My people they look the other way.'

Seven years ago his torture started A forced confession he was made to sign Lawlor, O'Hara, Finn and Boland Were on the Heavy Gang, that made him run the line.

Others in the Bridewell heard him screaming Even prison doctors could see His injuries were not self-inflicted Justice Hamilton and Judge Clarke did not agree.

Give the Wicklow Boy his freedom Give him back his liberty Are we going to leave him in chains While those who framed him up hold the key?

Deprived of human rights by his own people, Sickened by injustice, he jumped bail In the Appalachian mountains found a welcome Till his co-accused were both released from jail.

He came back home expecting he'd get justice But Special Branchmen took him from the plane.

For three years we've deprived him of his freedom

The guilty jeer the innocent again,

Give the Wicklow Boy his freedom (etc)

'The people versus Kelly' was the title
Of the farce we staged at his appeal
Lawyers in well rehearsed collusion
I often wonder how these men must feel.

As I walked past Portlaoise Prison Through concrete and steel a whisper came 'My frame-up is almost completed And innocent Nicky Kelly is my name.'

Give the Wicklow Boy his freedom (etc)

This song, a single, was banned by RTE (26-County radio and television service). In May, 17 people occupied the Dublin RTE studios in protest at their lack of coverage of Nicky Kelly's case and their ban on this song.



# JOIN THE AUGUST DELEGATION TO IRELAND

# HOW THE ELECTION AFFECTS THE NORTH

INSIDE:

INTERNMENT REMEMBERED
'BLOODBATH' IN ALGERIA
DEMOCRACY FAILS IN THE NORTH
THE IRA JACKAL THAT NEVER WAS
OPPOSITION TO PLASTIC BULLETS

## THE ELECTION — HOW THEY VOTED

The General Election results in Britain are disturbing for now have about an equal share in the nationalist vote. And yet us all. "Conservatives sweep to power with a ballot box the New Ireland Forum deliberately excludes Sinn Fein. in one hand and a centurion tank in the other" (the headline we didn't see in our newspapers).

The Government will be resuming its interrupted business of equipping police forces with plastic bullets - which have killed seven children and seven adults in the North of Ireland - and pushing through its Police Bill. This Bill also derives from Britain's rule in Ireland. Its provisions include extended detention, intimate body searches, road blocks, etc.

And yet the one gleam of hope from the Election results is also to be found in Ireland.

#### INCREASED PERCENTAGE

Sinn Fein stood candidates in 14 of the 17 constituencies in the North on a clear platform of complete independence and selfdetermination for Irish, with the right to wage armed struggle as long as Britain occupies any part of their country. They won one seat (West Belfast), lost Mid-Ulster by a mere 79 votes, and overall increased their share of the vote from 10.1% last October to 13.4% today. They had a total of 102,701 votes cast for them.

The Government did not like it, but they have no one but themselves to blame. For fourteen years, British Governments have tried to play down the constitutional issue - the reunification of Ireland - which is central to 'the troubles'. Tory and Labour Governments alike have spent millions of pounds, in the midst of deepening world recession, trying unsuccessfully to buy nationalist consent to British rule.

This policy was particularly supported by Labour Governments which asserted, against all evidence to the contrary, that it was possible to unite the working class without first destroying loyalist supremacy.

The other part of British policy has been to suppress political activity which questioned the refusal of Britain to guarantee the civil and political rights of Catholics.

#### **DUBLIN DESPERATE**

The size of the Sinn Fein vote can leave James Prior in no doubt as to the strength of impatient opposition to the British presence nor to the fact that this opposition grows daily. Even more concerned about this clear support for armed resistance are the political parties of the South of Ireland, which have all gone along with the partition of Ireland each time they have held power (whatever republican noises they may make while in opposition).

On May 30th the main parties in the south, and the Social and Democratic Labour Party (SDLP) from the north, opened their 'New Ireland Forum' in Dublin, proclaiming it to be a major breakthrough in cross-border, all-Ireland terms. Nine days later the SDLP's share of the poll in the General Election dropped from 18.8% to 17.9% and they won just one seat - John Hume in the Foyle constituency of Derry city, The SDLP and Sinn Fein

#### THE UNIONIST CAMPS

The Unionists are divided between the Official Unionist and Paisley's Democratic Unionist Party (DUP), which is more extremist in its commitment to Protestant supremacy: it would rather break the union with Britain and go for an independent Ulster than see power-sharing on any level with Catholics. The DUP failed to gain any extra seats, as it had hoped, and in fact dropped its percentage of the total vote to 20% from 23% in October. Their ability to devolve further powers to the Unionistcontrolled Assembly (ie. to revive Stormont and the old one-party state of Northern Ireland) has been weakened by their poor showing.

It is a little difficult to interpret the support for Official Unionists (OUP) who won the lion's share of eleven seats, because they are a disunited party.

Their leader James Molyneaux and best known member Enoch Powell are staunch integrationists - that is, they don't want Stormont back, they want Northern Ireland to be a part of Great Britain "just like Yorkshire". But some of the other MPs and many party members are not integrationists, and it remains to be seen which side will win out. It is likely that to the electorate, the OUP is seen as more 'moderate' and therefore better able to negotiate in the interests of Protestants in any new initiative.

#### AND THE REST

The vote for parties claiming to be 'cross community' (Catholic and Protestant) totalled a derisory 72,000 throughout the whole province. This indicates that the vast majority see the constitutional issue of Irish reunification and British withdrawal as the major political question.

If we separate this vote between the Alliance Party, supported mainly by the middle class, and the Workers Party plus individuals, courting the working class, then an even starker picture emerges. In a time of high unemployment, declining welfare state provision, high cost of living and little prospect of improvement, less than 20,000 votes went to parties claiming that the unity of the working class can be achieved here and now and can solve the problems of the North of Ireland.

What the June 9th Election has shown clearly is that the constitutional issue will not go away. The pressure of that issue will increase.

It is time the Government was made to act upon its pious aspiration to 'ending the violence'. All recent opinion polls have shown that more than 60% of people in Britain support withdrawal from Ireland. We must redouble our efforts to turn that sentiment into active pressure. There is a political solution to the North of Ireland. That solution is British withdrawal and selfdetermination for the Irish people as a whole,

The Troops Out Movement is a movement in England, Scotland and Wales made up of people who believe that the cause of the 'troubles' in the north of Ireland is the continuing British presence there, both military and political. We believe that British troops are in Ireland

not as a peacekeeping force, but in order to maintain British rule, and that their presence is the most serious obstacle to any progress towards peace. For over ten years the troops have been occupying a part of Ireland, coercing and oppressing the nationalist people, maintaining the division of Ireland and ensuring that its people cannot unite to determine their own future.

We have been working as an organisation for immediate British withdrawal since the early 1970s. We have a number of branches in England, Scotland and Wales. These branches, working locally in what-

ever ways circumstances allow, are the backbone of the TOM. Membership, or affiliation is open to any individual or group supporting the demands:

TROOPS OUT NOW

SELF-DETERMINATION FOR THE IRISH PEOPLE AS A WHOLE

TROOPS OUT is produced by an editorial collective drawn from TOM branches in London. Contributions are welcome (although we can't guarantee to publish everything that comes in).

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THE ELECTION - ARRESTS, RAIDS & SHOOTINGS

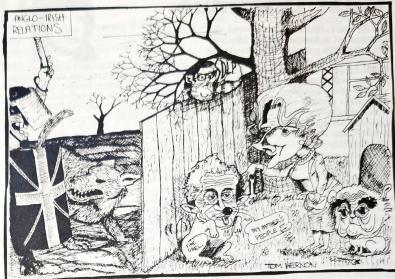
This country prides itself as the 'mother' of democracy, which is based on free and fair election every five years. Like many other aspects of British rule, however, the concept of free elections does not extend to Northern Ireland. The conduct of the election in Northern Ireland was in sharp contrast to here. In the 'interests of democracy' even fascist groups like the National Front are allowed every facility to campaign. In Northern Ireland every single Sinn Fein candidate and their election workers faced continuous harassment from the army and the other state Paramilitary forces. This took the form of being shot at, arrested, held for periods of time, threatened and abused, and obstructed in their electioneering.

One of the more serious instances was when an RUC/Marine Commando patrol lured some of Jim McAllisters election workers into an ambush by Loyalists near Bessbrook, There were tense and angry scenes as Loyalists attacked the cars but the workers managed to get away. In scenes reminiscent of the famous ambush at Burntollet, the RUC stood by as a mob of stone-throwing Lovalists attacked Owen Carron's election workers in Fivemiletown. Having blocked all exits out of the town, the RUC stood by laughing and giving encouragement to the mob as they stoned the twenty Sinn Fein cars many of them containing children.

On May 18th in North Belfast election workers putting up posters were shot at by army 'Redcaps' (Military Police). In Derry two young men putting up posters were shot at with blanks by the RUC. Earlier in the month the RUC stood by in Enniskellen as Sinn Fein election workers were shot at from a Loyalist pub.

Many of the Sinn Fein candidates and their supporters were arrested or held for up to seven days in a systematic campaign of harassment. In early morning raids key election workers were arrested and detained under seven day PTA orders.

One of the principal strategies of successive governments has been to keep political opposition off the streets of Northern Ireland. When 14 people were massacred in Derry on Bloody Sunday by the Paras it effectively finished the campaign of mass demonstrations by the civil rights movement. The huge marches and even some of the funerals of the hunger strikers in 1981 were attacked viciously with round after round of plastic bullets. Similarly cavalcades of cars and election workers were not to be allowed to have the freedom of the streets - election or not. The seriousness with which the Government views the democratic rights and wishes of the nationalist people are best summed up by a remark by James Prior. Asked if the massive vote for Sinn Fein would have any effect on his policy he answered 'no'.



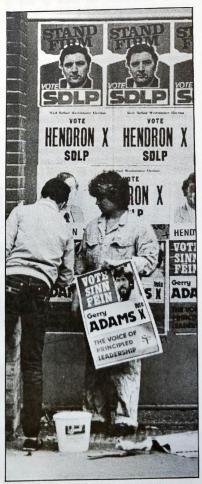


Photo: Barry Lewis/Network

#### BRITISH ARMY ADMIT RESPONSIBILITY FOR KILLING OF JULIE LIVINGSTONE

On May 7th in the Belfast High Court, 'a substantial out of court settlement' was made, between the British Ministry of Defence, and the family of Julie Livingstone, Julie was killed by a plastic bullet on May 31st 1981.

At first the Ministry had offered the family just a few hundred pounds. But they wanted more than just the money. They wanted to force the British army to admit liability for Julie's death.

They believe the latest offer to be an admission of guilt, and hope that this will encourage the families of other plastic bullet victims to pursue their cases.

Even though last July a Belfast coroner found that Julie had not been involved in any disturbance when she was shot, her family and others like them, have had a hard struggle against British 'justice'. They now feel that they have proved that their daughter was the innocent victim of the violence of the British troops.



Nicky Kelly-The Campaign Must Continue

For 38 days Nicky Kelly endured the sufferings of a hunger strike while support for him escalated dramatically throughout Irish society and around the world. People who had ignored his pleas for three years spoke out at last.

Nicky Kelly had been convicted of a mail train robbery and sentenced to twelve years in the Dublin Special Criminal Court which, like the Diplock Courts in the North of Ireland, sits without a jury. The only evidence against him was his own statement made in police custody. His two co-defendants were released on appeal on the grounds that their statements might not have been made voluntarily and therefore should not have been admissible as evidence: the three of them had in fact been beaten and interrogated for almost 60 hours by the police and it was widely felt that they had been framed because they were members of the Irish Republican Socialist Party. Later on the IRA claimed responsibility for the robbery. When Kelly appealed, however, his conviction was upheld by the courts even though his case was exactly the same as the others'.

A miscarriage of justice had happened. But it was only after Nicky Kelly embarked on hunger strike on May 1st that the public disquiet moved to active lobbying for his release.

The annual conferences of the Federated Workers' Union of Ireland and of the Irish Transport and General Workers' Union both passed emergency resolutions calling for his release. The leaders of the NEETU, ATGWU and EEPTU all made statements supporting him, as did the Union of Students in Ireland and the national executive committee of the Psychiatric Nurses' Association.

Appeals for clemency were made by the County Councils of Kerry, Roscommon and Sligo and by Naas Urban District Council. Some branches of the opposition Fianna Fail party urged the Government to review Nicky Kelly's case, and former Minister for Justice Sean Doherty applied for permission to visit Kelly (which was refused). Senators Brendan Ryan, Michael D. Higgins and Michael Lanigan and the independent TD (member of parliament) Tony Gregory did much behind the scenes lobbying and raising the case in the Senate and the Dail. Late in May, the Irish Times revealed that the Parliamentary Labour Party - which is part of the coalition Government - are in favour of Nicky Kelly being released and their leader Dick Spring was supposed to argue this point of view in the Cabinet.

On the legal front, a total of 133 solicitors in Ireland signed a petition calling for his release on the grounds that justice has not been seen to be done. Amnesty International and the Irish Commission for Justice and Peace expressed their disquiet, but the Minister for Justice, Michael Noonan, claimed that he did not have the right to overturn the courts and release Nicky Kelly unless new evidence was brought. The Irish Council for Civil Liberties quickly pointed out that this was quite untrue and that Noonan had the power under the Irish constitution and various specific laws to exercise clemency.

Campaigners throughout Ireland kept up a constant barrage of pickets and demonstrations. This spread out across Europe, America and Canada and Australia. Two parliamentary parties in Denmark petitioned the Irish President while he was on a visit there.

In Britain, too, support for Nicky Kelly grew during his hunger strike. The Troops Out Movement and other groups organised pickets and vigits, including a 24-hour fast outside the Irish Embassy in London, pickets on Aer Lingus etc in Leeds and Birmingham and other cities. In Birmingham all trade union and labour meetings and the Irish Festival were leafleted. A London Irish community conference on 22nd May, attended by the Irish in Britain Representation Group, Irish National Council, Troops Out Movement, Gaelic Athletic Association, Cumann na Poblachta, Sinn Fein and IRSP, sent an emergency appeal to the Irish Ambassador in London.

This huge build-up of support persuaded Nicky Kelly to end his hunger strike on 7th June. It is likely that his health will be permanently affected.

The Government has made no deal or promise to release him, but did strongly hint that if Nicky Kelly took a civil action against the police who mistreated him in custody it could affect their position. In addition he has started proceedings to take his case to the European Court of Human Rights. Mainly he is confident that the pressure that has now built up on the Government will see him through to his freedom. In no way is his ending of the hunger strike a defeat.

The support for his release has also more generally slowed up the erosion of civil liberties and the gross abuse of police powers which Ireland has witnessed over the past ten years and of which Nicky Kelly is one victim. He is a brave man, prepared to risk all rather than submit to injustice.

## LICENSED TO MURDER

Unidentified Ulster Defence Regiment (UDR) soldiers made statements that conflicted with the evidence, at the May inquest into the death of Tony Harker in Armagh city in January 1982.

21-year-old Tony was shot behind a supermarket. The UDR claimed that they thought he was armed and about to attack them: "Harker turned round with his right arm raised as though he had gun or pistol". But the inquest confirmed that the youth was shot in the back, and was not armed with any weapon.

This young man was all too well known to the security forces and a regular target for their persecution; so much so that he kept a log or diary of all the harassment. It recorded that he was stopped 70 times between January and March '80. He was a little man (51/2 ft and little more than 7 stone) but was consistently brave and open about his nationalist commitments. He always wore H-Block badges, a James Connolly badge, and a Che Guevara one. During his short life he had served a six-month sentence for assaulting the RUC (who had assaulted him) and been forced to live in Dublin for a while because of his persecution and threats on his life by the British army.

The second hunger strike in the H-Blocks, costing ten lives, had begun on Tony's return to Armagh with his wife and young baby. In August '81 he was sentenced to four months in Crumlin Road for 'riotous behaviour' and on his release faced further charges of alleged petrol-bombing. The UDR ended his life first, and it almost goes without saying that none of the soldiers involved face charges.



The Irish Embassy in the Hague gets re-decorated by Nicky Kelly supporters (photo Wim Wolters, lerland Komitee, Nederland).

## LEARNING FROM ALGERIA

How often have you heard the argument that there would be a bloodbath if the troops came out of Ireland? People who hold this view often point to Algeria as an example of such a bloodbath occurring, so it is worthwhile looking at what happened there.

Algeria has many similarities to Ireland, one of which is that the French refused to acknowledge the glaringly obvious fact that Algeria was a colony; constitutionally it was a district of France and, because its population included a million Europeans, it was considered to have a special relationship with 'the mainland'. Does this sound familiar?

France invaded Algeria in 1830. By 1954 its population was 9½ millions — 8½ million Arabs and one million Europeans, who were called 'pied noir' or 'colons'. The colons owned 90% of Algeria's industry and 40% of its best land. Like the Protestant grouping in the North of Ireland, the colons were made up of all classes from the landowners, administrators and industrialists to unskilled labourers, with shopkeepers, clerks and teachers in between.

Arab resistance grew over the years and burst out in 1954. The armed uprising lasted until final victory in 1962 under the leadership of the FLN (National Liberation Front).

#### ALGERIE FRANCAISE

The colon communities and politicians on the whole opposed the national liberation struggle, and identified with French interests. They organised many anti-Arab riots and demonstrations, bomb attacks on Arab trade union buildings and indiscriminate attacks on Arab quarters.

In addition, they held three major revolts against the French Government, in May 1958, January 1960 and April 1961.

The first revolt was in response to some minor reforms to Arab voting rights proposed by the French Government. The Government was very weak at the time and the colons sought to take advantage of this to demand that Algeria be completely integrated with France.

A general strike was called and mobs attacked government buildings in Algiers. A Committee of Public Safety was formed, with the military as the driving force (led by General Massu, whose paratroop torturers had temporarily subdued the FLN in Algiers). For a week France teetered on the brink of a military invasion and coup d'etat, but the French Army's purpose was not the same as the colons'. The Army's purpose was to install General De Gaulle in power in France, and once this was done they stood down. All the colons could do was go along with this.

#### TO THE BARRICADES

De Gaulle had been supported as a military man and an ultra right politician. But although his strategy for Algeria was to pursue the military campaign against the FLN, he also tried (unsuccessfully) to undercut the FLN's political ground by cultivating 'moderate Arab opinion'. To this end he started a programme of minor reforms, which outraged the colons. Even worse, he raised the option of self-determination.

The second revolt, against De Gaulle's policies in January 1960, had more of a civilian character than the first. The army's role was passive: it refused orders to dismantle the barricades or fire at the colons, but did not actually join the rebels. The colon leaders lacked any strategy or programme of demands, and their rebellion fizzled out after a week.

#### PLASTIC DEATH

De Gaulle was less successful in defeating the FLN, and in 1960 he was forced to start negotiating with them. The colons started a campaign of terror using plastic explosives with deadly effect — against Arabs and against the French Government with the aim of destabilising Algeria so that the French Army would have to stay. They were now organised in the 'O.A.S.' (Secret Army Organisation).

In April 1961, elements of the French Army mutinied against the Peace Talks due to start (at Evian, on the Swiss-French border). The revolt was led by four ex-Generals, backed by the elite Paratroop Regiment and Foreign Legion, who set up a military government committed to keeping Algeria French.

The generals handed out arms to the OAS, permitted them to parade openly and issue orders to the civilian population. The OAS set up its own headquarters in Algiers and broadcast from its own radio station.

The revolt was crushed, mainly because the conscripted soldiers refused to join it, and the officers who escaped arrest joined the OAS. At its peak the OAS had 15,000 well armed members and by mid-1961 it was planting over 200 plastic explosive bombs per month.

The Evian Peace Talks agreed to a ceasefire and release of internees. By the end of 1961, the withdrawal of the French army began and in March 1962 the talks were formally concluded and a Provisional Executive set up to govern the new independent state of Algeria.

OAS terror intensified, but in March 1962, they shot six French soldiers and this changed the Army's attitude towards the OAS. The Army moved decisively against OAS strongholds ('poor white' areas in Algiers and Oran) in saturation search-and-arrest operations.

The final phase of the OAS campaign coincided with the final phase of French withdrawal in May and June, and was the tactics of despair. Where previously the OAS had urged colons to stay and fight it out, they now gave way to a general exodus. In a last orgy of terror, the OAS burnt down schools, post offices, hospitals and other public buildings to leave the new Algeria with as little as possible. Only 150,000 Europeans stayed to see the new Algeria. In June the greatly weakened OAS negotiated a ceasefire with the FLN and this last splutter of war finally died.

#### THE LESSONS

It should be noted first of all that the scale of violence coming from the colons was tiny compared to the toll of human suffering inflicted by the French Army and by the offensive mounted by the FLN.

Secondly, the colons could only achieve anything when the French Government was very weak or when they had the support of the Army. When they tried to battle on alone, the OAS was wiped out within months. This is generally the case with settlers trying to resist the forces of liberation, that they only survive with the help of powerful allies. Algeria was extraordinary in the incredible degree of politicisation of the French Army. It has been defeated in Vietnam in 1953 and defeated in the Suez debacle of 1956; it did not want a third round. Moreover, the officers and the elite professional regiments blamed the politicians for their defeats, and saw themselves as a sort of political opposition to any more 'sell outs'. But in the end, this element in the Army came up against a counter force, which was all the mass of conscripts who didn't care about defeats, didn't care for their role in Algeria and just wanted to go

Thirdly, the most virulent part of the OAS terror campaign came during the negotiations and Peace Talks, which lasted two years. The fact that they were so long drawn out gave the colons continued hope of wrecking the talks and thus keeping Algerie Francaise. Once the decision was made, however, and troop withdrawal started, the OAS survived barely another two months.

What we have in Ireland is a situation very similar to Algeria but with some important differences as well. The loyalists have few allies at the moment, and are divided among themselves. No one could say that Britain suffers from a weak government at present! Nor is the British Army very politicised (although it is moving in that direction). It has passively supported loyalists, in 1974 for example, but the last time it even threatened active opposition to the British Government was the 'Curragh Mutiny' of 1914.

These are all hopeful signs that a last bitter outburst from the loyalists might be avoidable. Also the loyalists are not culturally and racially distinct in the way that the colons were.

Finally, the way in which withdrawal takes place is crucial, and one that is protracted or 'phased' is more likely to cause bloodshed than a quick decisive withdrawal.

The T.O.M. delegation coincides with the annual demonstration in Belfast which remembers internment day - August 9th, 1971 when the British Army brutally dragged 342 men from their homes and imprisoned them without any trial, some for up to two years.

The discriminatory swoop was carried out at 4.30 in the morning. Only two of the 342 were protestants, both republican sympathisers. Although there had been serious loyalist violence in 1969, which continued at a lower level before hotting up again just before August, not a single loyalist was arrested. The Irish Republican Army (IRA) had anticipated the swoop, and only older men, veterans of previous campaigns were taken, one blind and one aged 77.

116 of the detainees were released within 48 hrs.; the rest were taken to Crumlin Road prison, and a prison ship, the Maidstone. All those detained were beaten up. Many were blindfolded, and a gauntlet of troops with batons, covering ground strewn with



# JOIN THE A

#### TORTURE CENTRES

Later, news began to leak out that twelve internees had been taken to an unknown destination, where for seven days they were hooded, isolated, beaten, spreadeagled for hours against the walls, hooded, isolated, beaten, appropriate to 'white noise'. They were the victims of sensory deprivation combined with intensive interrogation. Years later, the European court agreed their treatment was inhuman. Although the Stormont Prime Minister Faulkner signed the order for their 7-day torture, no one was ever charged. They received large sums of compensation but most of them still suffer a severe breakdown in their health. Eventually the government had to pay compensation to all those arrested

#### POLITICAL OPPOSITION MEANS IMPRISONMENT

By the end of November 1971, detainees numbered 650, and by June 1972, when Whitelaw started releasing them in batches there were nearly 1000. From the start the majority of those detained were political opponents of the one-party Unionist regime that kept them second-class citizens, and political opposition is not an imprisonable offence in a so-called democracy. So you can imagine that internment day is an important anniversary for nationalist people in the occupied six counties. To understand their reaction to internment and the way that it completely changed their attitude to the Northern state, it needs to be seen historically.

"After the march on Saturday we attended a reception given to us by Sinn Fein. Among the speakers was Sile Darragh, who had been released from Armagh Jail the previous Wednesday and who spoke about conditions in the prison. When Sile was introduced she received a two-minute long standing ovation - an overwhelmingly moving moment not only for Sile but for many of us on the Delegation also. " (1981 Delegation)

"Lloyd Hayes, a former soldier, spoke on behalf of the Troops Out Movement at Sunday's rally on the anniversary of the introduction of internment. He thanked the people of Belfast for their welcome and went

'In addition I would like to express my personal thanks to you for welcoming me as an ex-soldier, one who for eight months in total wreaked havoc and destruction upon your daily life, upon your very existence.

'I am sure you are very aware that the situation in England today, as far as black people are concerned, is in no way very different from what it is for you here in the North of Ireland.

'For many years we sat back and took all the shit and rubbish that was being heaped on us, but fortunately black people in England are now standing up and we are fighting back . . . " (1981 Delegation)





Hard-line Unionists have always demanded internment, ie. increased repression, when their government faced resistance from nationalists.

In February '71 the first British soldier in the current war was shot, and by March the total was five. Three Scottish soldiers were shot as a reprisal for the Army murder of a civilian in the Ardoyne. 4000 loyalist workers from the shipyards marched on Stormont to call for internment. Heath's cabinet in London and the British Army held back, realising that such intensive and blanket repression would encourage more support for the IRA and shake the Dublin government, but they had already given up forcing reform issues on the Unionists.

#### NO REFORMS AND SHOOT-TO-KILL

By June nothing happened in the area of reforms, there had been no local elections under 'one person, one vote' which the civil rights movement had only recently won as a right! In the wake of a successful IRA bombing campaign aimed at British-owned commercial and business targets, Faulkner declared that troops could shoot 'with effect' on people 'acting suspiciously'. He also set up a committee to review social, environmental and industrial policy and legislation. This really appealed to the Social Democratic and Labour Party (SDLP), whose largely middle-class nationalist composition allowed their fears of repression to be calmed by this empty offer.

#### MURDER IN JULY

In July, two youths, Seamus Cusack and Desmond Beattie were shot by the Army in Derry. Neither were "bombers or gunmen". A massive Sinn Fein rally in Derry forced the SDLP into calling for a public enquiry into their deaths, or they would walk out of Stormont. They never got the enquiry.

#### **REACTION TO INTERNMENT**

Heath had given way to the Unionists' demand. For those left in the nationalist ghettoes of Derry, Newry and Belfast, internment also meant certain repression, and they reacted strongly. Women banged on bin-lids to alert people to Army raids (which is still done the night before the internment marches). Barricades went up in nationalist areas, along with rioting and gun battles. Protestant families got out, burning their houses behind them. 200 were destroyed in the Ardoyne, Belfast.

#### RENT STRIKES AND PUBLIC RESIGNATIONS

All the anti-unionist parties called for a rent and rate strike as a protest, this was already implemented in working-class areas and involved 26,000 families (government figures). 8,000 workers held a one-day strike on August 16th, and by the 19th, 30 prominent Catholics in Derry resigned from their public appointments. On the 22nd, 130 local government councillors withdrew from their councils.

The Stormont government's reaction to this disaffection was to bring in a new law which meant rent arrears could be deducted at source, and to suspend local councils where councillors had withdrawn.

#### NO REFORM POSSIBLE

Faulkner's goverment proved that it was running a one-party state, with backing from the British Army and government. The civil rights demands for an equal vote, for equality in jobs and housing had been ignored, and the people faced worse repression. Internment showed nationalists that their rights could not be won in the six county state, and that they would have to fight against that state and create a united Ireland to achieve their freedom. This they are doing till this day.

t the Day of the Jackal!

entertained by a police wild goose chase during the election campaign. On Friday 27 May the front pages of several papers were dominated by a story, released by Scotland Yard the previous night, about how two IRA men were planning to assassinate a leading British politician, Either or both of the men - depending on which paper you read - had 'slipped into Britain', Consequently, top politicians of the three main parties were being given police guards.

IRA 'JACKAL' IN THREAT TO MAGGIE, cried The Sun. ELECTION TERROR WARNING, proclaimed the Daily Mail. YARD ALERT AS IRA SQUAD SLIPS IN, said the Daily Star. The Daily Mirror, billing its story as an 'exclusive', announced IRA MAN'S 'DAY OF THE JACKAL' MISSION - 'KILL A TOP POLITICIAN'. Mirror reporter Sylvia

Jones elaborated:

The alert was sounded after a leading Provisional IRA terrorist slipped into Britain, apparently on a mission to

Police believe the aim is to bring chaos to the election with a real-life enactment of the Day of the Jackal

assassination plot . . . . . police have launched a nationwide hunt for 30-year-old Provo boss

Sean O'Callaghan . . .

O'Callaghan, from County Kerry in the Irish Republic, arrived in England several weeks ago. He is thought most likely to be in London.

Police warned that he is armed and dangerous and should not be approached. (Daily Mirror, 27 May

The Mirror had an 'exclusive' because Scotland Yard had made an arrangement with them: but having given the Mirror the information at around 6pm, the Yard released full details at about 10.30pm, in time for several other dailies to put the story on the front pages of their later edition.

On the Saturday, the Mirror followed up the previous day's story with another front page piece by Sylvia Jones titled SAS alert in Jackal hunt: 'Special Air Service troops are on 24-hour alert in the hunt for the IRA 'Jackal' believed to be stalking top politicians in Britain.' Alongside was a photo of Sean O'Callaghan, whom the Yard had named as 'the hit man'.

Next day, however, it turned out that Sean O'Callaghan, a Sinn Fein activist, was in his home town, Tralee in County Kerry, and had apparently been there for weeks. He was photographed in front of Tralee town hall holding a copy of The Mail on Sunday which bore the headline Jenkins target of IRA Jackal. A spokesman for the garda, the Irish police, said O'Callaghan was not under surveillance and that, to the best of his knowledge, no request had been received from the British police to bring him in for questioning. O'Callaghan was quoted as saying



the whole affair was 'hilarious' and that he regarded it as 'nothing more than an election ploy on the part of the British.' (The Irish Times, 30 May 1983)

On the Monday, the second 'wanted man', John Downey, whose identikit portrait had featured in several papers, contacted journalists from Ballyshannon in County Donegal and said he had never been to England in his life. The Irish police said that the previous Thursday, the day Scotland Yard had named him, Downey was seen collecting dole in Ballyshannon. (The Guardian, 31 May 1983)

The papers produced a plethora of conflicting stories to account for this curious turn of events. The Mirror's Sylvia Jones, presumably trying to rescue her reputation, wrote that 'The IRA at first sent four men to England on a publicity-seeking death mission', but two of them, O'Callaghan and Downey, had 'fled back to Eire' after being named by the Yard. The Daily Mail, however, said that Scotland Yard had confirmed that Downey 'was not part of any IRA election terror campaign plot.' The Telegraph thought that either the wrong O'Callaghan had been named or that the 'hit man's identity was not known'. The Sun said 'Ulster security chiefs' were wondering if they had 'fallen for an IRA double bluff', and were 'considering the theory that the two men's names may have been used to divert attention, while a killer squad unknown to detectives has been sent to Britain'.

from her book, Ireland: The Propaganda War, to be published next year by Pluto Press.

The only national daily which supported the Labour Party took three days off from the election campaign to indulge in police-induced

#### PRISONERS' BIRTHDAYS

Please send cards to these prisoners, who endure horrific conditions in English jails - often in isolation, so they know they are not forgotten. Don't forget the number.

ROBERT CUNNINGHAM

131877 HM Prison Long Lartin, South Littleton, Evesham,

Worcs. July 12th

EILEEN GILLESPIE 94770 HM Prison Styal, Wilmslow, Cheshire July 17th

**BRIAN KEENAN** B26380

HM Prison, Welford Road, July 17th Leicester.

#### **NEWS FROM THE PRISONS**

The two Gillespie sisters are due for release in August, after eight years' captivity. Please send them cards to help speed away the last month. Both are in Styal - Ann's number is 994769 and Eileen's is 94770.

After the rooftop protest and riots in Albany Prison, all the Irish prisoners in Hull were suddenly shipped out and dispersed around the country. This is a punitive move - it disrupts the men's lives and sometimes means that visitors coming from Ireland have an expensive journey wasted.

# **Police Plans Falter**



Kenneth Newman — from the RUC to the London police.

The month of May saw the use of large amounts of plastic bullets in Northern Ireland for the first time since 1981. Nearly 100 were fired by the RUC in Derry to quell demonstrations on the anniversaries of the hunger strikers. Because of the increasing opposition to their use, and particularly the revulsion caused by the killing of young Stephen McConomy, the 'security' forces have been reluctant to use plastic bullets.

According to reports in certain right-wing papers, the TOM-initiated May 7th march, held in London in memory of the ten hungerstrikers and for Britain out of Ireland, was composed of IRA members or anti-British groups. To assist these papers in getting their facts right, and to reveal the wide range of support for the march, we are printing a list of the many groups which sponsored the march, and supported its demands.

#### **IRELAND**

The families of Kevin Lynch, Patsy O'Hara and Mickey Devine

IRSP PoWs in Crumlin Road, Long Kesh and Portlaoise

People's Democracy The Connolly Association The John MacLean Society Fionbarra O'Dochartaigh

#### **ENGLAND/SCOTLAND/WALES**

Lord Fenner Brockway Richard Balfe, MEP Ron Brown, MP John Fraser, MP Ernie Roberts, MP Peter Tatchell Bob Clay, Sunderland N.

#### GLC COUNCILLORS

Steve Bundred Andy Harris Ken Livingstone

#### TRADES COUNCILS

Birmingham Trades Council
Hackney Trades Council
Bolton & District United Trades Council
Oxford & District TUC

Also in May the chair of the Police Federation (Constables section) Paul Middup demanded that all British police forces be issued with plastic bullets. At the moment 14 out of 43 police forces in England and Wales have plastic bullets. A further seven police forces will be trained in the use of plastic bullets but not hold stocks of them. Strathclyde is the only one of eight Scottish police forces to have plastic bullets,

Of the 14 forces that have them in England and Wales, South Yorkshire and Mersyside have been told by their local police authorities that plastic bullets are not to be used in their areas. In March the South Yorkshire police committee said it would not meet the bill of £1,750 for plastic bullets and ordered that they be sent back. Similarly the Merseyside police have been told that they will get no more money for plastic bullets, though they have 312 in stock.

West Yorkshire and Derbyshire police authorities banned the purchase of plastic bullets in July 1982 yet are still included in the list of fourteen forces named as holding stocks and undertaking training

Meanwhile opposition to plastic bullets continues to grow. Street petitions by the

Troops. Out Movement have been gaining widespread public support for their banning. Two local authorities in London, Camden and Hackney have an exhibition by the T.O.M. on plastic bullets travelling their libraries. The fear of their use on the streets of Britain have spurred some more establishment figures to speak out against them. Former Chief Constable John Alderson has said that "The availability of plastic bullets to police forces throughout Britain now threatens a repetition of this carnage (in Northern Ireland) on a larger scale".



#### COUNCILLORS from:

Belfast (2); Birmingham (2); Hackney (3); Leeds (1); Islington (4); N. Harrow (1); W. Midlands (1); Wandsworth (1); Tower Hamlets (1); Newcastle City (2); Brighton (1).

#### LABOUR GROUPS

Hume Labour Party
Hampstead Labour Party
Hackney N. & Stoke Newington Labour Party
St. Peter's Labour Party (Brighton)
Accrington Labour Party Young Socialists
Grinling Gibbons Branch of Deptford Labour
Party

Warwick University Labour Club

#### TRADE UNIONS

Hampstead NUPE TGWU 6/389 ACTSS Hatfield NUM branch, Doncaster Islington ACTSS ACTSS Housing Workers 1/1111

### CAMPAIGNS, NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL

Brixton Defence Campaign
Hind Mazdoor Lehar
Indian Workers' Association, Leicester
Indian Workers' Association GB
Organisation of Iranian Students (supporters of
the Peoples' Fedaii guerrillas)
SWAPO Women's Solidarity Campaign

Iranian Students' Association
Labour Movement for Palestine, Brighton
Lanchester Poly Palestinian Society
London School of Economics Irish Society
Manchester Poly Student Union
South Bank Poly Irish Society

Race Today Collective Veterans Against the War (in Ireland) Spare Rib Collective Birmingham Women's Liberation See Red Women's Workshop Women in Print Newham Women's Group Committee to Support Irish Political

Prisoners (Detroit) Ierland Komitee, Netherlands New York H Block/Armagh Committee New Zealand H Block/Armagh Committee Saskatchewan H Block/Armagh Committee National League of Young Liberals

### IRISH GROUPS & SUPPORT GROUPS IN BRITAIN

Cumann na Poblachta Irish in Britain Representation Group Sinn Fein Irish Republican Socialist Party

The Irish National Council

2 Million Remembrance Group Armagh Co-ordinating Committee Labour Committee on Ireland Edinburgh Irish Solidarity Committee N. London Irish Solidarity Committee S. London Irish Solidarity Committee

#### INDIVIDUALS

Pat Arrowsmith J. G. Baston Neil Brotherhead Hugh Eggleton F. M. Blake

#### LEFT GROUPS

London Area Liberation Big Flame Revolutionary Communist League Socialist Workers Party London Student Organisation

#### Reviews & Letters

## UNMANAGEABLE REVOLUTIONARIES

by Margaret Ward, Pluto Press.

Margaret Ward's book Unmanageable Revolutionaries looks at the contribution that Irish women have made to the nationalist movement over the past hundred years. Because of the problems faced by these women, and their failure to turn the movement as a whole in a markedly feminist direction, she concludes that there is a necessary contradiction between nationalism and feminism.

This problem, she claims, has left many feminists "emotionally torn between their desire desire to support the sufferings of the women in Armagh Jail and their concern lest feminist solidarity be translated into unconditional support for the Provisionals". Her solution is that "women must learn the lessons of history, and develop and strategy that unites women in a fight for our own liberation". And yet this conclusion is by no means inevitable from the history of which she writes.

In Ireland, groups of women have often gained political confidence from their involvement in the nationalist movement, which has led them to fight against the traditional role of women. For example, as Margaret Ward herself shows, this was the case in the Ladies Land League. In 1881 the male leaders of the Land League knew that the organisation would be made illegal. As a precaution against mass arrests they handed over control to the nationalist women.

Although it was clear that the men only expected the women to maintain a 'semblance' of their own organisation, the women had other ideas. Anna Parnell, one of the leaders, saw that her first task would be to 'instil self-confidence into the women who were beginning to offer their services''. She knew that the women must 'learn to depend upon themselves, do things for themselves, and organise themselves''. In the end despite much derision, the women managed to form a more radical, effective movement than that organised by the men.

Margaret Ward is quite right to emphasise the fact that once the men were released, they dismissed the women with little or no recognition of what they had achieved. And as she points out, this subsidiary status exists to this day. But the answer to this is for women to organise and gain each other's support, and make sure that these things are not allowed to happen again.

One of the main contradictions that the book points out, is the vast contribution made by women in the struggle for independence, and the directly anti-feminist state that was set

up in the South of Ireland. She shows that even during the Easter Uprising, women had to struggle to play an equal part with the men. Even though the women's organisation Cumann na mBanh had given some military training, its members were often turned away when there was fighting to be done, or only allowed to take a subsidiary role as nurses and cooks.

Her chapters on the Civil War show that the women were indispensable at that time, and their physical courage was remarkable, and yet, by 1937, they did not have the strength or organisation to oppose De Valera's constitution which was "... imbued with all the reactionary values of catholic social teaching, particularly with its insistence on the primacy of women's role within the family".

Despite opposition to this constitution by groups of feminists, on this issue Cumann na mBanh were entirely silent, and neither did any individual within the organisation lend her support to the campaign against this attack on women.

But pointing out mistakes made by women in nationalist movements of the past, however grave, does not mean they are inevitable in the future. Margaret Ward points to the problems that present-day women face in the struggle for independence. The claim that Irish women are oppressed only by foreign conquest and not by Irish men; the omission of any real feminist content to republican plans for the future; lack of a real political stand taken on such issues as violence against women, contraception, abortion or childcare.

However, whilst this points to the need of women to organise separately, to discuss these problems and gain support from each other, it does not mean that the answer for women is to 'opt out'. The women's movement in Ireland must take sides. The very presence of the British bolsters up the forces that oppress women most — the churches, the education system, the legal system etc. When Ireland is free of British control women will still have to fight hard against their own oppression — but without independence their task will be so much more difficult.

Despite its conclusions, this book is invaluable for the wealth of historical detail it gives. As Margaret Ward rightly says, "Because women have been so marginal in the consciousness of those who have researched events, their significance has remained hidden within the historical records". This book has done a great deal towards rectifying this serious omission.

(Available from the Troops Out Movement, PO Box 353, London NW5 4NH @ £5.95 + 40p post & packing.)

Film: ASCENDANCY Directed by: Edward Bennett

The BFI's most recent film, a quarter of a million pounds production, was awarded the Grand Prix at the Berlin Film Festival – the first British film to do so since Cul-de-Sac in 1966.

It stars Judy Covington as the daughter of a wealthy shipyard owner and Ian Charleston (Chariots of Fire fame) as the Scottish officer who befriends her.

Set in 1920, Belfast, it is described by the BFI as a sombre, moving film about the origins of the turmoil in Northern Ireland that is politically astute. However, it may be sombre and dramatic but it is not about the origins of the situation.

Instead, it is about a middle-class Protestant woman who has been brought up in the cloistered environment of a house full of servants. She faces the inner struggle of coming to terms with the death of her brother and the turmoil of life outside the house. With the eyes of a child, she projects all the suffering around her and her grief into herself. She believes she is to blame, to the point of going on hungerstrike and being force-fed.

In contrast, Ian Charleston refuses to take. any blame, refuses to perceive the situation as one of war and believes that the turmoil is the Irish inheritance. In a similar vein, her father is affronted when the Troubles eventually enter his home. Which one of these survives is a lesson of the film.

Her father is a wealthy shipyard owner and turns politician to meet the needs of the new situation of partition. In an election speech he bemoans the fact that the national struggle is destroying the 'happy family' of employer and workforce! This identity of Unionism and the employing class is historically accurate and has served for many years to make the Protestant working class 'the most servile of all slaves'.

On a political level, the BFI have been brave in depicting the discrimination against the nationalists, a depiction that does not deserve congratulations, for it skimmed the historical surface of the time and chose to examine the life of one woman, Protestant and middle-class in 1920.

An interesting short film (1½ hours) but not worth a visit if you expect it to be about the real origins of the Northern Ireland situation.

Angela Meehan, Islington TOM

#### A charaid.

On May 13th 1983, David Dinsmore, a 20-year-old Scottish Republican, was detained under the notorious Prevention of Terrorism legislation.

For three days David was held in total isolation, denied access to friends, family and legal assistance.

Eventually, David was charged with sending a letter bomb to Lord Mansfield, the Scottish Office Minister, and was remanded in custody where he remains.

So far, no evidence has been produced to show that he was involved in any way, and, despite days of round-the-clock interrogation, David Dinsmore has always maintained his innocence of the very serious charge made against him.

There is a growing realisation that David Dinsmore is being used as a scapegoat. The authorities, unable to catch the perpetrators of the increasing number of 'terrorist' acts attributed to groups such as Army of the Gael and the Scottish National Liberation Army, have

simply picked on one man in order to make an example of him.

As a result of this situation, a committee has been formed to defend David Dinsmore. We appeal to you/your organisation/group/readers to support this worthy cause. Donations and expressions of support are welcome. All correspondence should be addressed to:

The David Dinsmore Defence Committee, Box 15, 488 Great Western Rd,

Glasgow, Alba, Scotland.

Those who wish to write directly to David in order to express support and solidarity may do so by writing to:

D. Dinsmore (Political Prisoner), Longriggend Remand Unit, Greengairs, Nr. Airdrie, Lanarkshire, Scotland.

Every gesture of support will be greatly appreciated.

Yours fraternally, Stephen Wilson Secretary, The David Dinsmore Defence Committee A chara,

I am writing on behalf of the Twinbrook Martyrs Flute Band, Glasgow, to ask anyone who may have photographs of our band to please forward copies to us. We will gladly pay any expenses incurred.

We played in London at last year's Bobby Sands Commemoration and were then known as the Shamrock Flute Band. We would appreciate photos of this also.

Is mise, Patrick McAteer, Secretary, 80 Royston Rd, Glasgow G21.

Troops Out welcomes your views and opinions. Send your letters to Box 10. 2a St Paul's Rd, London N1.





#### MAY 20th

Trade union delegation from Belfast visits Govt in Dublin to urge it to place orders with N. Irish firms. £3-£4 mill, orders have already been placed, But Organisation of Concerned Teachers (in North) counters that Dublin should give work to Harland & Wolff shipbuilders only if it ends discrimination in its employment practice. Sit-in on roof of Albany Prison, Isle of Wight, by seven prisoners after a riot against conditions. Four of them are Irish: Stephen Blake, Antony Clarke, Paul Norney and Eddie O'Neill. Demand repatriation to Ireland for Irish prisoners who wish it, and parity of treatment for all prisoners with N. Irish prisoners (eg 50% remission). Owen Carron offers to act as mediator but is refused permission to visit by Home Secretary. At Prison Officers' Association conference, speakers give unwitting support to repatriation demand by outbursts against an IRA "policy of destruction . . . making use of young and impressionable element of prisoners". The protest at Albany ends after six days.

21st

Riot in Derry after RUC provocation at commemoration of hunger striker Patsy O'Hara, Plastic bullets fired.

12 arrests based on statements of INLA "supergrass" Harry Kirkpatrick, including Councillor Sean Flynn and IRSP Chairperson and prospective candidate Jimmy Brown in Belfast, and 26-Cos. law which forbids interviews with Sinn Fein, Journalists ask Dublin Govt for temporary lifting of Section 31, which is refused. On 27th May journalists vote to end their protest.

24th

IRA bomb Andersonstown RUC and Army barracks, taking extra care to avoid injuries. Police lies that inadequate warnings were given are refuted by local people.

#### 25th

Petition to European Parliament to urge Home Office to reopen the case of six men jailed for Birmingham bombs in 1974 on very dubious "evidence". But Euro Parliament says it is inappropriate and European Court of Human Rights should be approached instead.

26th

Milkman Trevor Close shot dead by loyalist assassins in Belfast. His family point out that he had been set up by RUC allegations that he was a member of INLA or IRSP.

RUC reservist shot dead in Cookstown, Co. Tyrone — claimed by both IRA and INLA.

John McComb is found guilty at the Old Bailey of conspiracy to cause explosions and is imprisoned for 17 years. It is claimed he was linked to Gerard Tuite.

The "IRA Jackal" that never was: British police announce fears of IRA attacks and give police protection to all political leaders standing in election: they name two Irishmen, who turn out to be living peacefully at home in Kerry and Donegal!



Belfast tenants' protest on 27th May.

Oliver Grew in Armagh, Grew's brother Seamus was shot dead by RUC last December, Oliver had just been released from prison when another "supergrass" changed his mind and withdrew incriminating statements.

3 IRSP members in France freed from prison after hunger strike. Two gendarmes involved in their arrest have admitted perjury and implied that evidence had been "planted" in their Paris flat.

23rd

Irish TV and radio (RTE) journalists refuse to do interviews with any candidates in election in North, in protest at "Section 31". This is a 27th

150 members of West Belfast Tenants' Action Committee protest outside offices of Housing Executive about its failure to refurbish their estates: RUC attack them, violently disregarding babies and old people; four arrests.

28th

IRSP headquarters in Belfast burnt down – RUC suspected.

30th

The "New Ireland Forum" opens in Dublin with speeches from the four parties involved, FitzGerald of Fine Gael: aim to seek consensus and examine "any structures or any solutions

guaranteeing the two Irish traditions". Haughey of Fianna Fail: forum should lead to an all-lreland constitutional conference as a prelude to British withdrawal, possible need for a treaty guaranteeing that Ireland would not be used as a base for attack on Britain. Spring of Labour Party: need for social progress in South, particularly to separate Church and State. Hume of SDLP: need to reconcile the two traditions and reassure Unionists that their "ethos" would survive in Ireland.

Sinn Fein candidate Martin McGuinness arrested in Derry, and 20 houses of supporters raided. IRA firebombs in Belfast centre destroy three

NUPE conference in Britain calls for repeal of Prevention of Terrorism Act.

#### JUNE

shops

2nd

Growing opposition to proposed Constitutional Amendment against abortion in 26 Cos. (where it is already illegal): 100 doctors form pressure group against amendment on grounds that it would endanger women's lives and would illegalise some forms of contraceptive. Young Fine Gael opposes amendment. Two court cases are brought against Govt that the referendum for or against the amendment is itself unconstitutional. An opinion poll shows 47% against referendum.

3rd

Harry Kirkpatrick (INLA) gets life sentence for 5 murders and other charges. Suspicion that a deal has been made in return for his acting as "supergrass": judge does not recommend a minimum time he should serve, as is usual, and he applies to serve sentence in Britain.

4th

Part-time member of UDR killed by IRA bomb in Co. Tyrone. British soldiers attack man in his home in Belfast with knives, defacing a republican tattoo on his arm and carving "UVF" on his stomach (initials of loyalist terror gang).

7th

Nicky Kelly ends his hunger strike after 38 days. See article.

8th

Sinn Fein candidate Gerry Adams is arrested in Belfast.

John Liston gets nine-year prison sentence in Dublin Special Criminal Court for bombing of radar station in Schull, Co. Cork last September. The INLA claimed it, asserting that it was a NATO tracking station.

British General Election: Official Unionist Party wins 11 seats (32.4% of the total poll), Democratic Unionist Party wins 3 seats (19.1%), Social Democratic & Labour Party wins 1 seat (17.9%) and Sinn Fein 1 seat (13.4%).

Woodburn RUC Barracks in Belfast damaged by INLA bomb.

10th

British soldier killed by IRA booby-trap bomb in Belfast.

Home Secretary lifts the exclusion order which, under the Prevention of Terrorism Act, banned Gerry Adams from coming to Britain. Now he is an MP, he is no longer a "terrorist"!?

11th

Prior is reappointed as Secretary for Northern Ireland, but his side-kick Lord Gowrie is 'promoted' to Arts Minister and is replaced by Adam Butler. Prior says he refuses to talk with Gerry Adams MP.

Government in Dublin alarmed at Sinn Fein electoral success and seeks meeting with British Govt "to face realistically the task of securing a structure that will guarantee the interests and rights of both traditions in this island" (Fitzgerald).

13th

IRA bombs destroy two shops in Belfast centre, and damage shops in South Down, Newry, Warrenpoint and Rostrevor.

# Forthcoming Events LEF OF RELATIONS AND MOVEMENT

For the fourth year running, the Troops Out Movement is organising a mass delegation to Ireland. It will take place on the weekend of 4th-7th August (Thurs-Sun).

This weekend is the anniversary of the introduction of internment in 1971, and also the anniversary of British troops being sent onto the streets — August 14th 1969.

The Army has been in the North for fourteen years. The Government claims that it is "keeping the peace", and yet Army patrols and barracks are found only in the nationalist/Catholic areas. And yet fourteen people have been killed by plastic bullets, all of them civilians and all from nationalist areas. Seven of them were children. And yet the end of last year saw a spate of summary executions by the Army and police — all but one of the victims were nationalists.

The prisons are filled with political prisoners and innocent victims of a legal system that doesn't even pretend to dispense justice. The courts have no jury and the vast majority of prisoners were convicted solely on the basis of a 'confession'. Recently the State has begun to use 'supergrasses' by bribery or intimidation. Legal authorities in Britain have stated that supergrass evidence is too unreliable to be acceptable in trials in this country— it is deemed satisfactory in Ireland however.

On top of the military repression comes the poverty, the unemployment, ill health and appalling housing. Economic catastrophe is now affecting the whole working class in the North of Ireland.

If you are interested in joining this delegation, please fill in the form below. You are welcome whether you come as an individual or as a delegate from a trade union, youth club, tenants association etc.

I am in	terested	in the	TOM	del	egation	in
	1983.					(1
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Send to PO Box 353, London NW5 4NH.

All members of the Delegation must register with the TOM. Travel arrangements will be worked out with your local TOM branch so that, if possible, you can travel together as a group.

Accommodation is in local community halls, although some beds will be available in private homes (particularly for older members of the Delegation). All members of the Delegation will be expected to behave courteously towards our hosts and their fellow delegates, and to obey the TOM stewards' instructions.

The weekend's activities will include a picket of Army forts in West Belfast, when we show *our* opposition, as English, Scottish or Welsh people, to the Army's role and to what they are doing in our name. We will also join in the annual internment commemoration march to express our support for the Irish in their struggle for self-determination. In the evening of internment day, bonfires are lit and the people remember that horrific Army invasion by banging dustbin lids and blowing whistles to alert the neighbourhood.

Throughout the weekend there will be meetings with as wide a range of representatives as possible with maximum time for discussion and questions.

#### LONDON

#### LABOUR MOVEMENT CONFERENCE ON IRELAND

Speakers from Irish and British Labour and trade unions, outlining the situation facing the Northern Ireland trade union movement, and campaigning in Britain. The greater part of the time will be given over to discussion.

Speakers include John Freeman, Northern Ireland Committee of Irish Congress of Trade Unions, and Jonathan Hammond, executive of National Union of Journalists.

Delegates' fees £3, observers £2; cheques payable to Labour Movement Conference on Ireland; send to Box 189, 32 Ivor Place, London NW1.

At Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London WC1

SATURDAY JULY 16th Starts 10am

#### BIRMINGHAM

#### HUNGER STRIKE COMMEMORATIONS

In memory of the H Block hunger strikers who died in 1981 in pursuit of human dignity and opposition to Britain's attempt to criminalise the struggle for Irish freedom.

#### FRIDAY 8th JULY, 4-6pm

Stratford Rd/Walford Rd

For Joe McDonnell and Martin Hurson

#### SATURDAY 30th JULY, 11-1pm

Victoria Square

For Kevin Lynch and Kieran Doherty

#### FRIDAY 12th AUGUST, 4-6pm

Cathedral Gdns, Colmore Row

For Thomas McElwee and Mickey Devine

#### LONDON

#### BENEFIT DISCO

for the London Armagh Co-ordinating Committee

Room 119, Lambeth Town Hall (nearest tube Brixton) Bring own drink

Admission £1.50 (75p low/unwaged)
WOMEN ONLY

FRIDAY JULY 22nd, 9pm-1am

## Join the TOM

Below is a list of towns and districts in England, Scotland and Wales where we have TOM branches or contacts. If you want to join through a branch or as an individual, please fill in the coupon provided.

Birmingham Brighton Bristol Cambridge Colchester Coventry Derby Gravesend Harlow Lancaster Leamington Leeds Leicester Manchester Merseyside Northampton Norwich Nottingham Portsmouth Preston St. Albans Sheffield

ENGLAND

Tyneside York LONDON AREA

Swindon

#### Camden

Colchester Camden
Coventry East London
Derby Enfield
Gravesend Haringey
Harlow Islington
Hemel Hempstead North-West London
Hull South London
South-East London

West London Tower Hamlets SCOTLAND Aberdeen Central Scotland

Dundee Edinbugh Glasgow Stirling

WALES Cardiff Newport

To: P.O. Box 353, London NW5 4NH.

I would like to join/be sent information about the Troops Out Movement.

Name										•		•
Address.								,		,		

Membership of a branch costs £6 (£2 unemployed), payable through the branch. Individual membership is £7.50 which includes a subscription to *Troops Out*.