

Citizen Press

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Protection? For How Long?

The barricades are coming down. Today Stormont, Westminster, and the army commanders will be congratulating themselves on a great step forward on the road to "normality." BUT it is not a normal situation when thousands of troops have to stand guard throughout a City to protect one section of the community.

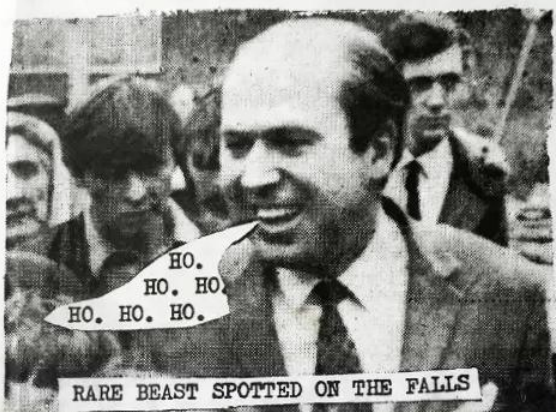
How long will the troops have to stay? They are a continuing embarrassment to both Stormont and Westminster. They will have to stay until the people who put up the barricades of "Free Belfast" feel that they have permanent security. If the troops attempt to leave before that time, the barricades will go up again.

It is here that the six demands put forward by the C.D.C. for consideration are important. They are not demands that had to be met before the barricades could come down. They are things that will have to be assured before the army can leave.

1. Disbandment of the B-Men.
2. Disarming and re-organisation of the R.U.C.
3. Repeal of the Special Powers Act and the release of political prisoners.
4. Westminster Legislation if necessary to secure these demands.
5. Amnesty for those involved in the fighting.
6. Implementation of the Civil Rights Covenant.

This is not the conclusion of one bitter faction aiming to politically embarrass Westminster or Stormont, or intent on spreading international communism. It is a mere expression of the fears of the minority in West Belfast.

We describe the plight of girls who have been harassed on their way to work on page two. They have been threatened, and they are simply not prepared to accept the R.U.C. as the force responsible for protecting them. They do have sufficient confidence in the army. If the army withdraws and an unreformed R.U.C. takes over security duties in these areas these girls will join the hundreds who have already lost their jobs through fear. (CONTINUED PAGE 3)



THREE SAVAGELY SENTENCED AFTER ARMY ARRESTS IN ARDOYNE.

Three men have been savagely sentenced for putting up one poster in the Ardoyne area. They were arrested by the army, handed over to the police, charged with behaviour liable to a breach of the peace, refused bail, and sentenced as follows this morning by R.M. Paddy Maxwell, former Nationalist M.P. for Foyle. Samuel Graham; two months. Hugh Joseph Hughes; 14 days. Patrick McKinney; a suspended sentence of one month.

At five o'clock on Tuesday evening they began to put up a "Falls Road burns while the Malone Road fiddles" poster. This is a poster that has been put up by defence committees in many parts of Belfast. They attempted to do this on an empty billboard at the right hand corner of Herbert Street with the Crumlin Road.

They had put up this one poster when they were stopped by the military and asked whose permission they had to put it up. They replied "the people's". They were told to take them down. They replied that if the army wanted to take them down they could do it themselves.

Jim Sullivan Chairman of the Citizens Defence Committee will raise the matter this evening with the British commanding officers before any further negotiations on the Falls Road barricades take place.

INTIMIDATION ON THE WAY TO WORK; THE BATTLE TO GET ADEQUATE PROTECTION GOES ON.

Employees at factories off the Donegall Road, have been continually harassed on their way to work since last Wednesday. Factories affected are Magees, the Tyrone, and the Ulidea. On Monday night girls from the Ulidea were threatened by a large group of men armed with clubs and iron bars in an entry of Empire Parade as they made their way through to Roden Street. On two occasions girls from the Tyrone have had stones thrown at them. More generally the girls are jeered as they pass through the streets.

Workers from Magee's and the Tyrone requested protection on Wednesday and Thursday. On Friday the situation was made much worse by the burning of the Donegall Road Methodist Church and school. Some of the angry mothers from the school and some men went to the Tyrone and demanded that all the Catholics be got out within ten minutes. Workers contacted the C.D.C., and members of the C.D.C. immediately went to see the military about getting adequate protection. Nonetheless when the girls came out at 1.40 there was a large and hostile crowd gathered, which the R.U.C. failed to restrain adequately. The situation was more frightening than dangerous, but one girl was hit by a stone. The military watched the situation from a distance.

The problem in the area is that although the military have overall control of the situation, they have to use the R.U.C., until the R.U.C. prove unable to deal with the situation. The R.U.C. have proved systematically incompetent and unco-operative in the area, so the workers look to the army for help. They had their faith in the army severely shaken because on Friday the army proved unable to act.

One group of girls seriously discussed leaving the factory, but were persuaded to reconsider their decision after further visits to the military on Sunday evening. On Monday morning, C.D.C. representatives and Officials of the Garment Worker's Union, persuaded the girls to go back, and the military provided very adequate guard. The pity is that initial confidence in the army was dissipated on Friday because the R.U.C. had to be allowed to bungle the affair, this meant that all parties the army included had to spend longer restoring the confidence of the workers on Monday.

After the events on Monday evening, and the threats made to the Ulidea workers, a wider agreement has been made with the military. They will protect all workers going to and from factories in the Donegall Road area provided that:-

I. The army is consulted on the route that workers take to and from work, and that this route is approved by the army.

2. That the workers inform the army of all times when they will be passing to and fro.

3. That workers ignore all taunts and remain on their best behaviour.

These new arrangements should give ample security for workers. We want you to keep your jobs so show commonsense in what is a difficult situation. In particular do not panic, contact the C.D.C. if there is difficulty, and secondly do nothing to provoke. Remember protestant and catholic workers alike have enough problems in getting a fair wage from management without fighting one another.

IF TROUBLE OCCURS AT YOUR FACTORY.

You must inform ALL the people who you think might help you. Contact them even if you have doubts. Inform your Union, either in your factory, or if Union officials are not helpful ring up your Union headquarters. Contact the C.D.C. at Tel. 24333 and contact the Public Protection Authority. Come and discuss the situation at the C.D.C. Information centre at the corner of Plevna Street and Cyprus Street, or speak to the Press and Information office in the Dwyer's Hall Leeson Street. The C.D.C. promise prompt action with all relevant authorities.

WE CONDEMN THE BURNING OF DONEGALL ROAD METHODIST CHURCH

The C.D.C. have made it clear that "they condemn in the strongest possible terms the senseless

attack on the Donegall Road Methodist Church. The Committee has made extensive investigations into this incident and have found that to the best of their knowledge, no-one associated with them was involved" The C.D.C. point out "the church was not in an area under the control of the C.D.C. There are a number of Protestant Churches in these areas and the District Committees have always made it their business to ensure their complete safety. Compare this with the nightly reports of attacks on people and property in the so-called law-abiding areas of this City". The C.D.C. "demand that those responsible are brought to justice

DO NOT RECOGNISE INTIMIDATION

...realise the plight of those who are subjected to intimidation. If you are burnt out of your house, you receive rapid and considerable compensation. If you leave your home because of fear you have a struggle to get any help at all.

Many of those who left their homes as a result of intimidation, have resorted to squatting. They face a bitter battle with the Housing Trust to get rent books, and far more inexcusable the gas department, the electricity department and other services refuse to have anything to do with them. Typical of families in this plight are the McCann's now living in Hut 14 at Divis Towers, after abandoning their house in Malt Street. They have three young children, one only seven months, they have been refused a rent book by the Housing Trust, they have no electricity, gas or water laid on. The baby has to have cold milk at night. Other families have found that in order to get a rent book

WE RECOGNISE THAT IN THE PRESENT CRISIS GOVERNMENT WELFARE SERVICES MAY BE OVERWORKED. THIS MAKES IT MORE IMPORTANT THAT VOLUNTARY ASSISTANCE AND ADVICE SHOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THOSE IN NEED. ANYONE WITH SKILLED EXPERIENCE IN THESE FIELDS SHOULD CONTACT THE INFORMATION CENTRE AT THE CORNER OF CYPRUS STREET AND PLEVNA STREET.

(CONTINUED FROM FRONTPAGE)

Consider again the state of the Unionist Party. We have good reason to believe that both politically and militarily the right wing have a growing potential.

Chichester - Clarke may hold power with the support of the political far right, but this on condition that he ignores the growing strength of para-military forces connected with the U.V.F.

We believe that there exists the military potential for a campaign of terror by these forces. We further believe that a Unionist Party largely infiltrated and controlled at local level by these elements will prove unable to control any such campaign of violence.

Thus the "political demands" which

they have to get a letter from Trench House. This proves the usefulness of the Trench House services, but shows how the official welfare services tend to refuse assistance until voluntary organisations have given support to the case of any individual.

HOW TO WIN WITH THE WELFARE

Government welfare services have in some cases been extremely inflexible in the present crisis. One volunteer advice centre found that the best way to get things moving was publicity.

They needed food, and were offered meagre supplies. They saw the regional manager and asked for larger supplies, he gave them £60 and asked for a record of how it was spent. To their annoyance they found that he had given this money out of a voluntary fund, and that it was not corporation money at all. They refused to account for the expenditure and said that unless the corporation provided money for further food needed out of its own funds. They the voluntary workers would go straight to voluntary sources, and publicise the failure of the corporation. The following morning the corporation agreed to pay for all extra food.

They wanted a change in the insurance scales used. The government officials refused. The voluntary workers said that they would pay a higher rate than the prevailing one by supplementing grants given with voluntary money, they would publicise that they had done this. Immediately the officials changed the official scales.

so many deplore are closely connected to the real and understandable fears of the people. Mr. Callaghan may find it impossible to provide "normality" unless he intervenes fully to provide the political conditions and hence the physical security in which normality can exist.

A further rider for Mr. Callaghan to consider — he may assume like others on the far right, that "trouble-makers" are all that prevent a return to normality. You can detain the leaders but you cannot detain the people under the Special Powers Act. If the Special Powers is invoked, and we have had guarantees that it will not be, nothing will be solved, and the unfortunate British soldiers will be here for longer and in far more unpleasant conditions than they are now, when at least they have established some trust with the people.

FAR REACHING GUARANTEES PROVIDED BY THE ARMY BEFORE THE BARRICADES COME DOWN.

The Citizens Defence Committee reached final agreement over the procedures leading to a removal of the barricades at last night's meeting with the military. Under the agreement the military and the C.D.C. hope that it will be possible to remove all barricades by mid-day Friday. Today sub-committees on the Upper Falls will meet local commanders to arrange security measures in their areas. Tomorrow and the day after negotiations will follow a similar pattern in the Lower Falls area.

This morning Major Dyball and Brigadier Hudson toured the area with the Chairman of the C.D.C., Mr. Jim Sullivan, and with Father Patrick Murphy. Tonight Senior officers of the general staff will again meet officers of the Central Committee of the C.D.C.

The rapid removal of the barricades has been facilitated by the excellent level of co-operation the C.D.C. has had with the army. Mr Jim Sullivan commented "the army have been very co-operative and have agreed to far reaching measures for the security of the area."

These measures will include the erection of special steel barricades on the Falls side of the "free area" to keep out sniper fire. Also included will be a series of six inch ramps along the length of Leeson Street, these will make it impossible for cars to travel fast along the road, and will ensure that children who have over the last month forgotten the dangers from traffic can learn how to deal with it.

WHO FIRED THE SHOTS IN ARDOYNE

On Saturday night at least one shot was fired from Chief Street, towards Herbert Street. The army promptly raided 4 houses in Chatham Street. The following morning the bullet was found in a wall on the Crumlin Road just beside Herbert Street. An army officer proceeded to dig it out.

LONG VISITS ANDERSONSTOWN UNDER ARMED GUARD.

Captain Long, Minister of Education attempted to visit Andersonstown today, the people of the area held a sit down protest, the military threatened to use force if the demonstration did not end.

THE WOMEN AND CHILDREN OF GUILDFORD STREET PROTEST AT ATTEMPTS TO REMOVE THEIR BARRICADES BEFORE THE FINAL DECISION OF THE C.D.C. THE DECISION WAS TAKEN AT A MEETING HELD AT 7P.M. ON MONDAY EVENING, AND NOW WHEN THE BARRICADES COME DOWN THE ARMY WILL PUT UP STEEL BARRICADES TO PROTECT THE PEOPLE HERE.

