



AN CAMCHÉACHTA

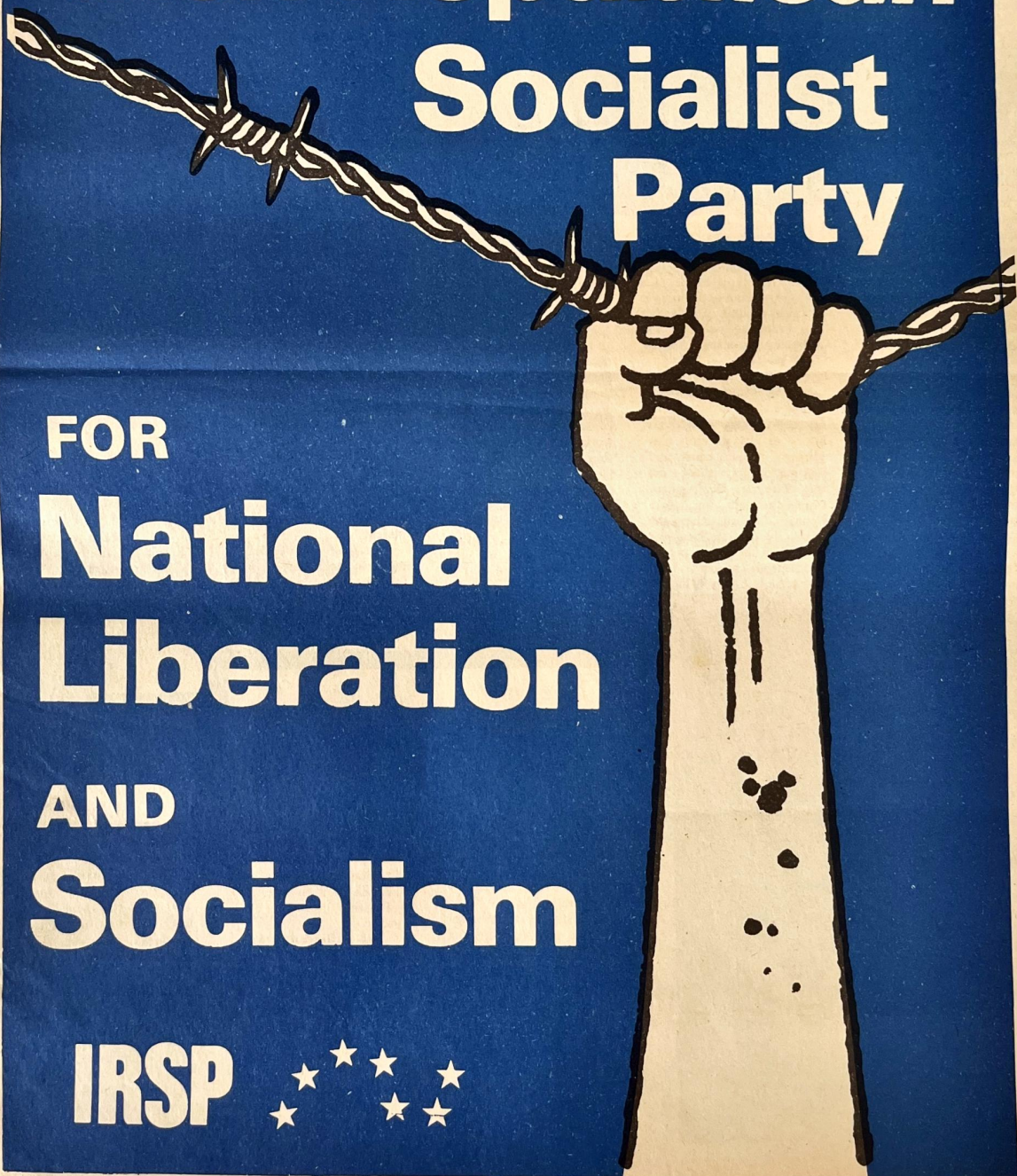
# THE STARRY PLOUGH

NEWSPAPER OF THE IRISH REPUBLICAN SOCIALIST PARTY

## Vote Irish Republican Socialist Party

FOR  
**National  
Liberation**  
AND  
**Socialism**

**IRSP**





# SHANNON ELECTION

## Vote Makowski and Fean I.R.S.P.

Brigid Makowski, Chairperson of the Tomas Trainor Cumann, is running for election to the newly created Shannon Town Council on March 10. Brigid Makowski is well known for her hard work in Co. Clare and Shannon in particular. At times fighting a lone battle against the red tape and the harsh policies of the County Council and Shannon Development Company.

Born and raised in Derry, Brigid is the daughter of the late Patrick Sheils, who was O.C. for Derry of the old IRA. In 1955, Brigid married Leo Makowski, a Polish American, and for seventeen years they lived in Philadelphia before moving back to Shannon in 1972. During the time she lived in the U.S., Brigid worked actively for Ireland's cause with such dedication that she was given the Woman of the Year Award by the Irish of Philadelphia in 1970. She received worldwide publicity when in 1970 she along with her five children, took over and held the British Council Office in Philadelphia for five days. After causing acute embarrassment to the British Government in the media with her pointed political statements and humorous barbs, they had her forcibly removed by the Philadelphia Police.

Upon returning to live in Ireland, Brigid continued her active political involvement.



Quickly she came to realise the only solution to Ireland's social and economic problems would be the creation of a thirty-two county democratic socialist republic. This led her to becoming one of the founding members of IRSP in 1974.

During the ten years Brigid has lived in Shannon she has consistently worked on behalf of the working class voicing their concerns and fighting for their rights before the Shannon Development Company and the Clare County Council. Over the years she has tackled the issues of housing, proper maintenance, adequate local bus service, improved health care, an ambulance service, a

pre-natal clinic, school crossing guards, rent books to replace monthly receipts and a regional hospital for County Clare.

In addition Brigid has attempted to convince the Shannon Development Company to replace its present system of contracting labour to do maintenance work with a system whereby they would directly employ local maintenance people. She was successful in gaining support to halt plans for the development of a major new thoroughfare through Shannon which in effect would have divided the community in half.

Currently Brigid is Chairperson of the Shannon Citizen's Advice Centre which has dealt with a myriad of problems ranging from social welfare payments, battered wives, advising people of their basic rights and arranging temporary housing for homeless people while assisting them to obtain adequate dwellings.

The dreams of what a new town in Ireland could provide with its industrial estate are now found to be empty as yet another generation of young people are forced to leave home and go elsewhere to find work and housing. These are the issues that have concerned Brigid over the years and will continue to be the areas where she will concentrate her energies and political skills.

Over the past number of years the IRSP has fought for the establishing of a Town Council for Shannon. Now the second largest town in Co. Clare. The first step towards this is a Town Commission. After the recent plebiscite decision, the elections to Shannon Town Commission will be held on 10th March.

The IRSP has decided to put two candidates forward in the election, Brigid Makowski and Stella Fean.

On December 15 last 3 Special Branch Detectives took Jim Lane, Chairperson of the Cork H-Block/Armagh Committee to Court in a £2,000 action for defamation arising out of a speech made in Daunt's Square, Cork during the recent Campaign when Jim Lane outlined in great detail the treatment of a H-Block Activist who was taken out into the Country by 3 Detectives and threatened with hanging.

The case against Jim Lane was dismissed in relation to one of the Special Branch Detectives of whom the Justice said "I accept O'Leary's evidence that Garda McCarthy was in on the act and for that reason I am not going to go into it further. I am sorry to say this. I accept evidence of the witnesses who said he is one of those who assaulted and frightened and threatened the boy in question". In the case of the other two detectives there was a case of mistaken identity on the part of the boy who was assaulted and therefore Jim Lane was ordered to pay £200 each. No doubt if all cases arising out of the recent H-Block/Armagh Campaign were tried in the open Courts rather than the Special Criminal Court we might see more of the above decisions.

## EL SALVADOR

### Cork Picket

Over 1,000 people were killed by Duarte's National Guard in of Marazan in December. The dead included 100 children and 8 villages were completely wiped out.

The estimate of deaths for 1981 is 16,000. The vast majority of which were carried out by the murder gangs of Duarte. This brings the total of deaths for the past 2 years to 26,000. It is time that something was done to stop these killings. We must give our full support to the F.M.L.N. and attack both Duarte and his backers, mainly the U.S.A.

At the start of December 1981 the Golden Vale Dairy in Charlesville, Co. Cork was picketed because of a visit from a delegation from El Salvador.

The picket was organised by Eamon Connolly who had discovered an official document which said "We are Blessed by the visit of a delegation from El Salvador".

As the protest was in progress, PRO for Golden Vale approached it and denied first that there was a visit that day and sec-

only the government of El Salvador was not butchering anyone.

There was not only one visit planned but two. The first was from the EEC and they were very interested in the picketers and what they had to say.

And of course the second visit planned was from El Salvador. When they arrived at the back gate in an attempt to sneak in, the protesters left them in no doubt as to what they thought of the murders of tens of thousands in El Salvador.





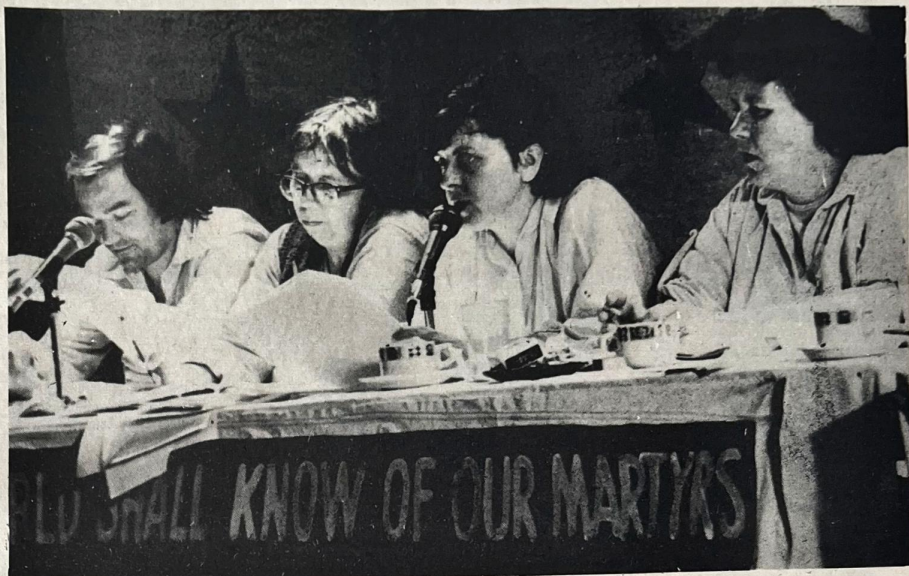
# H-Block Conference

On the 13th January 1982 we were informed of a meeting which we were asked to attend by the National H-Block/Armagh Committee. This meeting was to take place on 17th January at 11 a.m. Its purpose was to attempt to achieve unity between the various organisations involved in the campaign, and to put forward an agreed proposal to this conference.

The position of the Irish Republican Socialist Party was that although the 5 demands of the prisoners had not been fully won many gains had been made by the campaign. The prisoners had won their battle against criminalisation. For the first time in over 4 years they were wearing clothes instead of a blanket — their own clothes.

Through the heroism of the Hunger Strikers and the campaign activists the struggle for justice and freedom in Ireland became known world wide. From Jerusalem to San Francisco protests took place in support of the prisoners and their five demands. Britain stood indicted for its crimes. Hundreds of thousands mobilised on the streets of Ireland.

With the mobilisation came an increased political awareness among many activists that the fight against criminalisation was part of the wider struggle against Britain's presence and role in



Ireland. Throughout the campaign we were made increasingly aware of the collaboration between Free State and Britain.

Towards the end of the campaign we came under severe attack by the Coalition. 20 activists were charged under the Offences Against the State — an unprecedented step — The Coalition are flexing their muscles, and our reaction has been muted. It is essential for this campaign to defend its activists. If we, united, cannot stave off such

attacks by the state how can any individual or individual organisation hope to do so.

The IRSP believes that unless this campaign is broadened out both in terms of its demands and those involved in it, it will die a sudden death. While continuing to fight for the implementation of the 5 demands the campaign cannot return to the streets on this issue alone.

Our main proposal to the National Committee was for the formation of an anti-Imperialist broad front and that the National Committee would put forward this call. The basis for this proposed

unity was seen — however tentatively — throughout the campaign, members of IRSP, PSF, Conradh na Gaelige, CYM, PD, GAA, even some FF, SDLP, IIP members took part.

The reason for our proposal was that in order to consolidate and further broaden anti-Imperialist forces in Ireland it is necessary to raise issues which effect the mass of the Irish people both north and south. A "Brits Out" campaign or campaign on repression will not achieve this unity when unemployment is the biggest issue facing Irish workers.

Our proposal was

accepted by the National Committee and was to be worked into a substantive resolution on activity, which was to be the National Committee's resolution to Conference.

This did not happen.

Now is not the time to talk of waiting 6 or 9 months. It will take 3 or 4 months to work the principles and tactics of a Broad Front. If we wait the mobilisation and interest will have gone. Let us work for a Broad anti-Imperialist Front now.

Let us return to another conference in June 1982 and announce its arrival.



COMITE IRLANDE LIBRE

Irlande Libre committee in Caen Cedex France have lost no opportunity in publicising the Irish people's fight for self determination. Since the end of the hunger strike they have engaged in many activities. They have produced their own slide show on Ireland and show it at local meetings.

In December there was "British Week" in Caen. The committee organised protests and pickets (see Above). Their call was for a boycott of all British goods, Troops Out of Ireland, and victory to the Irish freedom fighters. Long Live international solidarity!

## Tony Harker

### Murdered

Just after 1 o'clock on the morning of Sunday 24th January, Tony Harker was shot dead by a U.D.R. patrol at Lower Irish Street, Armagh.

As is usual, the U.D.R. claim to have seen a man with a gun and fired two shots at him. These shots killed Tony Harker. No gun was found.

Tony Harker was well-known for the hard work he put into the H-Block/Armagh campaign, especially in Dublin. He did not have to be asked twice to do anything. His good spirits and ready smile were his trade mark.

During the summer of 1981, Tony returned

home to Armagh. In September he was arrested and charged with possession of petrol bombs.

He was continually harassed by the U.D.R., R.U.C. and the Brits.

Tony's murder comes as no surprise as he was an opponent of the British and Unionism. The U.D.R. will always follow the road of the B-Specials, shoot first and ask questions after.

IRSP

Clr.

Shot

## H-Block and Armagh

support  
Irish  
political  
prisoners

IRSP

The Ard Comhairle of the Irish Republican Socialist Party condemns an attack on 2 of its members on Monday 25th January. Sean Flynn and Jackie Goodman, founder members of the IRSP, were wounded by would be assassins in the Short Strand area of Belfast.

Their attackers, wittingly or unwittingly serve the interests of British Imperialism by attacking the leadership.





Devlin's

Dirty

Deeds

Paddy Devlin is at it again.

Last month the Starry Plough exposed his collaboration with the UDA, during their recent murder campaign. Now we report on his proposal to give a special commendation to the RUC.

This occurred at a special meeting of the Belfast City Council called by Devlin, Cormac Bloomer, and 16 other Unionists. Devlin's proposal comes only 6 months after the RUC went on the rampage on the Falls. Killing innocent women and children with plastic bullets. Within a month of the RUC's debate on whether to split and form a third force. And only a number of days after the killed another "joyrider", Cllr. Sean Flynn opposed the proposal, "The RUC is the most discredited police force in Europe. If the army in Poland did half the things the RUC had done, then the world would be up in arms against them. If Paddy Devlin believes that the RUC is a credible police force then let him ask the people of the Falls Road or of Cushendall, where a RUC detective killed an RUC Sargeant".



# NICKY KELLY

How to obtain a conviction



## Belfast Cllr. replies

At Wednesdays special City Council meeting Paddy Devlin put forward a motion signed by 20 councillors including S.D.L.P. member Cormac Boomer. The motion was twofold. First to bring to task John Foster D.U.P. for supporting a vote of no confidence in the Chief Constable, Jack Hermon, and secondly to reaffirm his and the Councils complete confidence in the R.U.C. In speaking against the motion I reminded the council of the deeds of the R.U.C. in the past year, to give a comprehensive view of their activities over the past decade would take a considerable amount of time. They carried out executions of Anti Unionists for painting slogans on a wall, the murders of Fathers, Mothers and Children by the use of the dreaded plastic bullets, 20,000 alone fired during the Hunger Strike.

Torture and blackmail continues to be the order of the day in Castlereagh interrogation centre. The

fact that the police themselves debated whether to split and set up a force, outside the law similar to the B-Specials is indicative of the nature of the R.U.C. They are a sectarian and partial police force and while the evil of partition exists they cannot be reformed and should be disbanded. Councillor Devlin stated you either support the R.U.C. or you don't. I have made my position crystal clear in opposing the R.U.C. but the S.D.L.P. at the meeting abstained playing politics with their constituents lives and freedoms.

Councillor Sean Flynn,  
I.R.S.P.  
392 Falls Road,  
Belfast.  
Tel: 47178.

## U.S. TOUR

In answer to requests from North America, the Ard Comhairle sent S. Ruddy to the USA for four weeks.

The main purpose of the tour was to follow up on the work done by Cllr. Sean Flynn and Theresa Moore. Sean and Theresa spent over 6 weeks in the USA and Canada. During that time they spoke at meetings organised by H-Block-Armagh Committees and Ireland Support Groups. In all they spoke in 10 States and addressed meetings of from 100 to 1,000. They appeared at meetings from California to New York and from Quebec to Texas.

Their tour was very success-

ful and helped to bring the Groups through the period at the end of the Hunger Strike. But it was the end of the Hunger Strike that caused the main problem. It was what to do now?

It was therefore decided to send S. Ruddy to help co-ordinate and direct new work on Ireland.

This tour was also coast to coast but was not as extensive as Sean's and Theresa. The main purpose was to answer questions from both activists and groups. Most of the people who became active during the H-Block-Armagh campaign and the Hunger Strike, had not been involved in support work for Ireland before. They, therefore, did not have a great understanding of the situation in Ireland.

Most of Seamus's time was spent talking to meetings of Committees and groups of activists. But as well as giving answers he found some other problems.

The need for more information about the day to day activities, here. The need for simple explanations of Irish history and of course the need for proper direction at which to aim the support work in North America.

The only major meetings addressed by Seamus were a Conference of H-Block-Armagh groups and a large meeting on November 21st. Both were organised by the New York H-Block-Armagh Committee.

The conference was of groups from San Francisco, Boston, Regina, Quebec, New Jersey, New York and Washington. Its purpose to help co-ordinate action across the sub-continent. There was a large attendance and a lot of mutual problems were sorted out.

The meeting that night was attended by 800 and the main speakers were B. McAliskey and S. Ruddy. Seamus expressed the IRSP's thanks to the New York Committee in their hard work on the Irish question. He especially mentioned the delegations which they had organised.



TO A VOLUNTEER OF THE  
INLA  
(For Mickey Devine)

The poem was written by a veteran of the struggle for national liberation on hearing of the death of Mickey Devine.

You are gone Comrade into the distant land.  
Fallen on that lonely field that only the vanguard command  
The long days and endless hours, now are over,  
The pain and suffering gone, That proud spirit finally free.

No more to answer the clarion call to arms,  
To defend liberty against the cruel oppressor  
A soldier unbowed, unbroken to the bitter end,  
You go to join that gallant band, Connolly, Ryan, Costello  
And I have lost a comrade and a friend.

HUGH FERGUSON, 7th Anniversary, 20th February 1975. The IRSP will always remember Hugh who gave his life to protect the Party.

HUGH FERGUSON 7th Anniversary 20th February 1975. The INLA pays tribute to Hugh Ferguson, murdered by anti-Republican Socialist elements. We will ensure that his life was not in vain.



COLM McNUTT  
COMMEMORATION  
DERRY

The assassination four years ago of INLA Volunteer Colm McNutt by members of Britain's SAS was commemorated in a march and ceremony at the Derry City cemetery on Sunday 13th December.

Almost one hundred and fifty people took part in the march in weather which was described as the worst seen in this area for decades. Also taking part was the newly formed Patsy O'Hara Memorial Flute band which was headed by three women members each carrying the Starry Plough and national flags and the bannerette of the Patsy O'Hara Flute band.

At several points throughout the whole route people came onto the road to applaud the bands, the other being the Sean Dolan Accordion band.

Standing in front of the graveside of Colm McNutt, the chairperson of the Derry City Comhairle Ceanntair, Irish Republican Socialist Party, Jackie Power, thanked the participants for attending the commemoration and reminded them of the reasons why Colm McNutt gave his young life four years ago.

The oration was delivered by Ard Comhairle member Terry Robson who pointed to the fact that barely one hundred yards from Colm's grave lay two other graves belonging to INLA hunger-strikers, Mickey Devine and Patsy O'Hara. He reminded the marchers that barely three months before tens of thousands of people had filled the cemetery in homage to the courage and dedication of the hunger strikers and in a massive demonstration of their desire for greater unity amongst anti-imperialist organisations. Calling for still greater efforts to secure that unity, Terry Robson pointed to the selflessness of young volunteers such as Colm McNutt in attempting to bring about a society free from imperialist influence and called on people to ensure that Colm McNutt's young life was not wasted in vain.

**DERRY INLA/IRSP  
PRISONERS**

A fund has been launched to buy a new Minibus. All donations (large or small) would be appreciated.

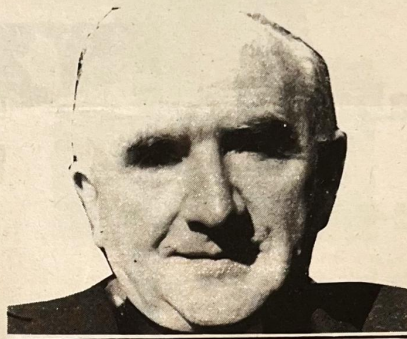
Please send to  
General Secretary,  
34 Upper Gardiner Street,  
Dublin 1.

# St. Joseph's & St. Mary's

## Reject Chilvers

It takes a lot to rouse Bishop Philbin, the RC Bishop of Down & Connor. Fourteen years of rebellion has aroused little comment from the good bishop except to condemn those resisting British Crown forces. But now the good man is rarely out of the papers attacking government proposals. Now these are not constitutional proposals affecting the political future of the Irish people. No, instead there are interim proposals from the Chilvers Committee on the future of Teacher Training Colleges in Northern Ireland.

The proposals basically recommend the amalgamation of St. Josephs and St. Marys and their transfer to the grounds of Stranmillis Training College. It would mean the closure of the sites of the present buildings or their use of something else, it would not mean "the gradual extinction of the Catholic schools" as the good bishop maintains. A distinct Catholic site



**William Philbin**

would be maintained at Stranmillis, and the British government are unlikely to make a permanent enemy out of their staunch ally in Ireland, the Roman Catholic Church.

The underlying reasons for the proposals from Chilvers are basically economic not ideologically. All the colleges of further education are in current terms under utilised. Therefore in the logic of today's economics, cuts should be made.

But Republican Socialists see situation different from both the Catholic church and the British government. We

would maintain that St. Joseph's and St. Marys should not be transferred or closed down. Instead educational needs should take priority. Rather than reduce the intake to colleges of education and making current teachers redundant the opportunity should be now taken to reduce the teacher-pupil ratio, increase in service training and improve rather than reduce the quality of education.

The Catholic opposition to Chilvers is opposition on sectarian grounds, not on educational grounds. They want the right to control totally, entry in the Cath-

olic side of the north's educational system. In this way they can maintain ideologically control over the Catholic population. Republican teachers or students will continue to get short shift from church authorities. Philbin makes great play about parents rights and human rights, but he denies those same parents any say in the running of schools they paid for. It is only because their present total ideological control is slightly threatened that the clergy protest.

Over the years Irish history, language, and culture have been increasingly neglected by the now almost anglicised Irish Catholic church. Republicans and socialists now have little sympathy for the Catholic church in their plight over Chilvers.

Our concern is with the educational needs of Irish children. They are entitled to learn the history, language and culture of their own class. Neither the British state nor the catholic church will allow such "subversion" to be taught.

It's up to us, the Irish working class, to ensure that ultimately we have an educational system worthy of our children; and neither Brits nor Bishops will provide that.

## Gowrie's Tale

Much has been made of the interview given by the second Earl of Gowrie to the Belfast Telegraph. Did it have any meaning for Republican Socialists? Or have the Conservatives found a replacement for Labour's Lord Melchett? Is it just the velvet glove over the iron fist?

The interview spent a lot of time saying nothing. Details of his "Lordship's" childhood and how his ancestors had conspired against James I will do nothing for the Six Counties.

Gowrie took a progressive stance on the Border, for a British Conservative. He attacked Partition as being "bad for the Country" and as being "economic nonsense".



He used the term "self-determination" which has a special meaning for nations.

His opinions on Partition are his own and have been stated before. But what is new about them? Everybody,

except the present Unionists, know that the border does not make sense. Even James Craig thought that the border would be a temporary measure. As for his use of "self-determination" there can be two meanings put to that, one for the 26 and the 6 counties and the other for "Ulster".

Republican Socialists must be very careful when reading this type of interview, as one can always find something to give out hope. For example "The SDP-Liberal Alliance has called the guarantee into question, and the Labour Party is committed to a United Ireland." It sounds good but what of the Conser-

vatives? Where have they changed or called the "guarantee" into question." No-where! Instead he talks of "The Conservative Government is by far the most Unionist of the parties..." and goes on to complain that despite this the Unionists attack the Conservatives the most.

The Leopard does not change its spots but it does try to deceive by blending into the background. Thus appearing to be something it is not. The only way the British can demonstrate their concern for Ireland's future is by being seen to DO something about it.

Have no doubts, at this time, the British are trying to settle their "Irish" problem by the use of continuing partition. This is the reality of the situation and it is this the IRSP will deal with.



SOLIDARNOŚĆ

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# Poland: The workers are the first casualties

Since December, 1981, the use of Martial Law in Poland has been in the World news. In this article the Starry Plough will attempt to give a clear view of what has been happening in Poland in the past 18 months. The article will try to cut through all that has been written about Poland and give a clear picture of the actions of the Polish Government and Solidarity.

The Military take over in December last was the single biggest act of repression against the workers of Poland, for the last 30 years. The takeover was accompanied by mass arrests of tens of thousands of activists in the Solidarity movement and various other groups which were in opposition to the Polish Government. Martial law was declared and a curfew was imposed on the people.

But it was not as simple as that! The Polish People resisted throughout the country. For a number of days, there were clashes between groups of protesters and the Riot Police and the Army. Throughout Poland factories went on strike and in some

places they occupied their plants.

The Polish Army reacted harshly but with care. The amount of violence used appears to be geared to the amount of resistance they came up against. Reports put the number killed at 20 or 30. But the mass demonstrations or general strike, which were expected did not occur. Despite 18 months of open organising the Solidarity movement had not been prepared for a take over by the Polish Army. The Rural Solidarity collapsed completely.

The areas of strongest resistance, passive or militant, were those which belonged to, and organised the original Solidarity Trade Union. In the mines the workers, by their occupation, set an example for all of Poland. The response from the rest of the country was not up to their level.

The reasons why go back many months or even years. The main reason must be the

changes in Solidarity over the past year. Solidarity started out as a movement whose aim was to prevent a cut back in the living standard of the Polish workers. The support came from the urban workers. As time went by, the movement gained strength and challenged the Government for the right to organise as a trade union. That fight was example to all workers, the world over.

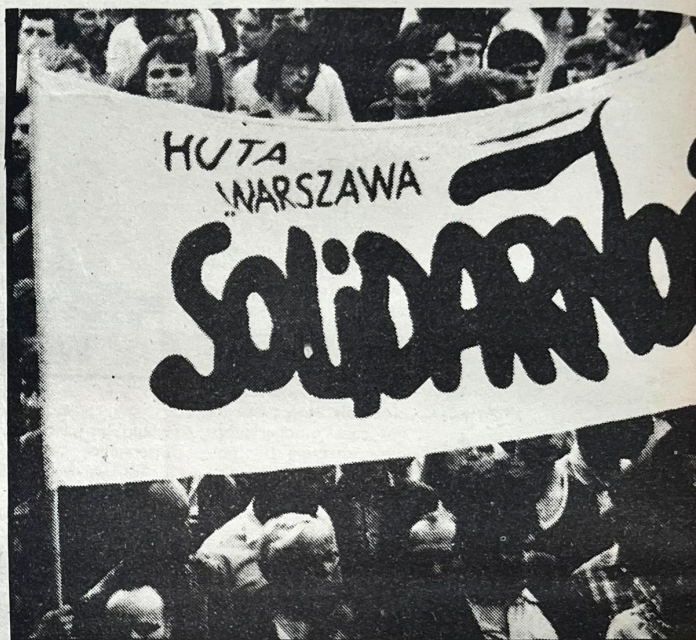
But Solidarity was not in opposition to the State. Just to various practices of the State. Its aims were, and still are, vague. It wanted to protect the workers standard of living to organise as an independent Trade Union.

Now it wants an Independent Poland, a mixed economy, Parliamentary Democracy and to protect

the workers. Thus, Solidarity had changed, from being a Workers Movement to being a movement for general dissent. Various other groups joined and submerged themselves into it. The KOR and the Confederation for an Independent Poland, (KPN) being examples. This influx of intellectuals changed the face of Solidarity completely. The influence of the Catholic Church has been gaining also.

Solidarity's leading advisers are now Catholic intellectuals and as we have seen in recent times in Ireland the Catholic Church is a force for stability and is counter revolutionary. The influence of the Church can be seen in the demand for the removal of Marxist education from schools.

It has not been in the Catholic Church's interest for Solidarity to develop into a cohesive mass organisation with branches throughout the country. This would have



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It has ensured that proper democracy has not prevailed within Solidarity and that small factions or groupings continually vie with each other within the "Leadership". No clear definition has emerged because the "Leadership" does not know what it wants or does not want to tell the real reason for taking on the State. What has come out has been confused and contradictory."



If the West was really interested in helping the Polish People, then let them forgo on the interest on the loans!

The IRSP has always fought against repression and the declaration of Martial Law in Poland is no different. The killing of workers who protest against the take over must also be condemned. Likewise the imprisonment without trial of thousands of activists. The Polish People and workers must work to find a way to bring about a genuine Socialist and Independent Poland.

If Solidarity is attempting to establish a Free, Independent, Socialist Poland, then the IRSP will support it. But it is just about using grievances to bring about the return of Capitalism then the IRSP will not.

This has been the reason for the Soviet Union's interest. Not alone does it have to keep Poland within it's "sphere of influence" but it must protect it's own system of Government. It had, therefore, continually ensured that the Polish Party and Army act as it's agents. It has refused to allow the introduction of reforms and changes.

Like wise with Mrs. Thatcher who has complained about the use of troops against the people of Poland, but has been silent about her own troops and police in Northern Ireland. Mrs. Thatcher's support for the Solidarity "union" in Poland and has been in direct contrast to her attacks on the British workers and their Unions.

The right of the workers to organise in independent Trade Unions must also be protected. The system of government must be opened up. But it must also be protected from the influences of the Catholic Church and CIA vehicles like the AFL-CIO (which has been supplying money to elements within Solidarity.)

The Polish system of Government is modelled on the Soviet system and is as such flawed. The non involvement of the workers and the people in the governmental process has led to a need for total control by a small clique. This clique had to be rewarded to ensure its loyalty. Thus started a division within the state, between "them", the State and Party officials, and "us" the workers and peasants. The whole system is imposed from above. This is the Political crisis that Poland finds itself in.

There has also been many crocodile tears shed in the West about the plight of the Polish People and Solidarity. Ronald Reagan has been in agony as the Polish Army admit to the killing of 7 workers. But has been silent when Duarte, in El Salvador, kills 100 per day. Sanctions have to be implemented against the Poles and the Soviet Union, but there has been no talk of moves against the USA which supplies Duarte and his murder gangs.

The Western Banks have been the most worried. If the workers in Poland destabilised the country and continued on their original course, possibly an independent socialist Poland. They would not get their money back. If that happened, shock waves would have gone around the financial world. The country had to be stabilised and Solidarity had to be changed. Worker's rights were one thing but profit from the loans was more important.

All Republican Socialists welcome moves toward Socialism and Poland is no exception. But we have to be wary of being led into a sellout of the Polish workers under the guise of "liberalising" the Polish regime.

The Catholic Church was used to do just that.

been a workers organisation and would, have become a threat to the Catholic Church's position, in Poland, as the only organised, nationwide group outside the Communist Party and the Army.

The Hierarchy in Poland have been using the present crisis to consolidate and improve its position. Under its direction there is no talk of a return to "true Leninist Socialism", as in 1956. But anti-Soviet feeling, right wing nationalism, and Catholic social doctrine are the order of the day. The influence of the Catholic Church is demonstrated in a more serious way, the failure of Solidarity to build an effective organisation or machine.

This lack of a proper structure has led to a change in direction from a workers movement to a nationalist one. It has ensured that the protests in December were short lived and dispersed.

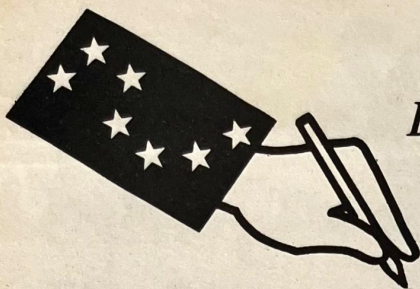


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## Letters

### Brit Uncle T.O.M.

A Chara,

As always the "Plough", makes interesting and welcome reading to Scottish Republican Socialists: doubtless the same goes for our Welsh comrades as well as many socialists in oppressed nations. The unfortunate thing for us is that we share the same hypocritical oppressor — Anglo-Imperialism.

Perhaps you will forgive us for being less enthusiastic over most of the letters we see in the Starry Plough from the Brit "left". From experience we found their token support for Ireland to be extremely opportunist and divisive. But it is difficult to support English parties who deny that they ever called for troops in, in the first instance.

Keeping "Tories Out" is hardly our concern. It is not our duty to support any of the two imperialist conservative Westminster parties.

The particular letter in the December issue from a Brit Uncle T.O.M. paid the usual lip service to the Irish question and ended by saying that the struggle in Ireland was different from that in Britain in that it was not just another struggle for jobs and housing etc. True, but went



on to give examples as in London, Liverpool and Glasgow. They may as well have included a Welsh town too. With such basic ignorance of their own Imperialism and chauvinism it is little wonder that they are so ineffective on the urgency of the Irish question.

As for their much revered Tame unions — they could end all troop movements to Ireland tomorrow if they were so inclined.

Yours for the Celtic Socialist Republics within a Socialist International.

Domhnall MacAindreas,  
National Organiser,  
Scottish Republican  
Socialist Party.

### Bobby Sands day

A Chara,

The hunger strike brought unprecedented international attention to Ireland, and as the issues became clear this attention turned into support for both the prisoners and for the national liberation struggle although other issues like Poland now dominate the headlines, a solid network of support groups remain and continue to grow. Hopefully when the next crisis comes the committees will be able to mobilise support quickly and effectively.

To further the aim of building links and also to use the support that now exists, we would like to propose that the concerned organisations in Ireland declare May 5th, the anniversary of the death of Bobby Sands, to be an international day of solidarity with the Irish people. A series of specific demands such as remission, banning plastic bullets, repatriation of POW's in England, troops



190 Broadway,  
Rockville Centre,  
NY 11570  
December 17, 1981

My dearest friends:

I must report to you that Belfast — West Belfast, that is — is like a concentration camp. It is a police state. There is no trial by jury. There is torture in the prisons. The area is under military rule — it's like a Nazi camp, if you ask me.

There is massive electronic surveillance of the people. There are housing projects with armed fortresses built across the streets. There are soldiers in the streets with rifles always ready.

Our delegation was stopped for no apparent reason as we were driving along the roadway returning from our visit to Long Kesh Prison. Of course, we were not allowed into the prison even



Bobby Sands

out etc., could be drawn up with a declaration, and sent out to all support groups.

There is no reason why 50 or 60 thousand people could not be brought out on the streets all over the world. Also with a series of specific demands, unions, feminist groups and political parties can be approached and asked for support. It should be possible to get the backing of organisations representing millions of people.

## U.S.

### Support

though a request had been made long in advance of our trip. We were stopped and detained by soldiers with rifles and machine guns pointed at us. Our film crew was similarly stopped and surrounded the following day as they walked along the balconies of a project area referred to as "the flats." I hope to God that the film crew got out safely so that you will be able to see for yourselves what we saw for ourselves.

This is what I saw in Belfast. I saw the war and I saw us as participants. We are unknowing participants because our leaders are hiding the truth from us. We hear about Poland and Russian oppression. Why do we not hear about Ireland and British-American oppression. Why do our newspapers make us think that plastic bullets bounce off people ever so gently.

A mobilisation on this scale would be a lot of work, but it is possible if it were to begin now. The major work would lie with the international committees, but the impetus and co-ordination would have to come from Ireland. It would give committees a sense of common purpose, and keep international pressure on Britain. We hope our proposal will be considered worthwhile and if not, that some alternative will be proposed to continue building international support for the Irish struggle.

Solidairement votre,  
J. McGarrity,  
Comite Quebec Irlandais,  
Montreal Quebec.

There is no doubt in my mind that if Russia were doing this, we would know about it. We would be shown it every day.

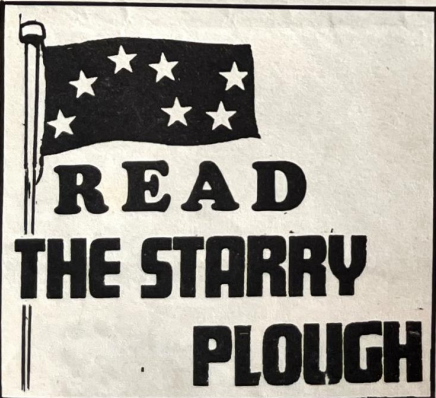
My conclusion can only be that we don't know about it because we are doing it.

Sincerely yours,  
Katherine M. Garry.

The British Press have had a field-day over the "loss" of Mark Thatcher. Mrs. Thatcher was shown to be a mother after all. But her worry and tears were in direct contrast to her refusal to hear the mothers of our ten hunger strikers.

She is more worried about her son being on an unofficial honeymoon in the sunny Sahara, than with the deaths of the hunger strikers. Or indeed the many women and children killed by plastic bullets.

Mrs. Daly, Newry.





## International Women's Day

INTERNATIONAL  
WOMENS DAY 1982.

In Ireland the major focus on international Womens Day for the past three years has been the demonstration and rally outside Armagh Womens Prison. This year again the International Womens Day co-ordinating committee is organising events over the weekend of March 6, 7 and 8th.

Women prisoners in Armagh have suffered much at the hand of the British administration. Everything from 24 hour lock-up, beatings, hunger strike, Pauline McLaughlin was released just in time to save her life. Marian Clegg presently incarcerated is suffering from T.B. her condition is serious.

These women are imprisoned because they want to see Ireland united, free of imperialist interference and domination.

We ask all Socialists and Republicans to support the demonstration and rally at Armagh jail. Buses will leave Dublin at 10. a.m. Sunday March 7th. Any woman interested in helping us in organising events of the weekend please contact:

International Womens Day  
co-ordinating committee  
c/o 34 Upper Gardiner St.,  
Dublin 1. Or phone 721175.



## March to Armagh

## REVIEWS Armagh and Me

### TELL THEM EVERYTHING

"I had to get myself into that prison" - Quote from Margaretta d'Arcy's book "Tell Them Everything"

The title purports to tell "them" everything about what is happening within the walls of Armagh Gaol. To a limited extent the book succeeds in doing this. We read about the "decoration" of

the cells - but nothing of the origin of the dirt protest - of the isolation of the prisoners - how they occupy themselves learning Irish - debating - saying the Rosary. Some of the conversations with the prisoners are relayed to the reader. Some of the soft-porn conversations of the female screws are also relayed.

The overall concern, however, is not with the brave women in Armagh Gaol, but with the author herself, who in fact handed herself over to those same forces which torture and imprison the women in Armagh. An arrogance, be it towards the "nosey neighbours" of a Dublin cul-de-sac or

towards the "catholic conservative environment of Armagh Gaol" permeates the whole book. This arrogance, coupled with bourgeois feminism, creates a deep chasm between the author and her subject.

What emerges most forcefully from the book are the inherent confusions in the strictly feminist approach to the question of the Armagh Women, and in particular the confusions within the author herself.

There is a lot of useful information about the conditions in Armagh in this book. Available from 34 Upper Gardiner St., Dublin. "Tell Them Everything", M. d'Arcy, Pluto Press, £2.50 pp.

## W.R.C. Conference

The Irish Women's Right to Choose Group held a Conference in Liberty Hall, Dublin on December 6 last. The Conference attended by 100 women from North and South was picketed by members of the Society for the Protection of the Unborn Child (SPUC) - the picket was composed mainly of men and women in the 40+ age group and young children.

The Conference was held to discuss ways of broadening out the Campaign and to explore ways to oppose the changes in the 26 Cos. Constitution to allow for a "Pro Life" amendment. Both Haughey and Fitzgerald gave commitments to SPUC that they would support such a change.

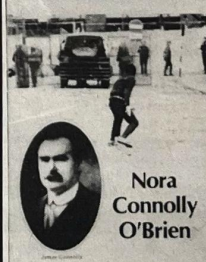
The afternoon session was interrupted by a man from SPUC who was extremely obnoxious and who refused to leave until the ITGWU Porter threatened to call the police - at the same time a very prominent woman member of SPUC was literally uncovered sitting quietly in a workshop, hoping no doubt to get the names of women participating in a workshop. She was disguised in a red wig and glasses and when her wig was very delicately removed she had to leave. These incidents were a source of great amusement to women attending the Conference and in no way

prevented very fruitful discussions on various aspects of women's lives in relation to reproduction and particularly in relation to women who try to rear children on their own.

It was eventually decided to hold a major conference in Dublin in January/February and to invite Women's Groups from all over the 32 counties and hopefully to launch an All-Ireland campaign for an Irish Woman's Right to choose.

Towards the end of the Conference singing was heard outside the door, it transpired that the SPUC people had come into Liberty Hall and down into the basement, playing guitars and singing hymns and holding two scaffolding poles in the shape of a cross. Women at the Conference formed themselves into a group and pushed their way through singing "The Women's Army is Marching". James Connolly would be proud of their spirit.

### WE SHALL RISE AGAIN



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Contact 34 Upper Gardiner Street.  
Phone 721175.

## Postal

## Points

Why do you attack Noel Browne for the ring of the Archbishop of Dublin during the blessing (not the opening) of Liberty Hall?

Except for the late Eddie Lawless from Smith & Pearsons everybody else bowed the knee and kissed the ring that day.

Harry Beggs,  
ITGWU Sports and Social Club,  
Dublin.

### COMRADES

I was very pleased to see the call for anti-imperialist unity coming from the Irish Republican Socialist Party...

It is so disheartening to see so many people in the Republican and left groups are afraid of unity. Our enemies are united against us. You are quite correct to point out that "Our differences with each other cannot be greater than our opposition to imperialism".

We must unite now.

Sligo Reader.

A Chara - while you are exposing the fake-lefts like Kemmy and Noel Browne, why don't you write about the likes of Michael O'Leary the so-called "Labour" leader who moved into a Penthouse apartment in a luxury hotel while telling the workers to tighten their belts.

And what about the Union bosses who support him. Larkin and Connolly must be doing corkscrews in their graves...

Tommy Flynn,  
Blackrock, Dundalk.





# GREEN MOLE DINES OUT

"Ah hell, here goes" I muttered to myself. "Just another trade union nosh up". But this one was special. As the security guards checked a car load of dangerous looking community workers.

I slipped by with my partner muttering a weakly "Good evening". Well we were in and was that a well known C.P.er with her husband in front? It was, and they at least had the grace to feel as uncomfortable as ourselves. Up



Jim Larkin

In response to our article a number of months ago, a shop steward of Glen Electric passed on this information about Paddy Devlin.

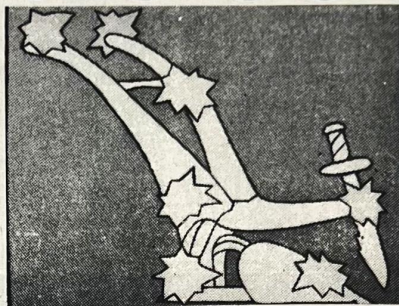
## DEVLIN'S DIRTY DEEDS

Paddy Devlin is the joint Northern secretary of the ITGWU. He has, for the past few years, used this position as proof of his socialist credentials. The story of his handling of the workers in Glen Electric and Greenpoint shows him to be far from a socialist.

The main part of the story is in 1978 and 1979. Throughout the period Devlin made himself the main negotiator for the two plants. He made numerous visits to Glen Electric and always went straight to the Personnel Manager Paddy Markey. Only on very rare occasions did he consult the workers, but never the shop stewards. The shop stewards always found it hard to get to Paddy Devlin.

This lack of contact is not unusual in itself, it is in fact the norm with Paddy Devlin. What worried shop stewards was Devlin's attitude to the management and Personnel, Paddy Markey in par-

the wide marble stairs big enough accommodate two burning Falls Road buses to the free drink. So these were the real socialists and communists. Fur coats were left in the cloakroom rapidly as we charged for the bar. Here was Tom Moore looking for a recount. Ah but this was the wrong town hall. Then it struck me. Like myself he was here because he was a trade unionist. Like ghosts from the past, there they all were, the extreme left from the N.I.L.P. in the late sixties, stalwarts from N.I.C.R.A., idealists from the C.P. secret SFWP members, even cast off from the Republican Labour Party, full time trade union officials, former advocates of armed struggle, heavy set former shipyard workers, small polite civil servants, excitable feminists and of course myself. And yes there she was. Our host, Lord Mayor of Belfast, Grace Bannister receiving her bouquet of flowers.



Into dinner, for speeches extolling trade unionism, supporting black liberation in South Africa and condemning liberation in Ireland. Yes you're right: My dinner didn't go down to well. And then the highlight Paddy Devlin (of, yes we have no bananas fame) protesting forcefully to Joe Cooper about the impending speech of Grace Bannister. But no use. Up went Betty Sinclair (RIP) extolling this great female

Lord Mayor and trying to get us to give Grade a standing ovation. But no luck. Grace's speech told us how her daddy worked harder than us, and how great it was for us to be in this fine building.

Well how could you follow that? Particularly as the place then proceeded to close down bar and all. After all it was midnight on a Saturday and what would the D.U.P's

## THE GREEN MOLE



ticular. When Devlin, the self appointed Union negotiator stayed overnight in Newry, he stayed with Paddy Markey, the Personnel manager of Glen Electrics. On a number of occasions when Devlin found himself in conflict with the shop stewards, he asked Markey to back him up. One case in point, was when he came out of a meeting and told the stewards that the firm wanted to give them more money for no increase in productivity. The reverse was the reality, more work for less money.

Also during this period, while the deep sea dockers in Belfast were out on a strike Devlin took Paddy Markey to Belfast and arranged for the release of a shipment for Glen Electric. (It is alleged that money changed hands but we could find no proof).

But Devlin's activities were not only worrying the workers, John McAl-eavey ITGWU area secretary was also worried. He demanded a meeting in Liberty Hall in Dublin. At the meeting Paddy Devlin was told not to do any

more negotiating for either Glen Electric or Greenpoint. He was only to be responsible for the recruitment of white collar staff. But Devlin wasn't finished. He encouraged Paddy Markey to apply for the area secretary job when John McAleavey retired. He went further and canvassed for Markey within the union. But he came unstuck when a written test was set up and Markey withdrew his name.

This combined with his other activities, proved too much for the workers in Glen Electrics. They told the ITGWU that if Devlin came into the plant, they would down tools. Greenpoint followed suit. The workers in Warrenpoint docks also barred Devlin. So Devlin "The Socialist" was barred from the three largest groups of ITGWU members.

The same holds today. Paddy Devlin claims to be "a man for the workers" but he has been barred from three union jobs. All because he did more for the respective managements than for the Union members.

## costello inquest

On Thursday, 19th November the inquest into the causes of the death of Seamus Costello was finally held.

For 4 years the Guards, with the help of the Coroner, had blocked the hearing of the Inquest. Maeliosa Costello was forced to take an Appeal from court to court. Until finally the Supreme Court found in her favour. Seamus Costello's assassination was described by a witness; "I heard a gunshot on Northbrook Ave., shortly after midday on October 5th, 1977. When I turned I saw a man who seemed to be reloading a black sawn-off shotgun. The man then fired two more shots into the car. Afterwards he ran off towards the North Strand, putting the gun under his coat." The witness described the man as "25 to 30 years old, about 5 ft 6 in tall, and with dark short hair cut straight."

Det. Inspector McGroarty, told the court that he did not know of any request from Seamus Costello for protection. Or of any threats to his life.

The jury returned a verdict of death due to lacerations caused by shot-



gun discharge by a person or persons unknown.

The murder of Seamus Costello was aimed not just at Seamus Costello. But as the whole Republican Socialist Movement. It aimed to intimidate us and to leave us leaderless. Seamus's assassination was a serious blow to the movement, but we have not allowed it to stop us organising for a Democratic Socialist Republic in Ireland.

Seamus Costello will always be remembered for his courage, hard work, his oratory and his organisational ability.

The IRSP will continue to build the movement for which he gave his life.



# THE BLUESHIRTS

## Nationalism v International

The Fine Gael Party has its roots in the Blueshirts – a fascist movement of the 1930's, although defunct as an organisation its ideology still exists. In the last issue of the Starry Plough we gave a brief outline of the rise of the Blueshirts. In this issue we follow their development up to the Spanish Civil War, in which they disgraced themselves.

On July 29/30 the government seized all licenced fire-arms, particularly those in the hands of opposition T.Ds.

and shadow ministers. All major public buildings, railways and key routes into Dublin were guarded by troops, as O'Duffy's march date drew near.

### SHOWDOWN

On August 13, at 12.45 the parade was banned. The inevitable showdown between the I.R.A. and the Blueshirts had been avoided by Dev's legislative restrictions. The stage had certainly been well prepared by the G.H.Q. staff of the I.R.A. as the full complement of the Dublin Brigade, some 3,000 officers and volunteers had been mobilised. Their instructions included the holding of key points in Dublin, and an attack on the fascist columns at Westmoreland Street. Other units were employed at railway stations and public buildings to meet any attempted coup d'etat. O'Duffy backed down by calling off his "march on Dub-

lin", possibly because his former Free State colleagues in the army and police were not prepared to take a leap in the dark.

If O'Duffy had in fact defied the Fianna Fail government, the loyalties of the army and police would have been truly tested. Had they fallen-in behind the Blueshirts then certainly the only force in the country that would have challenged the fascists effectively would most certainly have been the Irish Republican Army. But for its existence Irish history might have read very differently today.

### ILLEGAL

Eventually the fascist National Guard was itself declared illegal by Fianna Fail. Determined that the Right should have a presence, a series of meetings took place consisting of the Blueshirts, various large farmers and business elements as well as other pro-treatyites, such as Cumann na nGaedheal and the National Centre Party. Unity was agreed, and the name of the new umbrella party was to be Fine

Gael (ironically meaning United Ireland). The smell of fascism became mixed with cigar smoke to ensure a "constitutional image", after the failure of "muscle power". Basically Fine Gael stood for the corporate state, strong links with the British Commonwealth, an end to the "Economic War" with Britain, as well as an end to what they described as "anti-imperialist rhetoric".

### INCIDENTS

The I.R.A. and the Blueshirts however were still in open conflict on the streets and in rural areas. Throughout the autumn and winter of 1933-4 the fascists were attacked while supporting big farmers and the importation of British goods, particularly Bass ale. A list of incidents included:

September: Fascist shot dead in Dingle, County Kerry; serious anti-fascist riots in Limerick and Cork.

October: shots fired at Tralee fascists, and O'Duffy seriously injured from blows by a hammer. Anti-fascist grenade fails to explode. 5 fascists wounded at a dance in Woodford, County Galway, 2 County Cork fascist leaders attacked, one died later on 28th. In late December the changing attitude of Fianna Fail can be gauged from the fact that a Blueshirt was fined £3 for possession of an illegally held revolver, and An Phoblacht, the voice of anti-fascism was suppressed.

The next year, 1934, witnessed more attacks on fascist forces: January: Dunmanway publican dies after pub riot. 2 wealthy fascists robbed in Dundalk.

February: Bomb attack on fascist "informer's" premises. One killed, two injured. On February 23rd the government banned the wearing of uniforms.



FRANÇO

RYAN

Towards the end of the year O'Duffy resigned from the Fine Gael leadership, and established the Corporate State Party. Fine Gael had no longer any need of O'Duffy "services". They put their Blueshirts away with the moth-balls, in case such might again be required. In June of the following year, 1936, the three year Spanish Civil War began, and the forces of the Right in Ireland, prompted daily by the IRISH INDEPENDENT newspapers, thereby found a new focus. Support for Franco, the Spanish fascist leader who directed that movement against the democratically-elected Republican Government, soon went beyond literary and verbal expression. O'Duffy emerged from his political limbo, and with a recently formed Christian Front, began to mobilise former Blueshirts his colleagues voted to return to and other Rightists. Fianna Fail Ireland at the earliest opportunity which had moved to the centre of the political stage, called for neutrality, "in deed, in word and in thought". Spanish democracy represented by its Republic attracted the active support of many Irish republicans, and active opposition from German and Italian fascists.

The right-wing Christian Front successfully presented the civil war as a religious struggle against socialism, rather than a fascist attempt to stifle democracy itself, by the overthrow of the legitimate government. Many in the Irish hierarchy peddled a similar line as the Christian Front, and from pulpits openly expressed pro-Franco sentiments, thereby confusing the general population. The visit by a Basque priest, Father Romon Lamboda, who, by touring the country speaking publicly as to the real issues involved in Spain, enraged clerical counterparts in Ireland who demanded his expulsion.

Frank Ryan, (whose remains were returned to Ireland a few years ago) began to organise republican volunteers to go to Spain as part of the International Brigade. O'Duffy announced that he was organising an Irish Brigade to fight for Spanish fascism. During the Autumn eighty republican-socialists crossed over to Spain with Frank Ryan and formed the James Connolly Battalion. This eventually grew to 400 men and women, mostly former IRA officers and volunteers, 42 were killed in action in defence of the Spanish Republic. 12 were captured and 114 wounded. The Irish fascists fought in only two brief engagements and lost two men. O'Duffy, after the second engagement disobeyed orders, refused to attack a Spanish republican battery, and to mobilise former Blueshirts his colleagues voted to return to and other Rightists. Fianna Fail Ireland at the earliest opportunity which had moved to the centre of the political stage, called for neutrality, "in deed, in word and in thought". Spanish democracy represented by its Republic attracted the active support of many Irish republicans, and active opposition from German and Italian fascists.

There are many aspects of the fascist movement that have relevance for us today. The coalition government is daily becoming more repressive, the "Heavy Gang" has been back in action, unemployment and social unrest are growing, wages have been lowered and prices increased. In such conditions fascism can flourish. We invite comments from our readers.



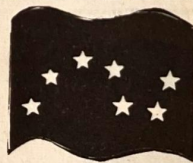
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(Block Letters Please)

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Tel: .....



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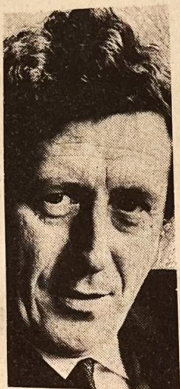
## AN CAMCHÉACHTA THE STARRY PLOUGH

# THE COALITION COLLAPSES

Irish people in the 26 Counties have an opportunity to dismiss one of the most reactionary governments in the history of the Free State. Republicans and socialists have always recognised that all the traditional Dail parties have ultimately acted against the Irish people and in the interests of Imperialism. That is the nature of parliamentary democracy, particularly in Ireland, a truncated society still at the mercy of imperialism, economically and politically.

But political and class divisions in the country are still reflected in the Dail. Fine Gael are, and always have been, the traditional enemies of the working people of Ireland whom they hold in contempt. Their economic policies in the last seven months of government show this clearly. Their two budgets were extremely and overtly anti-working class, a fact they barely bothered to conceal. The latest budget which would have included higher food and clothing costs in the context of a monetarism that would have pushed up the already astronomical unemployment rate means that Irish people will at least have a genuine programme by which to judge Fitzgerald and the ridiculous Irish Labour Party.

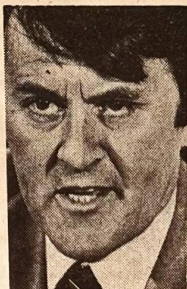
Fianna Fail are less obviously hostile to the working class and small farmers. This is not, as the media and Haughey's establishment rivals would have it, because of the more devious nature of Haughey's Fianna Fail. It is because Fianna Fail rely more for its electoral support on ordinary people than



the autocrats of Fine Gael. In the last analysis Fianna Fail also defend the interests of imperialism and Irish capitalism, leaning sometimes more towards the latter than do Fine Gael. This being the case FF will probably be offering, and in the event of being elected to power, will put into practice roughly the same budgetary policies as the Coalition. But the pill will be sweetened by Haughey who, while posing as the guarantor of future investment and employment for Irish workers will then proceed to attack living standards. But he will seek an artificial consensus involving trade union leaders and others instead of direct and more obvious assaults on the population.

This balancing act between the peoples' aspirations and the "country's budgetary needs" (imperialism's financial interests) is the real argument between the two Charlies, Haughey and McCrevey. The latter believes

that too many promises by Haughey will make it more difficult for a future Fianna Fail government to depress workers' living standards; which is a good reason for getting rid of Fitzgerald and company at the present time.



Another good reason is the emergence, inevitably and again, of old style Coalition repression and west Brit propaganda. The notorious Heavy Gang had begun to creep out from under their stones since the late summer and the ending of the hunger strike. Fitzgerald has also launched his laughable "crusade". A crusade which, apart from its slavish anti-Irish tone, was quite illogical in that it attempted to persuade the majority in Ireland who favour a united Ireland to change their minds claiming that the minority against a united Ireland would then suddenly support it.

There is also the political trial involving charges close to treason, brought against the Embassy 20 in the Special Criminal Court. Irish socialists always face unpleasant choices at election time between the nakedly pro-

imperialist party of Fine Gael (with Labour usually tagging onto its coat tails) and the more populist Fianna Fail who identify more closely with the majority of Irish people but who eventually act against them. In the absence of larger revolutionary forces both inside and

outside the Dail republicans cannot ignore the election in pious disgust. Socialists and republicans should vote against the Coalition at all costs given that there is nothing further to the right of the political spectrum than Fine Gael. Against the Coalition support should go to those whose national and economic programme in toto is most progressive (or, to put it more negatively, least reactionary). This will obviously mean voting for revolutionary candidates where they exist and anti-coalition candidates elsewhere. It does NOT mean voting for supporters of Loyalism and British imperialism just because they call themselves socialists. UDA supporters like Jim Kemmy and candidates from SFWP who kept this government in power until it would



have meant electoral death, have more in common with Thatcher and Paisley than James Connolly.

## GENERAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN

The IRSP is standing a number of candidates in the Election on 18th, February. We are also supporting a number of Unity or Agreed candidates. We therefore need as much finance as possible.

All Craoibhanna are expected to help in raising the funds.

## SHANNON ELECTION

As many members as possible are expected to help in the election campaign.

The important dates to remember will be February 27th, 28th and March 1st. March 6th, 7th, 8th.

The election itself will be held on 10th March. Contact Dublin 721175.

On 10th March 1982 the IRSP will be standing 2 candidates in the election of Town Commissioners in Shannon.

The Ard Comhairle has opened a Fund to help with th expense.

All Craoibh must send a contribution. These will be published in the Starry Plough.

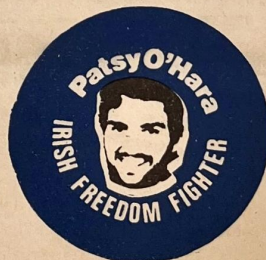
Due to the forthcoming General Election the Weekend School due in on February 13th and 14th, has been postponed.

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