



AN CAMCHÉACHTA

THE STARRY PLOUGH

NEWSPAPER OF THE IRISH REPUBLICAN SOCIALIST PARTY

Octob

200.

FIGHT AGAINST COLLABORATION!



Special Criminal Courts, P.6

WHAT WE THINK

The escape of thirty-eight republican prisoners from Long Kesh is a welcome development. It is a sure sign that the prisoners' morale remains intact — despite the degrading treatment meted out daily by loyalist screws and despite the attempts of Thatcher & Co. to criminalise the prisoners and the struggle for national liberation.

Thatcher has said that the fight against imperialism is "on its' last legs" and that the anti-imperialist movement in this country is beaten. The events in Long Kesh disprove those state-

ments. Acting with great courage and ingenuity, the prisoners have once again put Thatcher in her place.

A welcome event!

Less welcome was the reaction to the escape from the Free State media. The terrible "Evening Herald" reacted with a blatant piece of felon setting — not an unusual occurrence from that rag. The Irish Times reacted with an editorial that can only be termed disgraceful — obviously it still regards this country as John Bulls other island.

The media provides a

climate within which Fitzgerald and Haughey can collaborate with the Brits. The Special Courts, the Criminal Law Jurisdiction Act and the decision to extradite Dominic McGlinchey are all part of this collaborationist policy.

These collaborationist policies have to be opposed. Surely the time has come for all republicans and socialists to unite in a broad campaign against collaboration; against extradition and against the Special Courts.

And as for the "Evening Herald"? . . .

BUNTING

The Ard Comhairle of the I.R.S.P. remember with pride our comrade Ronnie Bunting, who was murdered by pro-British forces on October 15th, 1980. His courage will not be forgotten. Beir bua!

BUNTING

The Army Council, G.H.Q. Staff and all Volunteers of the I.N.L.A. salute our fallen comrade Ronnie Bunting. We pledge ourselves to continue the fight for a free, Socialist Ireland. I measc na laoch ata a ainm.

LYTTLE

The Ard Comhairle of the I.R.S.P. remember with pride our comrade Noel Lyttle, who was murdered by the forces of reaction on October 15th, 1980. Tiocfaidh an bua.

LYTTLE

The Army Council G.H.Q. Staff and all volunteers salute the memory of fellow revolutionary Noel Lyttle. His courage will always be remembered — his dedication never forgotten.

Nicky Kelly Campaign Grows

Reports from Portlaoise Prison suggest that I.R.S.P. political activist Nicky Kelly is becoming frustrated with state inactivity on his case.

At present, Nicky is still recovering from his hunger strike. He is still suffering from headaches, poor sight and ear trouble.

Future

The continued refusal of the Free State to act on his case — to see that justice is done — may lead to a further crisis in Portlaoise, with tragic consequences. Nicky, has stated that he will take further action, if needs be. He has said: "Should the authorities fail to act positively in my case during this moratorium, I will be embarking on hunger-strike again".

Struggle

Meanwhile the campaign for his release continues. Over 140 solicitors have petitioned the Minister for Justice "to exercise his legal authority to direct the immediate release of Eamon "Nicky" Kelly from custody". Calls for government action have also come from Amnesty International, the Irish Commission for Justice and Peace and former U.S. Attorney General and National Chairperson



Nicky Kelly

of U.S. Council for Civil Liberties, Ramsey Clark.

In England, Nicky Kelly campaigners confronted Free State Foreign Affairs Minister Peter Barry. The 7.84 theatre company have also weighed into the campaign, distributing literature at performances.

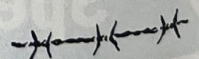
Victories

On the continent, there has been activity in Denmark, Holland, Belgium and France. There have also been reports of increasing activity in Australia, Canada and, in the U.S. it is planned that Tony Gregory will tour from October 14th.

At home the Release Nicky Kelly Committee has planned a number of activities — details of which are given on page 11.

The I.R.S.P. Ard Comhairle has appealed to Republicans, Socialists, trade unionists and democrats to redouble their efforts to free Nicky and to end the system of injustice responsible for his imprisonment.

Free Nicky Kelly!
End Special Courts!



I.N.L.A. Strikes at R.U.C.!

The Irish National Liberation Army killed an R.U.C. man in a carefully planned attack in Armagh, in the early hours of Wednesday, September 7th.

The attack took place at Dukes Grove, near Cathedral Road, Armagh. R.U.C. Constable John Wasson, a long serving member of the R.U.C. was returning from duty. Three I.N.L.A. volunteers had commandeered a neighbours house — overlooking the Wasson home, the previous evening.

As Wasson entered his house the I.N.L.A. volunteers opened fire killing Wasson. The volunteers returned safely to base.

The reaction to the shooting was predictable. The Unionist parties condemned the shooting. Ian Paisley called for the RUC to go on the offensive against the INLA and the IRA. Other Unionists like Seamus Mallon and Oliver Tobin of the SDLP condemned the action.

A spokesperson for the local I.N.L.A. Brigade gave an interview to the Starry Plough.

Dismissing the condemnations of the attack, he said that the reason for it was simple. *"The R.U.C. are the eyes and ears of the British Army. Without them and the U.D.R. the British Army could not exist in the Six Occupied Counties. They are part and parcel of the British war machine in the north."*



This is the same R.U.C. that has been responsible for the oppression of the Republican population in the north — the same R.U.C. responsible for the murder of unarmed republican socialists. They are a legitimate target."

Wasson was executed because he was part of the British machine in the Six Counties. The information compiled and passed on by the likes of Wasson is responsible for Britain maintaining its stranglehold on the republican population in Armagh. It is that stranglehold that we intend to break. Our aim is that of Tone "Bristear an ceangal le Sasana".

He went on: *"I know that sections of the S.D.L.P., particularly Mallon and Tobin find the R.U.C. acceptable. But then they are compromised with British Imperialism."*

The Irish National Liberation Army will continue the fight until the last remnant of the British presence is gone".

Harry's Homecoming

After nearly seven years in British Concentration Camps, Irish Republican Socialist Harry Mullan returned home to Glenullen, Co. Derry on Monday, August 22nd.

A large crowd gathered at the end of the Mullan Lane

and with bonfires blazing and fiddles playing, a great time was had by all. It was clear from the celebration that here was the return of a Prisoner of War and that Thatchers criminalisation policy now lies in ruins.

Th IRSP Ard Comhairle joins with the republican people of Co. Derry in welcoming Harry home and look forward to the day when all Irish P.O.W.'s are free.

Speed the Day!

Opposed

Asked whether Wasson should have been spared because he was a Catholic, the I.N.L.A. spokesman replied "No! The fact that a person is a catholic, protestant or dissenter is immaterial to us. We are not a sectarian organisation."

COSTELLO

The Ard Comhairle of the I.R.S.P. proudly remembers our former Chairperson and founder, Seamus Costello, who was murdered on October 5th, 1977 by the Workers Party. His work remains our inspiration in the struggle for a free socialist Ireland.

COSTELLO

The Army Council, G.H.Q. Staff and all volunteers of the I.N.L.A. salute our former comrade and leader Seamus Costello. We remain determined to achieve his objective and ours — a free socialist republic. Tíocfaidh an bua.

Costello Commemoration

The annual Seamus Costello Commemoration will be held in Bray on Sunday, October 9th.

Assemble at St. Peters Church, Little Bray at 3 pm.

The ceremony will be held at the graveside.

Cathaoirleach: Tony Gregory, T.D.

Speakers:

Jim Daly (Costello Memorial Committee).

Mick Ahern (IRSP Ard Comhairle).



DUNGANNON DEATHS

In our September edition, it was stated that Brendan Convery was killed while an INLA Active Service Unit was disengaging from action against the R.U.C. This is incorrect.

In fact it was Gerry Mallon who was killed while the ASU disengaged. Brendan Convery was killed as the Volunteers made their getaway.

The Green Mole

FIXER JIM

The charging of a train driver with man-slaughter, which effectively scuttled the enquiry into the Cherryville train crash has led to much speculation.

Informed forces believe that the person pushing hardest for such action was none other than Transport Minister, Jim Mitchell. It seems that Jim is very concerned about his public image and fears that his having to give evidence before an enquiry wouldn't do him much good — especially as his refusal to give decent funding to CIE resulted in the dangerous unsafe dining car being used.

And of course, Jim has plenty of friends in the Department of Justice capable of following his every wish.

I.T.G.W.U.

News from Liberty Hall is that changes are on the way at Liberty Hall.

Reason for the changes is the declining membership of the I.T.G.W.U. due to increasing unemployment. The union is faced with falling revenue.

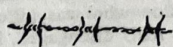
As a result the gurus intend to cut their research and service sections.

One I.T.G.W.U. employee was heard to remark that "these so-called trade unionists have become more capitalist than the capitalists themselves."

PAISLEY

Any truth in the rumour that Ian Paisley is about to demand that Provo and I.N.L.A. prisoners should be extradited to the Free State?

So that Noonan and the Coalition can hang them!



Relatives for Justice protesting in Belfast against the police practice of using informers.

Campaign on Informers Grows

The campaign against informers continues to grow.

That's the news from the North as the Relatives for Justice group prepares for its' conference in Dungannon to co-ordinate activity against informers.

The group has organised pickets, marches and other demonstrations as part of its campaign against informers. It's a campaign that's fully supported by the Irish Republican Socialist Party.

The IRSP recognises that the use of the informers by the RUC is part of an overall strategy by the British government directed against those who oppose their role in Ireland, especially those of us who support the right of the Irish people to engage in armed struggle against the British Army, the RUC and

the UDR. and their masters.

The IRSP believes that we must first of all, highlight and expose the real nature and extent of the informer strategy.

Campaign

This latest strategy to criminalise the national liberation struggle and to smash the anti-imperialist movement is the most critical phase in our struggle for self-determination.

Marches and pickets are essential to highlight the informer issue and to mobilise working class support. But we are under no illusion that walking up and down the Falls Road will not break the Brits. Winning the argument nationally and internationally is imperative

if we are to combat such a far reaching anti-working class strategy. The argument against the informers is simple and just. Not only is the use of informers judicially wrong, but the whole structure of the six county courts are autocratic and fundamentally undemocratic.

A Judge sits in total power, able to condemn men and women to long term imprisonment on the sole, uncorroborated word of a single 'witness' without any other evidence, even circumstantial, in a juryless court.

Unity

To effectively fight against the informer system we must mobilise the broadest possible support against the RUC, the Courts and the British Attorney General. Support for the Relatives for Justice Group is essential given the continuous and consistent work that they have done in exposing the informer system for what it is, a corrupt and evil system of political repression. Broad-based support and activity should be on a genuine and principled basis. Broad Front activity has always been a central policy of the IRSP.

At this stage of the game unity and united action are imperative if we are to defeat the informer strategy.

Hugh Torney to be Extradited?

Belfast Republican Socialist, Hugh Torney, faces extradition to the Six Counties from the Free State — all on the word of informer Harry Kirkpatrick.

Hugh was arrested while on holidays near Omeath and taken into custody by the Gardai. After been told that the R.U.C. had requested his extradition he

was taken before Drogheda Court where the order was granted. Hugh immediately appealed.

He now faces the situation where he doesn't know what charges will be made against him and where the only basis for those charges is the uncorroborated word of an informer.

The Green Mole

NO LIES!

Fianna Fail T.D. and would-be Free State Taoiseach, Michael O'Kennedy was at the Liberal Conference in Harrogate, England, recently.

While there he addressed a fringe meeting of the Liberal Assembly.

After criticising the use of informers in the Six Counties, he admitted that the Special Criminal Court in Dublin operated in a similar fashion to the "no-jury" courts in the Six Counties.

"But," he said, "Irish Courts accepted uncorroborated evidence only from police officers — not from terrorist informers".

After all the Gardai never lie — never perjure themselves.

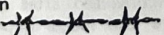
Now Michael, tell that to Nickey Kelly!

DUP ATTACK

The recent attack on Deputy Fianna Fail leader, Brian Lenihan by the DUP in Derry exposes the ridiculous collaboration policies of The Free State. Lenihan and his Forum colleagues were treated with contempt by the unionists and their police force — the R.U.C.

The R.U.C. gave them no escort or protection and only arrived at the scene of the fracas after frantic calls from the S.D.L.P.'ers and Fianna Failers to come and save them.

All of this in contrast to the way the unionists are treated down south. Even the small fish of the D.U.P., not to mention the U.V.F., are given special branch escorts when they visit Dublin



Brits Run Riot After Newry Ambush!

Several hundred members of the British Army, along with members of the R.U.C., ran riot in Newry on Monday, 19th of September.

This followed an INLA ambush on three members of the R.U.C. Special Branch. An INLA Active Service Unit had taken over a house the previous night and waited for the branchmen to appear. When they did, the A.S.U. fired nearly 40 shots at the R.U.C.

Afterwards the Brits and R.U.C. invaded the nationalist Derrybeg Estate and went on the rampage.

Doors were smashed in, furniture broken and residents assaulted. The Brits brought in pneumatic drills and JCB diggers with which they dug up concrete floors and gardens.

One resident likened their activities to that of the Gestapo. She said "I've never seen anything like it. They were like lunatics, screaming and roaring . . . it was like something you'd see in a film about Nazi Germany".

The Brits were further enraged when they failed, despite all the digging, to find any INLA weapons or capture any members of the INLA A.S.U.

As they were leaving the estate residents jeered the Brits and RUC on their failure — an action which further enraged the Brits, who threatened to return and kill suspected INLA and IRA volunteers.

Meanwhile in Derry there was frantic British Army activity after a British Army patrol came under fire from the INLA.

This happened on Friday, September 23rd when an INLA Active Service Unit ambushed the patrol at the junction of Buncrana Road and Springtown Park.

In a statement the Derry Brigade of the INLA, said that 16 rounds had been fired at the patrol. The attack had to be abandoned due to the presence of civilians in the vicinity of the patrol.

The INLA appealed to the public to stay clear from British Army and R.U.C. installations and personnel.

The Prisoners need your support.

In areas covered by Green Cross Collections we urge our readers to contribute generously.



In other areas you can contribute to the Republican Socialist Prisoners Fund.

You can send donations to Republican Socialist Prisoners Fund, 34 Upper Gardiner Street, Dublin.

Political Judges: Political Trials!

What makes the Special Criminal Court repugnant to most people, is not alone that it operates without a jury, but that the judges who sit in judgement are not independent of the Government and Executive.

A close examination of the Irish judiciary exposes them in all their nakedness as instruments of state oppression. The are there to intimidate and curb political opposition. We are presented with a collection of people totally committed to supporting the Free State and its political parties. As a consequence they are prepared to put political considerations before justice.

A few years ago a very useful survey of the Irish judiciary was published in Dublin by the Institute of Public Administration. The survey covered 9 Supreme Court judges, 8 High Court judges, 10 Circuit Court judges and 17 of the 35 then sitting District Court judges.

It revealed that 75% of the judges in the survey had been active in party politics, delivering campaign speeches or assisting in other ways. A further 16% had been affiliated with the government in some capacity before appointment. In two instances they had been members of the National Executive of a political party.

Very few would argue with John Kelly, T.D., who once said in the Free State Senate, "The appointment of judges here has been a political appointment ever since the British left". For socialists it is very "comforting" to hear that of the judiciary interviewed, 65% came from what is called upper middle class social and economic backgrounds and almost all of the remainder from middle

class. Most had attended private preparatory schools such as Castleknock, Belvedere, Blackrock, Clongowes Wood, Marbrill, Haileybury, and Wesley College, a point emphasising their class background.

These then are the types from which the Special Criminal Court recruits its judges. The Special Criminal Court is staffed by, judges of the High Court, Circuit or District Courts. The Constitutional guarantee of judicial tenure does not apply to members, they are merely the political nominees of the Government, removable at will.

With the political and social background that the judges of the Special Criminal Court have is it any wonder that their record is as bad as Amnesty International found it to be:

"In its submission to the Government, Amnesty International expressed concern that the Special Criminal Court has thus far consistently rejected allegations from the defendants before it, that statements used in evidence were extracted from them by the use of ill-treatment. Amnesty International told the Irish Government that the Special Criminal Court has seemingly failed or refused to scrutinize allegations of maltreatment according to the principles of law which govern the burden of proof with regard to the admissibility of statements". (Amnesty Report, Aug. 1977)

Nicky Kelly was sentenced by such a court to spend 12 years of his young life behind bars. It is not enough that Nicky Kelly go free. Demand also an end to the Special Criminal Courts — before we have many more Nicky Kellys put away.

Special



Mick Plunkett, Brian McNally, Oscar Breathnach, Nicky Kelly — four who

Special Courts have existed in the 26 Cos. as the political mechanism by which different Free State Governments have silenced and imprisoned Republicans since the foundation of the State. The Special Criminal Court is such an effective institution that the British Government, past masters of the art of internment and suppressing political opponents, paid the Free State Government the ultimate compliment and modelled the Diplock Courts on it.

Special Courts have always been activated as a response to upsurges in Republican activity. This chain reaction is as dependent on political decisions in Whitehall, and political repression and coercion in the 6 Cos. as it is on immediate Republican activity.

In the past, special courts were made up of Army personnel, sat in camera in military barracks and passed death sentences. Since 1972 the legal profession and the judiciary agreed to act in the Special Criminal Court. Their participation makes the special court less controversial than it was in the past.

In every generation since the Civil War Republicans and Socialists have been sentenced to long terms of imprisonment by special courts. Many were executed after trial in these quasi-judicial, wholly political tribunals and some without such a facade. Since 1972 hundreds of men and women have been processed through the presently constituted Special Criminal Court. Many of these are still serving long sentences in Portlaoise and

Free State's

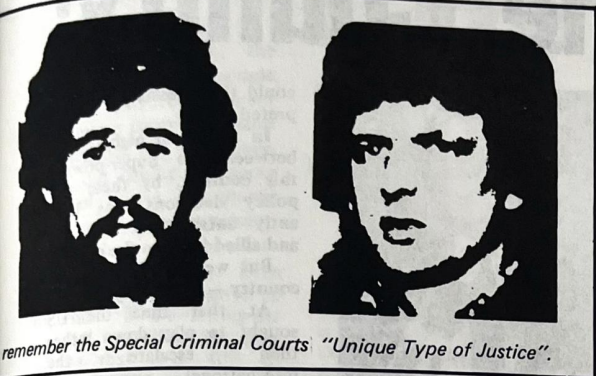


The Special Criminal Court in its actions has been described as a sentencing tribunal. It is a juryless "special court". Its function is to convict Republicans.

Lack of proper evidence has seldom bothered the court. Nicky Kelly is but one who was convicted on the basis of uncorroborated evidence.

Nicky, along with Oscar Breathnach and Brian McNally were convicted after arrest, torture and illegal imprison-

Criminal Court



remember the Special Criminal Courts "Unique Type of Justice".

Limerick Prison. Scores have appeared in the dock in Green St. having suffered severe maltreatment in Garda custody — and been sentenced on the basis of "voluntary" statements.

The dock in Green St. has a historical significance for Republicans because it was here that Robert Emmet stood in 1803 when he was condemned to be hanged, drawn and quartered. It was in Green St. Courthouse that Robert Emmet made his speech from the dock, a speech which still inspires Republicans today.

It is hardly surprising then, that as a matter of deeply held principle, many Republicans refuse to recognise the quisling court in Green St. Since the passing of the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act 1976, a Republican can

be sentenced to five years penal servitude on the word of a Garda Superintendent that they are a member of an illegal organisation. In June 1976, the 'court' passed the death sentence on Noel and Marie Murray — in their absence — after a blatantly political trial.

Until recently the Special Criminal Court operated without much attendant publicity. It is deliberate Government policy that trials in Green St. remain far from public view. Any member of the public who attempts to exercise their Constitutional right of attendance in the public gallery in Green St. will find themselves refused access by one of the dozens of policemen who man the barricade and locked gates which lead to the courthouse.

Persistence in demanding



Doing Britain's Dirty Work

access will gain admittance but will involve a lengthy interrogation from members of the Special Branch on duty in the courthouse itself. Name, address, age, occupation, place of employment and the reason for attendance

at the trial will all be demanded. Despite the special rules and procedures which apply to the Special Criminal Court the police have no right to demand this extra information, nor have they the right to deny access to a public trial. Bags are searched and retained for further scrutiny.

Sentencing Tribunal.

ment by the Heavy Gant.

One noted Senior Council (S.C.) has remarked that the judges have adopted the following procedure to cases "A piss, a smoke and then a conviction!"

The tribunal has shown itself sensitive to criticism. The one person who criticised it in a letter to "Hibernia", some years back found himself cited for contempt — as did the editor of that journal.

More recently I.R.S.P. Ard Comhairle member Jerry Roche had 3 months added on to his 15-month sentence for H.Block activity. Gerry had criticised the non-jury nature of the court and its sentencing of Nicky Kelly.

It is notable that Justice Hamilton, one-time Clann na Poblachta and ex-Labour Party member is one of those S.C.C. judges most sensitive to criticism. His appointment had been greeted as the "great liberal hope". As ex-

perience has shown his participation in this sentencing tribunal has been anything but liberal.

The media too has failed to confront the anti-democratic and repressive nature of the S.C.C.

The press, whose role it is, to attend and report on trials, so that the public can be fully informed of the proceedings, do not do so. But the Press adopt a cautious approach to the Special

Criminal Court. They fall into line with Government policy that trials in Green St. should be played down.

Hundreds of ordinary men and women, have been sentenced in Green St. essentially because of their political beliefs.

They have stood alone and isolated in the dock their fellow citizens ignorant of the "justice" being meted out in their name.

Letters

MARXIST-LENINIST

Dear Editor,

What is a marxist-Leninist? It is just a phrase for all revolutionaries and socialist republicans? Some of my more learned friends and academic marxists claim that the repeated use of the phrase by our new chairperson, Jim Lane, in their September Starry Plough interview — whose thoughts hasten to add were generally well received — indicates something more.

I know they are probably smart ass sectarians but they say that marxist-leninists are maoists. I am also told that maoism is essentially a stalinist method of political practice.

I always thought that the IRSP was not locked into the argument between stalinism and, much of which is historically redundant.

We can learn from the total history of marxist thought and working class struggles; its mistakes as well as its successes. A clarification from the little red book of our chairman would be most welcome. A more sectarian letter might point out that the election of the IRSP Chairman was not decided on the thoughts of either Mao Tse Tung, Deng Xiaoping, Trotsky or even Chairman Lane himself.

Pat Doherty,
Creggan.

The Starry Plough is the monthly newspaper of the Irish Republican Socialist Party offering news, views and analysis from a republican socialist viewpoint.

Letters, articles and photos are welcome and should be sent to The Starry Plough, 34 Upper Gardiner Street, Dublin 1.

Some Neutrality— Some Country!

In recent weeks two very significant policy decisions were taken by the Government of this country. On the surface, these decisions may have been viewed by a good proportion of the people to be correct, after all what other course of action could a Government of a neutral country take.

However, those who have followed this "neutral" country's progress on the international scene, its voting record at the United Nations, its participation with the

NATO countries, cannot be condemned for being somewhat cynical, at this latest bit of hypocrisy.

If we take first of all the Governments compliance with the American request for a boycott on Aeroflot flights, following the shooting down of the Korean 007 airways jet, in which 269 lives were lost. This Government is well aware of the long, secret, electronic cold war in the air between the East and West.

The U.S. defence Dept. has had to acknowledge that a genuine electronic spy plane — a Boeing RC-135 — had indeed been operating in the area, cruising just beyond the Soviet air defence region at the time of the disaster.

The fact that this ill-fated KAL007 was overflying such sensitive and prohibited areas of the Soviet Union, will undoubtedly have provided U.S. intelligence with unique data on the performance of the Soviet Defence system and poses the question, whether the airline passengers were innocent victims of this electronic war in the air.

Given this situation it is therefore nauseating to see the Government of this so-called "neutral" country, rallying behind the Americans on this issue, especially when it contrasts completely with the meek response to Israel's destruction of a Libyan civil plane ten years ago, when 106 people died.



Haughey: Silent on Neutrality.

The second hypocritical policy decision taken by the Government in the last few weeks, concerns the expulsions of the three Soviet diplomats. The Government stated that Irish National Security was not endangered by whatever the Russians were doing.

Ban

If that is the case, then why all the secrecy, after all if they were involved in a spying operation, against this country, then surely it would be in the best interests of the government to state so — it would also gain the support of the Irish people. Instead we have been told that the expulsions arose from "Unacceptable Activities".

What these activities were, only the government and Mr. Haughey know and they are remaining silent.

The Soviet Union has regarded the expulsions as an hostile act and given the reasons stated by this Government, in what other way

could they possibly be interpreted.

In a time of high tension between the Super-powers, this country, by these two policy decisions, has blatantly antagonised one side and allied itself to the other.

But we are still a neutral country — so we're told!!

At that time the US sought to play down rather than escalate the international outrage at Israel's action. In fact, the "New York Times" said at the time, that apart from the privately expressed displeasure to the Israeli Embassy in Washington, little would be gained by further public comment on the matter.

There were no demands for sanctions in 1973 against Israel. America was protecting its own interests in the Middle East, just as it is protecting its own interests now in 1983, by calling for sanctions against the Russians — hyping up the Korean disaster to bolster sympathy for its Nuclear War Crusade.

When one also considers the thousands being murdered in Central America by US supported governments, it is sickening, to say the very least, to hear Reagan coming out — after the Korean disaster — with — 'A Crime against Humanity ... A Massacre ... Inhuman ...

This is the corrupt power that this country is consistently backing.

Hardly the policy of a Neutral Country.



Did the Russians confuse the Boeing 747 with the RC-135 (above), the US spy plane?

Human Misery: Life on the Dole

North and South, the number of people on the dole increases daily. Government departments churn out reams of Statistics on unemployment. But behind the paper wads of figures and graphs lies a reality — human misery.

For those on the dole there is little hope. Even Garret Fitzgerald has given up on his *"we-are-turning-the-corner"* speeches. He now admits that over 40% of manufacturing employment in this country has been lost, since we joined the EEC and that government policies of enticing in multi-nationals with grants has made little or no impact on the situation.

He has further stated that this was known at the time of E.E.C. entry.

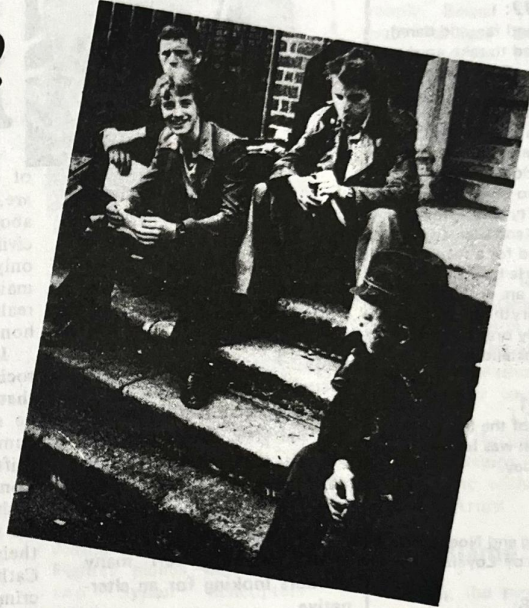
Now he feels that the road to economic prosperity will be *"a long, long slog, perhaps taking 30 years"*.

Meanwhile, Alan Dukes presides over the pruning of the services designed to alleviate the lot of those on the dole. While Labour T.D.'s remain silent, the Health, Education and Social services are to be subjected to savage cut-backs.

anxieties

Decent health care, decent education is now to become the exclusive preserve of the rich as the coalition totally embraces Thatchers monetarist policies.

As for the poor are they to be left *"slog it out"* for the next 30 or 40 years?



"MY HOPELESS SEARCH FOR WORK"

— The Starry Plough speaks to some unemployed people

DERMOT is 26 and is from Newry.

"I live in a flat in Rathmines. I get £28.90 a week dole, and £5 rent allowance from the Welfare Officer toward the rent. My rent is £16 a week. Then I have to pay ESB and for coal. It leaves me very little for food.

I find it impossible to survive. I have to buy second hand clothes and haven't even a decent rain coat for the winter. I have to pay the rent or get evicted. If I could go home. I would but the political situation there prevents that. But then there's no work there either. If it wasn't for the odd fiver from my family I'd be lost. But the future looks bad."

TONY 28 is married and lives in Wexford.

"We live on £48 odd a week. After buying food, fuel and clothing for the two of us there is little left. If Ann (my wife) wasn't such a good manager of the money, I don't know where we would be.

I've tried for about 30 jobs in the last year but with no success. I'm dreading Christmas . . . it's a lousy time to have no money. Thank God, we have no children. If we had the present pressures would be doubled. You know the old

saying "The rich get richer . . . the poor get babies"."

SEAN lives in Belfast.

"Life on the dole isn't living . . . it's existing. We have no social life, nothing. There are lovely new leisure centres . . . but the unemployed can't afford to use them or send our children to them.

We notice the difference with our children. Their clothes are clean but somehow different, not as good, as those of the children whose fathers or mothers are working. The whole situation builds up. As a result we feel demoralised and depressed."

JOHN is from Derry

"Derry has a long record of unemployment as a result of discrimination against Catholics. The dole is a way of life here. The alternative is to emigrate . . . but to where? Most countries have their own unemployment problems.

I'm supposed to get about £60 a week for myself and family. I don't. Because I owe back rent, and electricity and gas money . . . it gets stopped from my dole. We end up with £40 odd a week. There is little hope of change, no prospect of work . . . nothing to do but stand at the corner all day . . . some lifestyle."

dates to remember

Oct. 5th 1977:

Murder of Seamus Costello, founder of IRSP, by reformers.

OCT. 7, 1899

Death of Charles Stewart Parnell

OCT. 8th 1977:

"He saw clear and far, and dared greatly. He dared to take up the unfinished task of James Connolly. Single handedly as republicans and socialists all around him deviated into reformism and one sided concentration on the class or the national struggle, Seamus Costello gave clear leadership on the unity of the anti-imperialist and socialist struggle and on the need for a revolutionary approach. He had the socialist vision — we are nothing and we shall be everything".

James Daly oration at the grave of S. Costello.

OCT 14, 1791

The first clubs of the Society of United Irishmen was formed in Belfast in this day.

OCT 15

Ronnie Bunting and Noel Lyttle were murdered by Loyalists.

OCT 23, 1915:

Countess Markievicz criticised the auxiliary role women were expected to play in the national movement. She exhorted women to "go your own way depending for safety on your own courage, your own birth and your own common sense — The two brilliant classes of women who follow this higher ideal are Suffragettes and the trade union or Labour women. In them lies the hope of the future."

OCT 24, 1972:

British soldiers in County Fermanagh were responsible for the stabbing to death of Michael Nauman and Andrew Murray on the Naan farm. Initially it was thought to be a sectarian killing.

OCT 26th 1905:

The Petersburg Soviet, a crucial element in the abortive 1905 Russian revolution was established.

OCT 31st 1954:

Saw the launching of seventy simultaneous attacks by Algerian Nationalists against French occupation troops. This was launched a full scale guerrilla war that eventually lead to French withdrawal from Algeria. The attacks themselves were launched for their psychological effect rather than their military effect.



One of the most laughable suggestions in recent years is that Fine Gael can transform itself into a social democratic party. Admittedly the non-performance of the Labour Party as social democrats has left a certain vacuum which both the Workers Party and a section of Fine Gael have their eyes on. As well, the temporary paralysis of Fianna Fail, which has strayed considerably from its popular roots, has also left many workers looking for an alternative.

But the Fine Gael party, even the so called liberals of the Fitzgerald wing, has not changed its spots. It is a thoroughly reactionary, pro-imperialist party that is merely divided on which strategy to follow and which section of the Irish people to primarily base itself on.

On the fundamentals of Irish politics, FG leaders are still on the right. Despite Garret Fitzgerald's remarkably candid admission that not only was EEC membership disastrous for Irish based industry but that "we" knew it would be so when we joined, he still praised the EEC for its political ideals and purpose. This at a time when the only alleged compensation for the destruction of Irish industry — agricultural growth — is now being throttled.

On the North Fine Gael is still full square behind British and Loyalist military forces. Ideologically, it has developed a new line of drift which tries to claim that the fault for partition lies with the sectarian nature

Blueshirts or Social Democrats

of the Free State. Loyalists are, it is argued, worried about the lack of secular and civil liberties down here. One only has to think of the main strands of loyalism to realise how stupid or dishonest this argument is.

In fact, republicans and socialists have always said that Church and State should be separated. Fitzgerald's argument is simply a device to shift the onus for oppression onto the oppressed. The Irish, it seems, are to blame for the forcible partition of their own country. And Catholics who feel the discriminatory lash of a sectarian Northern state can blame not Loyalism and imperialism but the Catholic Church in the Free State.

Desperate state

On the economy, Fine Gael is almost an Irish version of Thatcher's monetarist theories. Moves to cut public expenditure and restrain wages to hand in hand with policies that sacrifice Irish workers jobs to the mammon of foreign money lenders.

So what is the argument inside Fine Gael? There are two reasons for the apparently new course that Garret's make believe liberals have taken. First, is the sociological fact that Ireland is less rural that it was. For a party to base itself largely on the big farmers does not make electoral sense — if it ever did. That other mainstay of FG, the professional classes, is now more numerous.

The new, cosmopolitan face of the Donnybrook set is a concession also to the European values of a class that has always ined for approval from its superiors in establishment circles of London.

Paris and Bonn. As well, the new rich of middle class Dublin do not wish to be interrupted in their pursuit of a more relaxed and liberal lifestyle. Certain limited feminist demands are quite acceptable to them so long as they do not excite too many aspirations among working class women.

Fitzgerald also knows that if the party is ever to outstrip Fianna Fail it has to appeal to a wider strata of the population. Many workers, working women and housewives in particular, are no longer intimidated by clerical admonitions or accept as many babies as God sends. They too are looking for a less restrictive lifestyle.

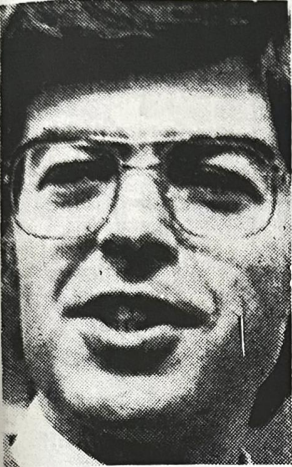
Fianna Fail is somewhat like the British Labour Party in that it has yet to adapt to the changing composition and aspirations of the broad masses of Irish people. Reliance on the older sections of the working class, rural and urban, will not guarantee future election victories for Fianna Fail.

Tactics

Fine Gael realised the atrophy that FF had fallen into after the 1977 result. It geared itself to the trendy values of the young middle classes and made inroads on the rest of the country's youth at the same time.

But Fine Gael's smart moves are restricted by its attachment to and imprisonment inside the middle and upper classes, who look of course, to Imperialism, the EEC and foreign finance to preserve economic stability in Ireland. Because Fine Gael has adapted to the needs of their natural class base does not mean that they can jettison that same base and

Turmoil in Lebanon ...



capture the allegiance of the working class. Firstly, the right wing of its' own party will not allow it. Secondly, the trendy petit-bourgeois wing of Fine Gael are radical only to the extent that it benefits them. As mentioned already, these paper liberals are right behind FG's savage economic programme to gut the working class. Thirdly, Fianna Fal will have to stave off the challenge from not only Fine Gael but also the Labour and Workers Party. Haughey and company are likely to revamp some radical phrasemongering in the period before the next election.

Revolutionaries, however, have a chance to cut through all the rhetoric and posturing of the Dail parties in the South.

With the growing crisis North and South, politically in the former and economically in the latter, none of these parties can afford to strike too radical a posture. The natives might have unrealistic expectations aroused, you understand.

Revolutionaries have more than just opportunities though. They have a duty to get serious in their approach to bread and butter issues that dominate Southern workers' minds and which force them towards the apparently realistic parties in Dail Eireann. The general disillusionment of workers in the Dail parties will not automatically translate itself into support for the IRSP and the rest of the left and republican movement.

We have to work for that support in a serious and disciplined manner in a way that does not cut real socialists off from the working class.

Although the Civil War in Lebanon ostensibly ended in 1976, fighting has continued since both in isolated outbursts and with full renewed vigor as in 1980/81.

The origins of the conflict lie in the inequality of power and privilege which exists within the country. The control of wealth and the economy, and political power lies with the Christians.

Their ascendancy position has meant that the Muslim Communities become second class citizens, denied many basic democratic rights.

The real political power does not lie in Government but with several political parties backed by well armed militia's. The strongest of these is the Falange Ketaib to which the Gemayel family belongs - it also controls the Lebanese army and police force. The Ketaib can in some ways be compared, both politically and in military sectarian actions with the UDA in Ireland.

The present phase of the war which began in 1980 was caused when the extreme right-wing Phalange sought to expand their traditional zone of control outside the Maronite heartland to the north east of Beirut. They moved in



strength into the Begaa Valley, and established control after wiping out local units of the Ahrar Militia.

March 1981 saw continued fighting between the Phalange and the Syrian troops of the Arab Deterrent Force (ADF). The ADF besieged the town of Zapal for 3 months. The Phalange were driven back. It was during this siege that Israeli Fighter planes shot down two Syrian helicopters which in turn prompted Syria to introduce SAM 6 missiles into the Begaa. This move insensed Israel give the presence of many Palestinians in Lebanon, many of whom were fighting alongside the left Muslim militias against the Phalangists.

Menachem Begin after his success in Israel's June election decided to attack what the Israelis called the Palestinian Arms build up in Lebanon. They launched a series of air attacks against Palestinian positions killing

hundreds of Lebanese people. Beirut was gutted, roads bridges and smalls were devastated. The Israelis supported the Phalange and massacred their opponents, whether Palestinian or Muslim.

Major Huddad's militia effectively played a similar role for Israel in South Lebanon along the Israeli border.

After much negotiating the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) was accepted by the Israelis and the Lebanese govt. to restore power to the legitimate

Lebanonese government throughout the Southern region and to supervise the withdrawal of the Israeli Army.

Blame

During the past 3 years the Lebanon economy has been shattered. In the first 6 months of 1981 alone some 1176 people died and 4,000 more were wounded.

Because of the successes of the left and the inability of UNIFIL to have any impact, the west namely, France, Italy, England and America, are now playing an active role in supporting Gemayel and the Christian Phalange. American and British War ships are stationed off the Lebanese coast at Beirut. They hope to force a cease fire which will serve only the phalange ruling party.

Vietnam too, was engaged in its own revolution when American troops went in, likewise El Salvador. The American presence in Lebanon can only serve to heighten tensions in the middle east as a whole and will certainly do nothing to help an already beleaguered population.

The Lebanese must be free to chose their own destiny - that is to self-determine the type of society they want.



Lebanese troops in Suk al Gharb.



THE HARRIER

Cut Backs as Jobless Grow!

As the members of those unemployed continues to reach record levels, the Coalition Government has put the boot in once again.

Garret Fitzgerald has announced that government spending is to be cut by £500,000,000. This will represent a 10% cut back in most departments . . . with the possible exception of Agriculture.

As usual, these cut backs will hit the worse off worst. Those ear-marked for special attention, include the unemployed, the sick and the aged . . . those who are least able to defend themselves.

Cut backs have already hit Education and Health. The Free Education introduced by the late Donagh O'Malley has all but disappeared. Gone

are the free books and free travel. The grant system for third level students had been trimmed so much, that only those from wealthy families can hope to attend university and other third level colleges.

Education is now the exclusive preserve of the rich.

The government decision to trim the public spending programme has meant disaster for the building industry. The need for houses, hospitals, schools and factories has never been greater . . . yet thousands of building workers are on the dole.

The reaction to these cut-backs has been varied. Fine Gael defends their policies. The Labour Party, contrary to their stated policy, has had to tag along behind Fine Gael . . . after all it wouldn't do to lose their Mercedes.

Disappointing has been the reaction of the major trade unions. The unions have failed to draw attention to these savage measures . . . failed to defend their members interests. Perhaps to do so would end their being "persons grata in the corridors of power", as John Carroll liked to boast

Two Harriers were overheard in a Dublin pub. They were talking about the recapture of Sean McGlinchey one of the Long Kesh escapees and brother of Dominic McGlinchey.

"Thanks be to Jasus" said one "that McGlinchey was caught". "One of them on the loose is bad enough, but if there was two of them, I'd ask for me cards."

Task Force chief Danny McCallion has his son well up in the ways of the Brits.

McCallion jr. wants to join the harriers. In order to prove that he has the right "qualities" he has been robbing copies of the Starry Plough from members of the newly formed Tallaght I.R.S.P. Cumann.

Tom Dunne of the Heavy Gang certainly hasn't lost his love of "heavy" work.

Tom and his mates own several houses of flats in the Harcourt Street area. Any tenant falling behind in rent for Dunne's glorified boxes finds himself/herself confronted by Tom and his mates.

Tom prides himself on his ability to "persuade" these tenants to pay up or get out.

Shannon Fight Back

Shannon Town Commissioner, Brigid Makowski, has called for urgent moves to solve the unemployment problem in that town. Mrs. Makowski, a member of the I.R.S.P. stated that the problem was worsening — especially among young people.

Mrs. Makowski said that "it's time ANCO and other agency officials to get out and do the jobs they are being paid to do."

As a result of Mrs. Makowski's efforts a special meeting is being organised by Shannon Town Commissioners to deal with the situation.

The aim of the Irish Republican Socialist Party is to establish a 32 County Socialist Republic with the working class in control of the means of production, distribution and exchange.

Join Us!

**Join the
IRSP**

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Seoladh (Address)

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**support
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