

TROOPS OUT

OF IRELAND

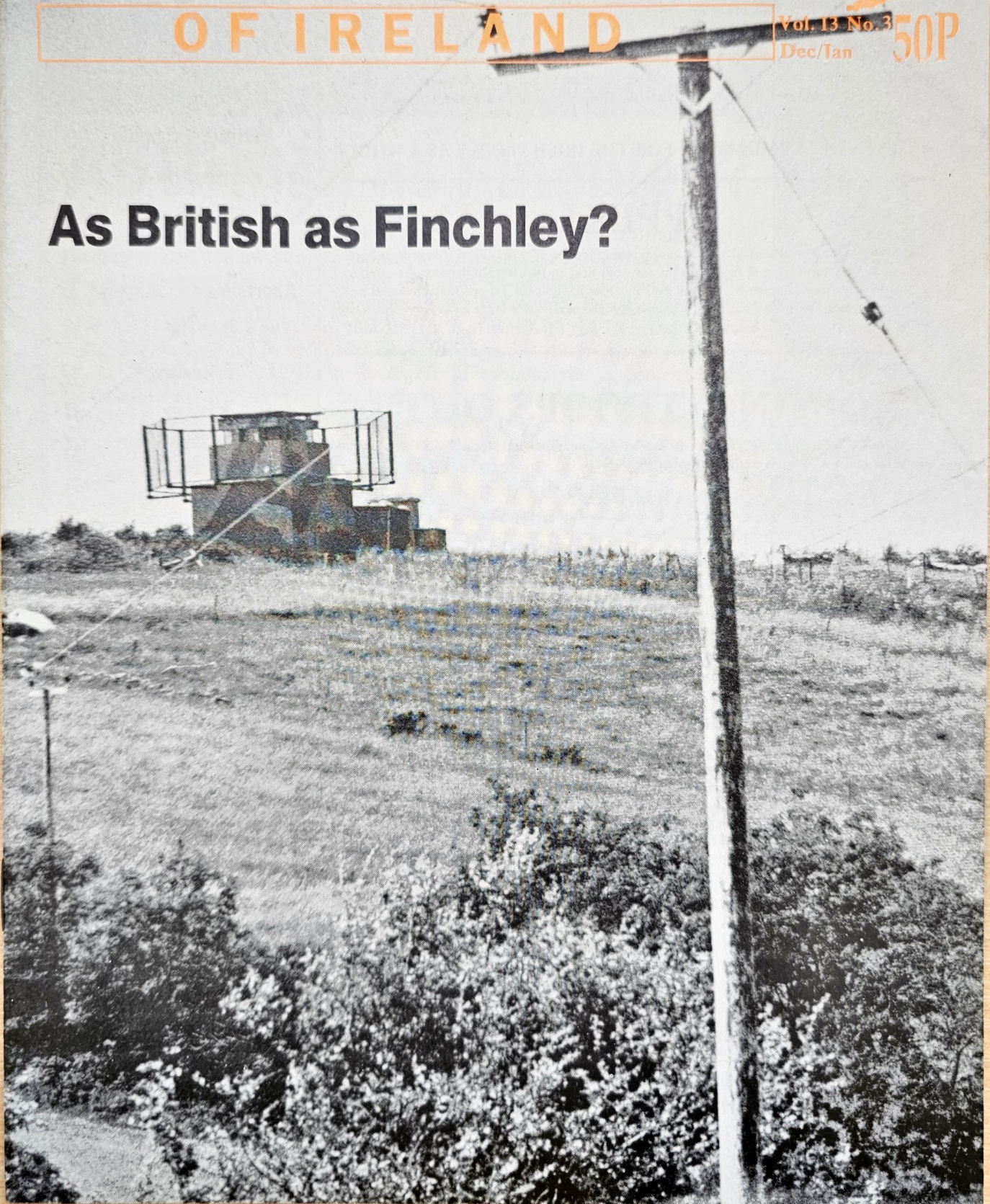


Vol. 13 No. 3

Dec/Tan

50P

As British as Finchley?



TROOPS OUT MOVEMENT

The Troops Out Movement is a movement in England, Scotland and Wales made up of people who believe that the cause of the 'troubles' in the north of Ireland is the continuing British presence there, both military and political. We believe that British troops are in Ireland not as a peace keeping force, but in order to maintain British rule, and that their presence is the most serious obstacle to any progress towards peace. Ever since 1969 the troops have been occupying a part of Ireland, coercing and oppressing the nationalist people, maintaining the division of Ireland and ensuring that its people cannot unite to determine their own future.

We have been working as an organisation for immediate British withdrawal since the early 1970s. We have a number of branches in England, Scotland and Wales. These branches, working locally in whatever way circumstances allow are the backbone of the TOM. Membership or affiliation is open to any individual or group our demands:

- TROOPS OUT NOW
- SELF - DETERMINATION FOR THE IRISH PEOPLE AS A WHOLE

APPEAL

The Troops Out Movement has been campaigning for the withdrawal of troops for almost as long as they have been deployed in the six counties. In this twentieth year of troops on the streets we need support more than ever in order to fight for Troops Out Now and Self - Determination for Irish People as a Whole. Please send a donation to support our Year of Action to the address below.

JOINING TROOPS OUT

If you would like to join the Troops Out Movement in campaigning for a British withdrawal from Ireland you can do so in a number of ways.

- ★ Join a local branch and get involved in activities in your area.
- ★ Become a national member of Troops Out and we will keep you posted of developments, send you our discussion bulletins and inform you about national events. You will also automatically get a sub to 'Troops Out'.
- ★ If there is no local branch near you we can help you form one. We can provide videos, speakers, leaflets and advice about booking rooms etc.

National membership is £12 (includes sub to paper) Unwaged £8

'TROOPS OUT' SUBSCRIPTION



Why worry where your next copy of Troops Out is coming from when you can have it delivered to your door. A Troops Out subscription will ensure that every month you receive the news and analysis of Britain's war in Ireland.

If you know anyone who is having difficulty getting a copy of Troops Out why not suggest they take a subscription as well.

The rate for 10 issues is £7. If you would like to further support the struggle against misinformation on Ireland you can take out a 'supporters subscription' at a rate of £10 £15 or £20.

TROOPS OUT
OF IRELAND

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Donations: ☐ Membership: £12 ☐ £8 ☐

Paper subscription: £7 ☐ Europe £11 ☐ Elsewhere £15 ☐ Lib + Inst £15 ☐

SEND DETAILS AND PAYMENTS TO:

TOM: PO BOX 353, LONDON NW5 4NH

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Troops Out is now available on tape for people with sight disabilities. For further details write to P.O. Box 817, Camp Hill, Birmingham B11 4AF. or telephone: 021 773 8683/021 551 3166

Troops Out Paper

Troops Out is produced by a collective drawn from branches of the Troops Out Movement in London

Readers' views, articles and letters are always welcome (although we can't guarantee to publish everything that comes in).

All correspondence for Troops Out (the paper) and for the Troops Out Movement should be sent to:
PO Box 353
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TROOPS OUT

OF IRELAND



As British as Finchley?

On November 1st, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Peter Brooke, began the latest phase, of British Government attempts to impose a settlement to the war in Northern Ireland, when he admitted that talks with Sinn Fein could occur, and that the Irish Republican Army cannot be militarily defeated. Brook admitted that N.Ireland is a colonial situation, that Britain is at war with the IRA and that it's a war Britain cannot win. All of which contradicts the official version.

It is in the context of eight hundred years of warmongering against the people of Ireland that we must view this latest 'development'. For, as that and other statements since confirm, the British Government policy is to extirpate the IRA and "root out" its supporters in the "terrorist community". And, while placing the condition of an IRA military ceasefire on talks, without any reference to a British Government ceasefire, the British state continues to put every constraint possible on Sinn Fein and the nationalist community in general operating in the political forum. It does this by censoring republican politicians and supporters and by using every military, economic, political and cultural weapon at its disposal against the nationalist community in the six counties, weapons it likes to see extended south of the border and in Britain as well.

The latest British army recruitment advertisement, carried full page length in national newspapers, has the banner headline "Peacemongers". As Eastern European developments unfold, British politicians talk of "the undeniable need for unity in people" and the inevitable collapse of false borders and divisions. The British Government is even keen to be seen urging non-interference in Eastern European affairs. We must force them to apply the same principle in relation to their historical war against, and division of, the Irish nation.

The forthcoming Bloody Sunday Commemoration March provides us with an occasion to demonstrate our condemnation of continuing British occupation of the six counties of Northern Ireland and our will to see an end to this without delay. There is no other moral option for the government but to prepare for peace, by ending its war in the six counties and withdrawing from all aspects of its imperialist presence in Ireland, thereby allowing the Irish people to determine their own future.

Photos: Chris Kerridge.



Astra picket

The headquarters of Astra fireworks was picketed on Friday November 3rd to draw attention to the fact that while Astra are producing fireworks to entertain children in England, they are also producing plastic bullets that will kill and maim children in Ireland. Over 100 people joined the parents of Seamus Duffy, (the 17th victim of the deadly bullets, who was killed on August 9th, 1989) in leafleting the crowds in Regent Street. The United Campaign Against Plastic Bullets is asking people

to write to Astra demanding that they cease production of the killer bullets. Write to Astra Holdings plc, 6 St. James Place, London, SW1A 1NP. If you want to help the campaign in Britain or need more information, write to: UCAPB, c/o 195 Whiterock Road, Belfast 12, or contact the Troops Out Movement. (see interview with Mr/Mrs Duffy page 8/9).

A Network of Organisations

The need for unity in action was stressed by representatives from a variety of withdrawal organisations at a meeting in London on November 18th. The meeting was attended by representatives from the Troops Out Movement, IBRG, LCI, Women and Ireland Network, Socialist Movement, Scottish Time to Go and the IFM. Local Year of Action and Time to Go groups from Brighton, Norwich and various parts of London also attended.

The meeting recognised the importance of co-ordinating work and committed itself to organising a conference next April to which all organisations working for British Withdrawal would be invited.

Guiding principles of the broad front were discussed and it was agreed that these would go to the conference for amendment and agreement. The basis of the guiding principles was "the objective of the broad front is to build the widest possible support for British withdrawal and the right of Irish people to self determination."

A meeting will be held on January 20th in London to prepare for the conference on the basis of organisations having discussed the proposals. All organisations are encouraged to send a representative. Details from Planning Meeting PO Box, Green Ink Bookshop, 8 Archway Mall, London N19 5RG.

Delegate meeting

The Troops Out Movement national executive committee (NEC), met on November 8/9th. The NEC is a delegate structure that meets quarterly to plan Troops Out activities and review political developments. It also ensures there is continuing democratic debate within the organisation and that branches are kept up to date with what is going on in the movement.

The November NEC began with a political update covering the months of August, September and October and then broke up into workshops covering aspects of TOM campaigning. Sunday was primarily concerned with a discussion about the future direction of the Troops Out Movement. The discussion revolved around our interpretation of the demand for self-determination for the Irish people

as a whole and how this informed our relationship with political groupings in Ireland and Britain. The meeting resolved to promote a programme of debate and education around the issue of self-determination.

A women's workshop met to discuss how more women could become involved in the TOM and what support they could offer each other and women in Ireland. Later in the afternoon the question of how Irish people in Britain related to the withdrawal movement was discussed. A lesbian and gay caucus in TOM was also launched, with plans to hold a meeting in Leeds at the end of November.

Minutes of the NEC are circulated to all branches and are available to TOM members on request. For details of the next meeting contact TOM office.

International Women's Day Delegation

On March 8th 1887 striking women garment workers demonstrated in New York City. In 1910 that day was adopted as a day of celebration for women in struggle all over the world. In celebration of that day, since 1981 women from England, Scotland and Wales have gone to the North of Ireland to picket first Armagh and now the new Maghaberry Gaol where Irish Republican women prisoners are held and subjected to all kinds of intimidation and harassment including strip-searching.

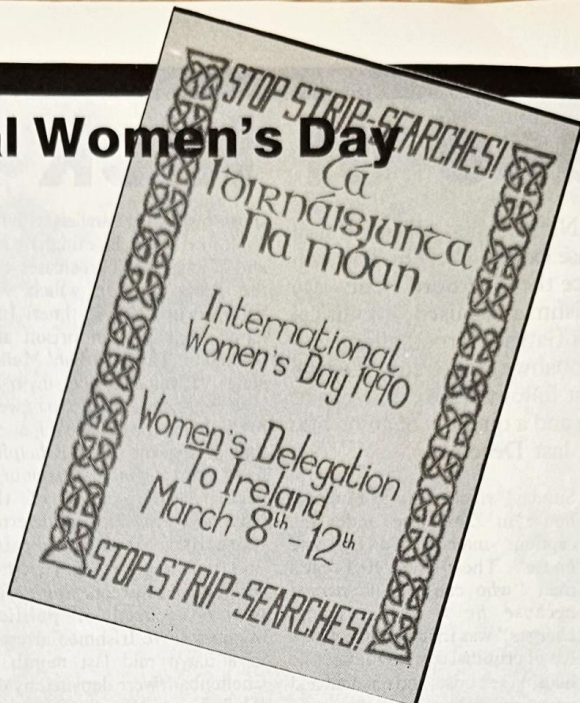
The delegation is also a chance to show solidarity with other women in the North of Ireland who are experiencing the hardship caused by the British presence in Ireland. The delegation is looked after by women in Sinn Féin who arrange meetings with women involved in a range of campaigns, and since women on the delegation are put up in people's homes this offers the chance to find out how everyday life is lived under the

shadow of the British Army. Women may also choose to make a prison visit (note: to do this you will need to register early, by January 1st). Finally, the delegation joins the picket of Maghaberry Gaol.

The delegation is from 8th to 12th March 1990, and you can choose to stay in either Derry or

Belfast. The cost is about £60 from Liverpool, which excludes travel to Liverpool and food and fares whilst there, but don't be put off - there are ways of raising the money. Last possible day for registration: 2nd February.

Further information from: IWD Delegation, PO Box 1032, Birmingham.



Border demolished

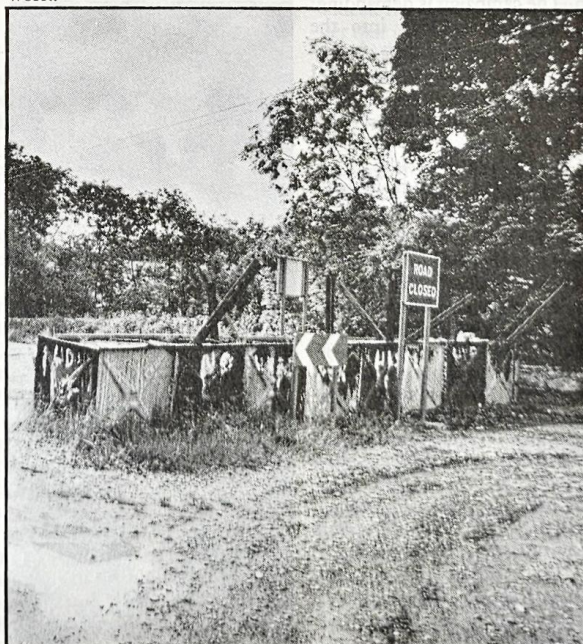
A major border crossing opened early in November. Local people tore down barbed wire and bulldozed their way through concrete fortifications to unite with relatives and friends long divided by an imposed border. You won't have seen it on TV or read about it in your papers because it was happening in Ireland and the people weren't 'disillusioned communists' but defiant Irish nationalists protesting at the enforced partition of their country.

The 'momentous' event took place on November 5th, a full week before a similar event in Eastern Europe, at the Monaghan/Tyrone border between the Republic and the north of Ireland. A road demolished and barricaded by British forces fifteen years ago was rebuilt in a day by local people. They were drawing attention to the obstruction of free passage that occurs daily as a result of the British presence in Ireland. They were also protesting at the hypocrisy of the southern Irish media hyped 'Peace Train' trip. Well known figures in the political establishment had booked a ride on the Dublin/Belfast train to

mobilise public opinion against IRA attacks on the rail link.

The newly opened road is now in constant use with local motorists and farmers commending the standard of work.

Local activists now plan a 'Peace Bus' trip along the Monaghan/Tyrone border, visiting the eleven border crossings demolished by the British army.



Pervverting the course of Justice

Three serving officers and one retired detective, from the West Midlands Serious Crime Squad, the squad which was involved with the case of the Birmingham Six, have been charged by the West Midlands police, with pervverting the course of justice by the fabrication of evidence. The charges relate to the case of Keith Parchment who was jailed for armed robbery in 1986, and freed on appeal earlier this year.

Summonses have been served on Inspector Terence Mills, Sgt David Ford and Sgt Anthony Ball who are still serving in the force, and on retired DC Michael Quinn. All are former members of the Serious Crime Squad which was disbanded by Chief Constable Geoffrey Dear and is under investigation by West Yorkshire Police.

Victims plea for justice

A woman hurt in the Birmingham pub bombings has called for the release of the 6 convicted men. Jane Hollingshead called for their freedom because she believed there was now so much evidence suggesting that the wrong men were convicted. 'Forensic evidence which helped to convict these men has been proved to be fallible' she said. 'Now the only evidence keeping them in prison is the confessions. There is little doubt that the prisoners were badly beaten at the time of their arrest. When they were convicted and sentenced to life, I was pleased. At that time I wasn't very rational, just angry. It was only when I watched a World in Action programme and read Chris Mullens' book more that ten years later, that I started to seriously doubt the convictions.'

**A subscription for
'Troops Out'
costs less than it is worth**

The case of Nick Mullen

On April 25th 1990, Irishman Nick Mullen will stand trial on charges of conspiring to cause explosions. This trial will be the first case in Britain since the Guildford Four were released which involves an Irishman accused of political offences. Mullen was arrested at Gatwick airport after being deported at gunpoint from Zimbabwe at the request of the British government. His arrest followed the discovery of an amount of Semtex explosive and a quantity of automatic rifles in a South London flat last December.

After being held for seven days under the Prevention of Terrorism Act-illegally according to the European Court of Human Rights, Mullen was charged and produced at Lambeth Magistrates court amidst the usual "security" circus. This involved the use of a helicopter, armoured vehicles and those darlings of the media - the blue berets. All of which appeared on national television news. Clearly, the purpose was to give the impression that a "top player" had been apprehended.

Shortly after Mullen had been charged articles appeared in certain sections of the Press which effectively declared him guilty before even standing trial. An example of this (and by no means the only one) was a piece by Chester Stern in the 'Mail on

Sunday' which depicted Mullen's house in Zimbabwe under the caption "-intended as an IRA safe house". The article stated that a man "who can not be named because he is facing terror charges" was involved in a whole list of criminal acts including safe housing terrorists and emerald and ivory smuggling. It went on to suggest that he was party to a plot to execute Thatcher during her planned visit to Harare. The headline was "IRA had hideaway on Maggie route". These articles appeared despite the fact that reporting restrictions had not been lifted. Mullen's solicitor has complained to the Press Council and the Attorney General has found the 'Mail on Sunday' in contempt of court but has decided not to take any action.

The behaviour of the media

shows disturbing parallels with the Guildford Four, Birmingham Six and Winchester Three cases and the Press hysteria which was whipped up at those times. In a letter from Brixton prison and printed in 'The Guardian' Mullen states "I would not be surprised if an over-zealous policeman were to think that the climate was such, that giving the facts a helping hand was acceptable behaviour." Clearly the release of the Guildford Four has not deterred journalists from accepting unquestioningly police and state accounts in cases concerning Irish people accused of political offences. Five Irishmen arrested in a dawn raid last month in Cheltenham were depicted by the 'Daily Express' on the front page as "Thatcher bomb gang arrested". The following day other papers followed suit. The five were released without charge and have been forced to return to Ireland, their living destroyed. Last May, the McDonagh brothers who lived in Stoke were arrested under the PTA and held for 60 hours before being released without charge. Their arrest was reported in some newspapers as being "against the Tern Hill bombers." Interviews with

friends of the "Tern Hill Barracks bombing suspects" were published. The McDonagh brothers also have been forced to return to Ireland.

It is obvious that the government, and in particular the security forces, are acutely embarrassed by their inability to prevent the IRA and INLA mounting successful military campaigns in Britain. This flies in the face of repeated claims that these organisations are on their knees. When Mullen was arrested it was portrayed as a major victory against the Active Service Unit responsible for the present bombing campaign. Yet his arrest has not detracted from the ASU's activities, nor have the police been able to apprehend any of its members. When Mullen is convicted at his planned show trial, he will have been convicted by a legal system that responds to the needs of the state and also by the actions of journalists who prostitute truth and themselves in order to meet the needs of their employers.

James O'Brien
Nick Mullen Defence Campaign
265 Seven Sisters Rd.
London N4.

Murder of Rajani Thiranagama

On October 28th this year a memorial meeting was held in London to commemorate the death of Rajani Thiranagama, Sri Lankan human rights activist. Rajani was assassinated in September for refusing to be silent in the face of continuous murderous attacks on the Tamil community in North and East Sri Lanka. A representative of the Troops Out Movement was present to read a solidarity message supporting the cause of the Tamil people in Sri Lanka, and calling for Rajani's killers to be brought to justice.

Rajani Thiranagama lived in Britain for three years while completing her studies. During this time she helped to set up the Tamil Refugee Action Group and was one of the founders of South Asia Solidarity Group. She was also a member of the Black Delegation to the Six Counties organised three years ago.

A campaign to bring Rajani's killers to justice has now been set

up. The campaign is demanding:

1. A public enquiry into the activities of the Indian Armed Forces and other military and paramilitary organisations associated with them in Sri Lanka;
2. An explanation of this murder on Indian controlled soil;
3. Open access to human rights organisations in the North and East of Sri Lanka.

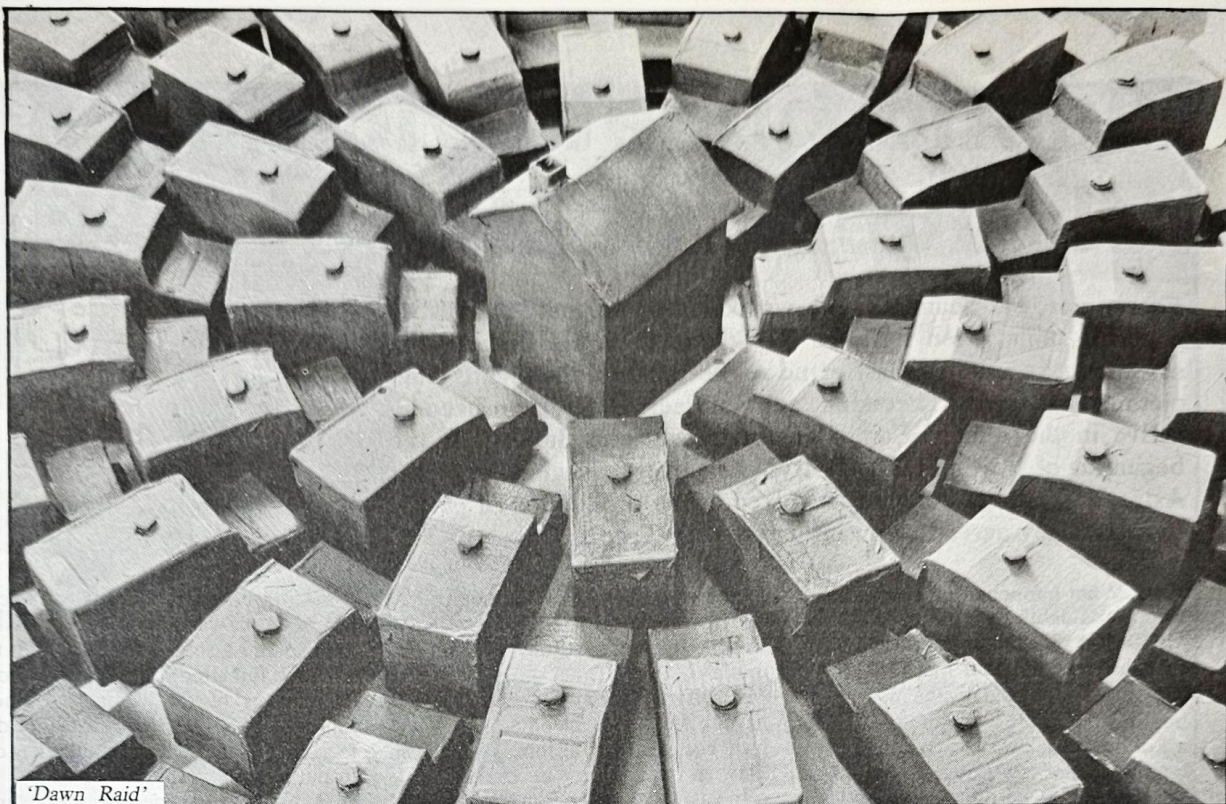
The campaign aims to raise awareness of the situation in Sri Lanka here, and to put international pressure on the Sri Lankan and Indian governments to meet the campaign's demands. 22 British MPs have put their names to the demands, and a picket was recently held of the 'Nehru Centenary' public meeting attended by the Indian High Commissioner, plus Roy Jenkins, Lord Hailsham and other pillars of the British establishment.

For more information contact: South Asia Solidarity Group, c/o 173 Archway Road, London N6 5BL.



Mc Brides Campaign

The first ever meeting between senior McBride Principles lobbyists in the US and the Fair Employment Agency (FEA) took place in Belfast in mid-October. At the meeting in the city centre offices the American campaigners told agency Supremo Bob Cooper that the Department of Economic Development (D.E.D.) was carrying out a "costly campaign of misinformation" in the USA. Tom O'Flaherty from New Hampshire and Jean Bishop of American Protestants for Truth in Ireland also demanded that Knights of Columbus Chief, Jim Eccles who has been spearheading the anti McBride campaign in the States, register as an agent of the British Government.



'Dawn Raid'

'Gas Cooker On A Landrover'

'I was nervous getting on the plane and nervous getting off again', said Derry sculptor Locky Morris. He was speaking at last month's 'Ireland-Right to Know' art exhibition, at the South London Gallery. Locky wasn't referring to aeroplane safety, or a fear of heights, but the traveller's constant threat of being detained by the Special Branch. In the light of Belfast muralist Gerry Kelly's deportation from New York he had good grounds to be nervous.

Locky's slide show of his work was one of the highlights of an exhibition which the organisers regard as unique - the first time that so many 'political' works on Ireland have been exhibited under one roof.

'Creggan Nightlife', a witty portrayal of the housing estate lit up by hovering British army helicopters, and made just after Locky finished art college in Manchester, was one of his first political projects. *'I had been going home for periods and saw what pressures my family and friends were putting up with, I became politicised through my own work',* he explained.

While in Manchester he won a commission to sculpt a work for the canalside. The slides revealed the process of his developing ideas up to the finished piece, 'Navy's Dinner'. A structure which can be sat on, it is composed of a shovel over a fire with food cooking on it - a common practice with those who built the canal.

Back in Derry he had less luck with a commission to make sculptures for Derry's Walls. However, this didn't deter him, as he went on to make nine lifesize figures representing different activities around the walls. One figure was carrying shopping, another leaning against the walls waiting for a bus, another drinking a can of lager, and another with a lunch box under their arm. They were painted white with a large red band around the middle, a reminder of the concrete blocks which decorate border crossings and police stations.

The responses varied. The bus stop figure had small crowds around it on Friday nights, *'That wasn't there when I was going to the pub',* to the more imaginative, *'Do you think the rings are on it to suggest*

it could be lifted at any minute?' A few figures lost heads and feet, but the lager drinker was protected by two real life drinkers, who saw it as theirs.

This reaction of collective ownership is something Locky values about his work, and reinforces his determination to continue exhibiting his other sculptures in places like Pilot's Row Community Centre. During one of his exhibitions there, someone said, *'I think your work is shit. It doesn't mean anything'*. But shortly later the same art critic came across one of Locky's more famous pieces, *'Gas Cooker on a Landrover'*. It resulted from an actual incident when a cooker was indeed thrown from Rossville Flats at a Landrover. *'Where did you get that idea from',* he interrogated. *'You know where I got it from',* said Locky. *'Well I threw it',* said your man. *'I got a wil' hiddin' that day, I also threw out a sofa, it was my auntie's and she wanted it!'* When ever Locky exhibits now the same man comes up to him to discuss his work.

The funeral of two IRA volunteers, which was attacked by the RUC, proved to have a profound effect on Locky, as on anyone who was there or who saw the TV coverage. After a volley of shots was fired to salute the dead, the RUC battered their way to the coffins and opened up with plastic bullets. The coffins fell to the ground in the panic and people scattered. Locky doesn't mind saying he was really scared. A number of his subsequent works uses the image of the massed RUC landrovers which accompany many funerals in the north.

'Cortege' shows a snake of grey landrovers which measures forty feet. 'Dawn Raid', an isolated house surrounded by circles of landrovers, conveys the feeling of vulnerability during an RUC or British army raid.

Locky so far has never sold his work. But he is considering making little models of his 'Gas Cooker' to sell, in order to raise money for other community projects. Fund raising is something which *'people need to give some serious thought to',* he muses. Ultimately what is needed is a cultural centre where plays and music and exhibitions can be put on which is accessible and which has no strings attached. After this summer's hugely successful 20/20 Vision cultural festival in Derry there is no shortage of material for such a centre.

The 'Ireland-Right to Know' group still has not heard back from Southwark-update next issue!

Cahal McLaughlin

Plastic bullets-victims relatives speak out

Fifteen year old Seamus Duffy was killed on August 9th 1989 by a plastic bullet fired from an RUC landrover. He became the seventeenth victim of plastic and rubber bullets, the eighth child victim. His parents, Brendan and Kathleen Duffy have become active in the United Campaign Against Plastic Bullets. At the beginning of November the Duffys came over to England to picket Astra, a fireworks company involved in the production of plastic bullets. They agreed to an interview with Troops Out.

T.O.: What happened on the night of your son's death.

Mr Duffy: The night he actually got shot, he came in about 7 o'clock to get changed to go out and see the internment bonfires. He came in again about 12 to ask if he was allowed to go and see the bonfire at the New Lodge Road. So he was allowed to go down, him and his mate. They went down to the bonfire and there was rioting. Once the rioting got too heavy he started on his way home. Seamus and the other wee lad were walking up Dawson St. and the wee lad had just turned a corner when he heard a bang. He looked round and Seamus was lying on the ground. At that moment there was an RUC landrover driving past. When they came back again Seamus was lying unconscious. They tried to bring him round. He was carried into a house and a young man tried to resuscitate him. It was no use. It was about fifteen minutes before the ambulance came and took him to hospital. On arrival at the hospital he was dead. At the hospital the RUC started arguing with Kathleen and when I came on the scene an officer put up his gun and said "Would you like to be next?"

T.O.: How did the RUC respond locally to what had happened?

Mr Duffy: The RUC never came near the door, they refused to say where he was shot, or when, or how he was shot. For nearly three days they put out different statements. They said they might not be able to identify the one who actually did it.

T.O.: Has anyone been identified by now, has anyone been charged?

Mr Duffy: No. The investigation has apparently just finished but we haven't heard even yet from the RUC or anyone.

Mrs Duffy: I'd also like to emphasise that there was no talk on the media, there was no comment until the RUC said

there was going to be a full inquiry into the circumstances.

T.O.: Do you have any faith in the inquiry?

Mr Duffy: No faith whatsoever. You just have to look at all the other people that have been killed. Only once, when Sean Downes was killed in front of TV cameras, there was an RUC man charged with that. But he was acquitted and let go. More than likely he's still in the RUC.

Mrs Duffy: What we're waiting on is their excuse. What are they going to come up with this time. Perhaps it was a faulty gun or some other farce they'll come up with.

T.O.: How does the fact that the RUC have plastic bullet guns and there is this sort of thing going on affect parents of youngsters in the area?

Mr Duffy: Take our Seamus, he was the first lad from North Belfast to be shot, and people around that district were very upset. It brought it home to them just what's going on.

Mrs Duffy: They're more aware now. The RUC always have them at the ready. A foot patrol always has plastic bullet guns with them. People now know what they use them for.

T.O.: Are you pursuing any other means of bringing the killer to justice?

Mr Duffy: We have put it in the hands of a solicitor. We have to wait for the outcome of the RUC inquiry. Then we can go after our own.

Mrs Duffy: The United Campaign Against Plastic Bullets can't do anything with it either, until the outcome of the inquiry.

T.O.: How did the United Campaign Against Plastic Bullets get started?

Mrs Duffy: It came about after Sean Downes was killed. But before that Emma Groves had been doing an enormous amount of campaigning. She

was blinded by a rubber bullet 18 years ago when she was simply standing in her kitchen and a soldier fired through the window. But after Sean Downes a group of relatives of the victims, of those injured as well as those killed, decided to get together to do everything they can to put an end to these bullets.

T.O.: A lot of people over here probably think that plastic bullets are only used as a last resort, when soldiers lives are in danger and that as such they are preferable to lead bullets. Do you think that is the case?

Mr Duffy: The RUC and the British army use these weapons for their own pleasure. Even if you're standing at the corner of a road they'll shoot at you, for pure badness. All they have to do to justify it is say that there were stones thrown.

That covers them whatever they're doing. The 'rules' say that they're meant to aim them below the waist, from a range of not less than 20 yards, and only if they are in mortal danger.

Mrs Duffy: Regarding the 17 deaths, every one of them died after being hit in either the head or chest. So much for the regulations! Not at all.

Mr Duffy: If they are supposed to use their 'rules' how is it that they're firing them out of wee slits in the side of a moving landrover. They just point them out into the crowd and hope they hit somebody.

Mrs Duffy: They're used indiscriminately.

T.O: You came over to draw attention to the fact that Astra, a fireworks manufacturer, also makes plastic bullets. Do you think your trip has been a success?

Mr Duffy: Looking at the publicity we've got, the interviews in the papers and on radio, the interest at the press conference, as well as the leafletting at



Kathleen and Brendan Duffy at the press conference.

the picket, yes, I think it's been very successful. Astra themselves know we're here. They refused to see us and have tried to deny they make plastic bullets. They've been forced to do this by the publicity and it isn't true.

T.O.: What kind of support would you like to see for your campaign from people over here?

Mr Duffy: Well the support of the Troops Out Movement has been fantastic. Last night at the picket I think the public really took interest. They stopped, they were reading the poster, taking the leaflets. I saw bus drivers stop to read the placards. I think that shows there's a lot of interest to build support on.

Mrs Duffy: Obviously we want people to campaign against Astra and against plastic bullets wherever they are used. We don't want to see plastic bullet guns on the streets in England. They've been out at Notting Hill and Broadwater Farm. They're carrying them as a threat, but how long is it going to be before it becomes more than a threat and another life is lost. Shout out now before it's too late, for your own good.

A plastic bullet is four inches long, about 1½ inches thick and cylinder shaped. The best way to describe the weight is that it is about the same as a cricket ball. We ask people to tap a bullet that we have, lightly against their head and feel what it is like with a slight tap. Then you can imagine the damage it does when it's travelling at 170mph.

Kathleen Duffy

Harassment

On their arrival at Luton Airport, Brendan and Kathleen Duffy were picked out from the 40 other passengers and detained under the 'Prevention of Terrorism Act'. They were held for over an hour, during which time they were asked a variety of questions about their visit. The police appeared to already know more about it than the Duffys, as they promptly told them the name of the person meeting them, and that he was from the Troops

Out Movement. The police insisted that they fill out a PTA form stating the purpose and nature of their visit, before releasing them.

The Troops Out Movement has condemned their detention as an act of routine harassment and intimidation, pointing out that at no time were the Duffys asked any questions relating to an alleged offence.

Irish economy, British war

Britain's objectives in maintaining a presence in Ireland are complex, despite the claims about the so-called democratic rights of the Unionist community, it is a combination of economic and strategic interests that motivates the British State. In the first of a new series, Andy Buck examines Britain's occupation and partition of Ireland from an economic perspective.

The nineteenth century saw England become the dominant world power. The industrial revolution and development of mass rapid transport created the possibility of a world economy. England exploited this possibility ruthlessly. The nations of South America, Africa and Asia became subject economies, with consequences that remain all too apparent today.

Despite its geographical proximity to England, and the supposed union between the two countries, Ireland was also made subject to England's demands. Ireland became the source of raw materials for the English economic boom - natural resources, food and cheap labour all flowed across the Irish Sea. The profits from Ireland's predominantly agrarian economy were also drained away via rents and tithes to support investment in England. The profits from Ireland's manufacturing industry similarly disappeared. The Irish peasant and working class was exploited when it suited English capitalists and left to rot as the economy demanded, a fact best illustrated by the Irish Famine (as the English called it) or Great Starvation (as the Irish knew it).

In 1845, 46 and 47 the Irish potato crop failed. The consequence for the peasant population was death from hunger and cholera. And yet, as the Irish died in their thousands, agricultural produce - grain, cattle and dairy products - continued to be exported en masse to feed the English. If just one half of these exports had been diverted to feed the peasants they would have lived.

The deliberate stagnation of the Irish economy had one exception - Belfast. England's interests in Ireland were not simply dependent on oppressing the native population, they also required the nurturing of the planter population which was largely located in the north east of the island. Belfast had inevitably developed an industrial base. Its port and proximity to England saw to this. However, English capital was deliberately injected to assist this development in a manner which the *laissez faire* strategy imposed on the rest of Ireland would not allow. The harbour was converted so that its use was not determined by the tides, and the ship building industry encouraged. The Protestant working class was bought off and the power of their trade unions assuaged.

The differential development of the Irish economy thus took root. And, whilst the industrial economy of Belfast would suffer more seriously from economic depression than the economies of similar cities in Britain, the division between the relatively prosperous



north east and impoverished remainder of Ireland was sustained into the twentieth century.

Independence

The demands for an independent Ireland saw several uprisings during the 1800s. The Home Rule League was established in 1872 as an alliance of militant Fenians, Catholics and Protestants, and political opinion of all shades united in a common demand. Disruptive tactics on the part of Home Rulers in the Westminster Parliament, the founding of the Land League in 1879 to oppose the oppressive land laws, and the dormant but nonetheless well understood commitment of many activists to armed struggle, saw the Irish question remain at the centre of English politics for many years to come.

Home Rule would have opened many possibilities for the Irish people. For English capitalists and landlords with interest in Ireland it threatened but one thing: their control over the Irish economy. Ireland governed by the Irish could have seen the removal of the laws which propped up the English interest, and might have prompted the rising of the peasant and working class to demand a more fundamental liberation.

Home Rule was never introduced despite the introduction of a succession of Home Rule Bills by Liberal governments. As Parliamentary campaigning assumed a dominant place within the Nationalist Party (which inherited the demands of the Home Rule League), militant nationalists looked elsewhere for opportunities to press home their demands. Various organisations took up

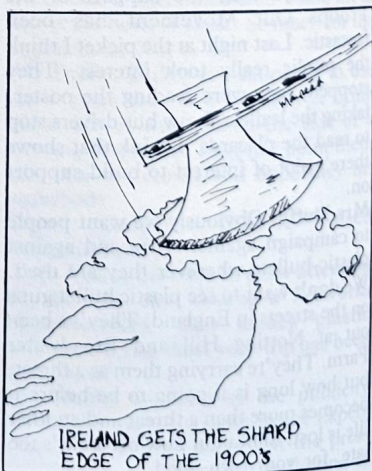
the mantle of struggle for independence. The early years of the twentieth century saw Sinn Féin emerge, first as a movement, then as a fully fledged political organisation.

Working class

The struggles of the industrial working class, focussed inevitably in Belfast and Dublin, also saw the emergence of militant organisations. In 1896 James Connolly had founded the Irish Socialist Republican Party. Connolly also played a key role in revitalising the trade unions.

Industrial war broke out in Dublin in 1913. Workers were locked out unless they agreed to sign away any plans to continue supporting the trade unions. Demonstrations were met with police batons, leaders were gaoled, and, in Belfast, the Orange Order was active in opposing the workers. As the workers slowly starved British workers were urged to boycott all scab products. The Westminster government came under increasing pressure to release gaoled leaders and control the excesses of the employers. In Dublin Connolly urged workers to take up arms with the newly founded Citizen Army. The strength and determination of the workers saw the lock out end if not in victory, then certainly not in defeat.

Whilst the industrial struggle was waged the Liberal government introduced the third Home Rule Bill. The interests of the capitalists and landowners were suddenly confronted by a second threat. The opposition to Home rule was based mainly in north east of Ireland. 500,000 people (many of them coerced by their employers and landlords) signed a covenant pledging resistance to Home Rule. The opposition forces were then organised into a bigoted anti-Catholic force of volunteers, the UVF. There followed a declaration of a Provisional Government for the north eastern six counties of Ireland. Three of Ulster's nine counties were to be abandoned.



The possibility of partition was mooted as a result of the Home Rule threat, but the determination to retain the loyalist/Protestant ascendancy was motivated by the desire to maintain minority economic privilege in at least part of Ireland.

The declaration of war in 1914 put an end to the immediate threat of Home Rule. In Ireland the pro-Home Rule Irish Volunteers were committed by their leader to supporting the war effort. James Connolly and the Citizen Army had a different view of the war, and in 1916 seized the opportunity it presented to stage the Easter Uprising. Doomed before it started, the rising was put down and its leaders executed. Nevertheless it fuelled the demand for an independent Ireland at a crucial point. Two years later Sinn Féin won 73 of 105 parliamentary seats. In January 1919 the first Dail Eireann was declared in Dublin, and the IRA was formed and launched into action to demand independence.

Partition

In 1921 the struggle for a republic was defeated when a delegation from the Dail signed a treaty which provided for the permanent partition of Ireland into the Free State and the six county statelet of Northern Ireland. The anti-treaty forces waged a civil war but this too ended without success in 1923.

Northern Ireland was from the outset of gerrymandered statelet which had no political or economic integrity. The industrial core of Ireland - Belfast - was severed from its hinterland. Whilst the whole of Ireland was economically retarded, the 26 county Free State was left with an economy which could be barely recognised by European standards.

In 1989 the economy of the Republic (as the Free State became in 1948) remains seriously under-developed. Its foreign debt represents 50% of the annual gross domestic product, and is proportionately three times that of Mexico and Brazil. The economy remains relatively dependent on agriculture, which together with forestry and fishing contributed 9.8% of the gross domestic product in 1985, compared with 4.3% in Northern Ireland and 1.8% in the United Kingdom. Emigration has escalated over recent years - 50,000 are expected to leave in 1990.

Whilst the Republic's economy has shown some signs of revival with a growth rate of 6%, the benefits to the Irish people, and to the working class in particular, are minimal. Profits are creamed off for re-investment elsewhere by multi-nationals. Unemployment remains high (it was 18.3% in 1986, compared with 12.1% in Britain). Over one third of the population are dependent on state benefits.

Whilst the economy of a united Ireland would remain subject to considerable external pressure, and would not necessarily see the material condition of the working class

improved, the possibility of a progressive, developing socialist economy would exist.

The North

The economy of Northern Ireland has been similarly retarded by partition, although the greater integration of the North's economy with that of Britain has produced different effects. Northern Ireland is the United Kingdom's most depressed 'region'. In October 1988 unemployment was 17.9%, compared with 8.6% for the U.K. The industrial crisis of the 1970s gripped the North in a spiral of decline. Between 1974 and 1985 manufacturing employment fell by 40%, and continues to fall. Output has also fallen, by 17% between 1973 and 1985.

An overview of the North's economy therefore sees it marked by decline. A more detailed examination shows that the burden of the decline has fallen on the Catholic, nationalist population. Unemployment statistics reveal this discrimination at its starkest. In 1983/4 it stood at 24% (UK average 14%). Amongst Catholics average unemployment was 35%. Amongst Protestants it was 15%. In nationalist West Belfast, the unemployment rate was well over 50% in some wards, rising to over 80% in the heart of the ghettos. The highest rate in a predominantly Protestant Belfast ward was 27.6%, in Shankill.

Discrimination in employment is a product of anti-Catholic prejudice on the part of employers, most of whom are Protestant. However, it has been perpetuated by Government policies regarding the location and subsidising of industry. Government plans to direct investment away from Belfast in the late 1960s saw Protestant towns such as Antrim, Ballymena and Lurgan benefit, whilst the majority Catholic towns of Derry

and Strabane were ignored.

Industries which employ Protestants to the virtual exclusion of Catholics have been persistently propped up by Government subsidy but have not been required to alter their employment practice. Shipbuilders Harland and Wolff has a mere 5% of Catholics amongst its 11,000 strong workforce. Since 1975, when it was taken into public ownership, the firm has cost the taxpayer £500m. The Government does not invest such huge sums to support Catholic employment, and turns a blind eye to blatantly sectarian employment practices at the firms it does subsidise.

Sharp end

A united, independent Ireland would have struggled to survive economically. Its peripheral geographical location and the vicious economic strategies of its neighbours would have made economic development difficult. Yet partition has seen Ireland north and south plunged into economic crisis unparalleled in Europe. On the sharp end of this crisis is, of course, the working class, and at the sharpest end the Catholic, nationalist working class of the north.

The war in the north of Ireland is a result of many features of daily life for the nationalist working class, not least of which is their desperate economic poverty. This poverty, a consequence of partition and subsequent state strategy, has been the subject of much government rhetoric. In the next *Troops Out* we will take a closer look at the British government's economic policies for the north of Ireland, and at the new economic possibilities a reunited Ireland would face.

Andy Buck



Birmingham Six - campaign developments

The last few months have seen a renewal of media interest in the case of the Birmingham Six, for the first time since the failure of the Appeal in January 1988. The local media in Birmingham had been covering the West Midlands Police Serious Crimes Squad scandal in some detail before the news of the Guildford Four's release hit the headlines. Since then sporadic pieces of investigative journalism have kept the case of the Birmingham Six in the news, and the Birmingham Six Campaign has been busy responding to requests for information from the media, the general public and many different political and Church organisations.

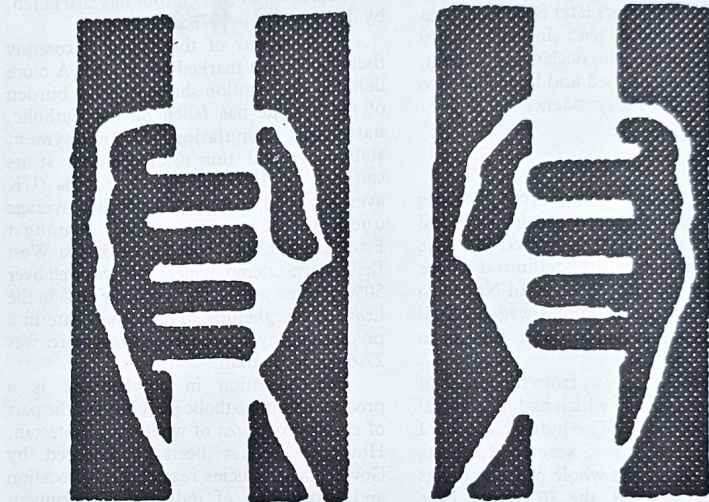
Disbandment of the Serious Crimes Squad August 1989

Not only has the Squad itself been disbanded (29 officers - two of which had been involved in the Birmingham pub bombings investigations), but all those officers within the CID operational command structure, with responsibility for the Squad 1986-88, have also been transferred to "non - operational duties", making a total of 53 officers in all. We cannot be sure how many of these were involved in the framing of the Six, as the Home Office refuses to release any details. Birmingham University Law Department, supported by local solicitors' firms, have begun an independent investigation into the Squad's activities since 1974. This can be contacted via Clare Short MP, House of Commons, London.

The local press has published appeals from the Campaign to any members of the public, the police force or the prison service, who have evidence that may help the Six, to come forward. The Home Office is still insisting that the case cannot be re-opened without "new evidence", and that there is so far no evidence from the internal police inquiry to suggest that it should begin to look into the Squad's activities prior to 1986.

The release of the Guildford Four

This provided a great boost to the Birmingham Six Campaign, not least because of the Four's determination to fight for the innocent people who remain in prison. It has also encouraged politicians, Church leaders, leader-writers in the National Press, even Lord Denning, to publicly urge the Home Secretary to re-open the case. The new Home Secretary, David Waddington, is not renowned for his sensitivity to public opinion, but even he will have to bend, as the Campaign gains momentum.



Other developments

- A report in the Sunday Correspondent (October 22nd) indicated that Bomb Squad Intelligence reports had IRA activities pretty well mapped out in 1975, and that the Guildford Four and the Maguire Seven did not figure in them at all. A world in Action programme on October 30th used the same material to demonstrate that the Birmingham Six were also known to be completely uninvolved in the IRA.
- an ex-prison officer has come forward (report in the Guardian October 25th) to admit his part in the beating of the Six in Winson Green jail and, more importantly, to assert that he saw five of the six men naked, and that they all bore the marks of the severe beating that they had received in police custody. He has since suffered a nervous breakdown, and has chosen to remain anonymous.
- the policeman from Morecambe who arrested five of the Six, Fred Willoughby, has publicly stated his belief in their innocence. He too is now retired. He claims to base his belief on the men's behaviour at the time and hasn't yet volunteered any knowledge of, for example, the vicious beating of Billy Power

at Morecambe police station. His testimony was first reported in the Sunday Correspondent (October 29th), and given another airing on ITN News at Ten, on October 30th.

- a report in the Independent (November 6th) described how the Avon and Somerset police had suppressed a police doctor's statement that he had administered pethidine to Carole Richardson prior to her interrogation. They recommended that the case should not be re-opened in their report to the Home Office in

April 1988. When forced to re-open their inquiries they leaned on the police doctor to retract his statement, and also persuaded witnesses, who had failed to identify Carole Richardson in an identity parade in 1974, to make statements saying that they had recognised her (as the woman in the pub before the bombings) after all.

- Three Birmingham Church leaders - the Bishop of Birmingham, the Catholic Archbishop of Birmingham, and the Chairman of the Free Church department of the Birmingham Council of Christian Churches - publicly appealed to the Home Secretary to re-open the case of the Birmingham Six. (Reported in the National media on November 7th/8th).

Support

A resolution on the case has been tabled in the European Parliament by Christine Crawley, which it is hoped will be debated this month. The behaviour of the British Tory MEPs will be observed with interest (They abstained when the last resolution was passed in 1986).

The NCCL has adopted the case as a matter of urgency and is hoping to liaise with

other human rights organisations to set up an international tribunal to examine the case.

The Campaign's demands

- to call upon the Home Secretary to set up an Independent Review body to examine the case of the Birmingham Six, to effect their release and quash their convictions.
- to call upon the Home Secretary to set up an Independent Public Inquiry into the conduct of the West Midlands Serious Crimes Squad, and to re-open all cases in which the disciplined officers were involved.

What you can do to help

- A petition detailing the above demands is being circulated. (Petition forms available

from the Birmingham Campaign for the Birmingham Six, TUC, 7 Frederick Street, B'ham B1 3HE.

- Public meetings are being organised around the country (details from your nearest group)
- Fund-raising is an urgent priority, as we attempt to produce enough information to meet present demands. Support local benefits or organise your own.
- Affiliate to the Campaign / Subscribe to the National Newsletter.
- Support the Campaign's demands through motions to your TU branches etc.
- Help us to maintain the pressure on the Home Secretary by writing to him directly, or through your MP.

More Information

Affiliations to the Campaign should be directed to the National Secretary, c/o of the Birmingham Campaign address. Information about your nearest group can also be obtained from the National Secretary.

A comprehensive information pack, recently up-dated, is available from the Sheffield Campaign for the Birmingham Six, c/o Osborn House, 138 Burngreave Road, Sheffield 3. Price £1.00 + p & p. Subscriptions to the National newsletter should be sent to the same address. (£1.00 per annum). All these prices are cost, so donations welcome.

Badges, postcards, posters etc are available from most Campaign groups.

Birmingham Six Campaign

Birmingham Six - A personal view

A month ago, the Guildford Four and their solicitors were preparing for a long struggle in the Appeal Court, the success of which was by no means assured. In the Birmingham Six Campaign, we were more prepared for the failure of the Guildford Four's Appeal than for its success.

In the initial surprise and euphoria surrounding their release, a rather benevolent interpretation of events gained currency: by a "stroke of luck" fearless Stalker clones in the Avon and Somerset police force had, after months of fruitless searching, at last discovered the truth about the Guildford Four's convictions, had rushed to the DPP who, overcome with horror, had informed the Home Secretary that he could no longer press the case for the prosecution. This new evidence had come like a bolt from the blue; if it hadn't been for the integrity of the Avon and Somerset officers, the Guildford Four would still be languishing in prison - and even Paul Hill felt moved to thank the investigating officers for their efforts on the Guildford Four's behalf.

It is now becoming increasingly obvious what a load of rubbish all this was: the Avon and Somerset police inquiry had spent most of their time suppressing evidence of the Guildford Four's innocence and manufacturing evidence of their guilt in order to facilitate what threatened to become a re-prosecution in the Appeal Court. The "crucial" evidence that secured their release had been sat on by somebody for the last six months - during which time the prosecution was probably wondering whether it could get away continuing with its own grubby case.

This is not as fanciful as it sounds when you remember what happened to the Reade schedule - a similar record of police falsification and perjury - in the Birmingham Six Appeal. The Six's solicitors could not believe their luck when it was passed to them, but the prosecution merely asserted that there must be an innocent explanation for its existence, though they couldn't quite put their finger on what it was. The Appeal judges

listened to the prosecution lose every argument on that occasion yet still rejected the Appeal, in front of an international audience of government observers, legal experts and Church leaders. They could be counted on to do the same for the Guildford Four, but they weren't given the chance: the DPP threw in the towel and the judiciary had no option but to quash the Four's convictions, albeit with spectacular gracelessness.

So why were the Four released? Possibly the stench seeping under the door of the new DPP's office had become too much for him, but the determination with which the Home Office is now battering down the hatches on other cases doesn't indicate unduly fastidious nostrils. The answer, of course, is that the Guildford Four Campaign had finally won the support of a) the Church and Liberal wing of the "Establishment" in this country, and b) an impressive body of opinion abroad. Government needs the acquiescence of all the Establishment to stay in power, and it was becoming obvious that this section would not let them get away with staging yet another farcical Appeal hearing. And every time the British Government mouthed off about human rights in other countries, the cases of the Guildford Four and the Birmingham Six were thrown back at them. Political expediency now dictated that the Guildford Four should be released, just as it had previously dictated that they should be framed and imprisoned for fifteen years.

So of course it is only a matter of time before the same forces bring about the release of the Birmingham Six. The Campaign for their release, though still supported abroad, has had greater difficulty winning over establishment figures in this country since the failure of the Appeal, precisely because of the weight attributed to the Appeal Court verdict. The Home Secretary has relied heavily on this (and on the length of the Hearing) when silencing critics in his own party, or when replying to concerned letters from those senior Churchmen who have written to him in the last few months. However, the signs

are that some members of the Establishment are finally overcoming their timidity in this respect, and are beginning to recognise the spurious nature of the whole Appeal hearing. Armed with the revelations concerning the antics of the West Midlands Serious Crimes Squad, and encouraged by the release of the Guildford Four, they have begun to speak out, and soon we will force the Government to re-open the case of the Birmingham Six.

Those people who are aware of the wider implications of these cases may well be disappointed that so many issues have still not been properly aired: the terrorisation of the Irish community here for the last fifteen years, the racism in this country, the daily injustices perpetrated in British and Irish courts as a direct result of the war in Ireland. However, some comfort may be gleaned from the fact that it was this tiny slice of the left - both here and in Ireland - who first responded to the desperate families and their immediate supporters, and joined with Irish organisations here to keep the cases alive for many years, before the braver sections of the media took them up.

And the same people, from Irish organisations and the non-sectarian left, have buried their differences with individuals from established Churches and from the political right, to help found the broadly-based Birmingham Six Campaign. Our task, since the failure of the Appeal in 1988, has been to pump out the information that will give Establishment figures the confidence to speak out, and the general public the understanding to accept what they are saying. We know that the facts speak for themselves, irrespective of our individual politics, but we also know that our common purpose gives those facts more weight.

I hope that one day the same facts will inform a much wider debate. But the pressing concern of all those involved in the frame-up Campaigns is the release and exoneration of the innocent so that they too, if they so wish, will be free to take part. A member of the Birmingham Six Campaign

British complicity in persecution of Kurds

More than three thousand Kurdish refugees have arrived in Britain since May 1989, fleeing persecution in Turkey. They have been subjected to barbaric treatment by the British state and accused of being 'Economic Refugees' not 'Genuine Refugees'. In protest at his proposed deportation Şiho İyigüven committed suicide by burning in October this year. Here, in order to show how groundless the Home Office arguments are, is a brief summary of what has actually been happening in North Kurdistan.

Kurdistan is the homeland of 20 million Kurdish people which is divided between Iran, Iraq, Syria and Turkey. About ten million Kurds live in North Kurdistan, which forms the south-eastern and less developed part of Turkey. In North Kurdistan, the Turkish state has always been represented by a huge military force but not with any state services. Feudal landlords rule over peasants who usually live in big families and tribes. Nothing has been done for an agrarian reform for poor Kurdish peasants; instead Turkish troops have been bodyguards ensuring the survival of this extreme exploitation and corrupt order.

The existence of a Kurdish minority has never been officially recognised, even the right to a separate cultural identity is denied, to the extent that it is a criminal offence to speak their own language for these people. Some Kurdish are Alavis, an unofficial sect of Islam which often contradicts main current Islam. Because of that they have always been treated like enemies by the official Islam believers and have even been the target of religion inspired attacks. In 1978, Turkish and US secret services in co-operation with fascist activists provoked a massive massacre of Alavi Kurds in Maraş, a Kurdish province. Hundreds were killed and thousands had to flee to west Anatolia and Europe.

Many popular uprisings in North Kurdistan were suppressed with genocidal brutality. After the 1938 Dersim uprising and subsequent massacre, many of the surviving population were forcibly resettled all over Anatolia (central Turkey). In the cities Kurds are at the bottom of the social ladder, living in illegal slums and ghettos. These are regularly bulldozed by the Turkish government.

In the 1970s, when the level of political activity was high all around Turkey, many Kurdish activist took part in socialist struggle and also formed specifically Kurdish organisations. Various Kurdish groups or Kurdistan sections of Turkish organisations have been involved in armed struggle in North Kurdistan against the Turkish troops and feudal landlords.

In September 1980 a right-wing military coup took place under General Kenan Evren. Tens of thousands of arrests followed, with most political prisoners tortured and hundreds executed. The results of the coup were even worse in North Kurdistan. Diyarbakir prison became one of the most infamous centres of mass torture, particularly of Kurdish political prisoners. Some were tortured to death, some even faced firing squads without any conviction. These conditions have been fought with hunger strikes and riots in prisons ever since.

In August 1984 the PKK (Kurdish Workers' Party) launched an armed struggle against the Turkish troops. Since then, the security forces have been engaged in counter-insurgency operations. In fact, these operations are an extreme harassment and intimidation of civilians; every single Kurdish village has been raided by troops and all the houses searched. They usually beat up all village inhabitants including women and children, claiming that "they help Kurdish guerillas or they may do because they are Kurds". Male inhabitants are taken to the nearest police station and tortured there.

The government attempts to arm members of particular tribes and villages in order to create a paramilitary force called 'Village Protectors' against the PKK.



People who refuse are tortured and killed by the security forces. Killings and torture of PKK guerillas and their supposed supporters are standard practice, as are other communal punishments, such as the incident last summer when a whole village was forced to eat human excrement. Thousand of Kurds have been detained. However, there are no clear records of the results of this persecution since there is a strict media ban on news covering East Anatolia.

In September 1989 almost the whole population of the Silopi district rose up in protest at the murder of six of their young people on their way to market. Though this protest was brutally put down, it was also the first mass response to the increasing genocide. However, the Silopi uprising may also be used to justify future chemical warfare, which has been openly threatened by the security forces.

I have attempted to concentrate on the effects of the 'Kurdish Question' on civilians in North Kurdistan. I think this information is sufficient to claim that any Kurd fleeing Turkey has suffered more than enough to be accepted as a political refugee. Moreover, most of the Kurds refugees declare that either they or their close relatives are political activists, and because of this they were subjected to torture and ill-treatment in Turkey. The horrific facts of what happens to a political activist if caught by the torturers have been documented by Amnesty International.

However, the Home Office has refused to accept the political status of Kurdish refugees. Some have been interviewed on aeroplanes and sent immediately

back to Turkey. Other have been harassed and intimidated and even beaten by racist British police and immigration officers, or further intimidated by using pro-Turkish government interpreters in official interviews. The government has introduced a visa restriction for Turkish citizens preventing further movement. Consequently, hundreds of refugees were locked in prisons and detention centres as if they were criminals. Next, the Home Office plans to deport as many refugees as possible. Kurdish refugees have resisted this inhuman treatment by taking part in a series of hunger strikes and sit-ins in prisons and detention centres. Some, like Şiho İyigüven, have attempted suicide when they heard that they were going to be deported.

We don't expect the British government to care about the persecution of Kurdish people in Turkey since it is guilty of the same crime most recently in Ireland. But we have a right to expect the government not to ride rough-shod over agreed international conventions on refugees. We are well aware of Thatcher's complete support for the repressive Turkish regime for the sake of large business contract opportunities in Turkey and the strategic value of the Turkish regime as a useful watchdog in the Middle East. But this clever diplomacy has started bearing bitter fruits within Britain. If the Home Office's maltreatment of Kurdish refugees continues, we will begin to consider the Thatcherite regime directly involved in the genocidal policies of the Turkish government.

Sahin Cengiz

SPUC that!

Abortion is currently illegal in both the Six and Twenty Six Counties of Ireland, but even this does not satisfy anti-abortionists, who are now seeking to tighten the net on women still further. The Society for the Protection of the Unborn Child (SPUC) are again taking members of the Union of Students in Ireland (USI) to court to try to stop them providing information on abortion in their student welfare handbook, which as yet leaves women the expensive option of travelling abroad for an abortion.

In 1986 SPUC took the only two non-directive pregnancy counselling services in Ireland to court and the 'Hamilton Ruling' made it illegal 'to give any information which could lead to a woman procuring an abortion'. As a result Open Line Counselling closed down and the Well Woman Centre continued to function, but with that part of their service curtailed. Suddenly this meant that Student Unions, which have had a pro-choice policy since 1985, were the only organisations willing to give women information on all pregnancy options, including

abortion.

Then last year SPUC took University College Dublin (UCD)'s four sabbatical student union officers to court to try to prevent the publication of UCD's 1988-89 Welfare Manual, which contained information on abortion. UCD won the case on a technicality in the High Court, but SPUC won on appeal in the Supreme Court.

This October SPUC again tried to get an injunction in the High Court to prevent fourteen Student Union officers from distributing publications which

include information on abortion. (Since the students in the 1988 case are no longer sabbatical officers the court decision had not affected future publications). After two days of legal debate in court, with students protesting outside chanting "794700" (the Women's Information Network number), the students gained an unexpected victory. Once again, though, SPUC are pursuing the case to the Supreme Court. Their appeal is due to be heard on 28th November, and the most likely result is that judgement will be reserved, so delaying the decision for a few months.

In the meantime students are

taking the opportunity to raise the issue in colleges throughout the 26 Counties. A referendum is being held in all Student Unions and the first of these has already been won. The case has also been referred to the European Court of Human Rights, which will make a decision in terms of what right there is to give out information on services available in other member states. This will be in about 18 months' time. And, most importantly, women can at the moment continue to get the information they so desperately need if their lives and bodies are to be in any sense their own.



Student leaders at press conference after High Court ruling

Women in Pursuit of Freedom - Sinn Fein women's conference

On September 16th over 100 women from all over Ireland attended Sinn Fein Women's Department's second annual conference. The conference, held in Dublin, had as its theme 'Women in Pursuit of Freedom - Twenty Years On'.

In the opening session three women spoke of their experience of repression, both overt and silent - from the constant harassment of the crown forces to sectarian harassment by loyalist gangs. Lily Campbell spoke of the terror of people in West Belfast who are legally obliged to give names and addresses when stopped by the British army, RUC and UDR. These details have to be given in full knowledge that they are likely to be passed on to loyalist killer gangs. Sally McCaffrey spoke of being forced to leave five homes because of repeated sectarian threats and intimidation.

In the discussion which followed many contributors stressed how little women in the 26 Counties know of life in the North and the need for educational exchange visits to counteract the effects of the censorship which ensures that the

only view heard is a pro-British one.

In the second 'The Politics of Profit' Terry Moore (Sinn Fein) and Eleanor Lambe (Valley Protection Campaign) gave a comprehensive account of Ireland's development as a pollution and tax-haven. Both speakers pointed to the fact that Partition had left us with two statelets, neither of which can survive economically in their own right and, therefore, rely on international capital to survive. This is particularly obvious in the 26 Counties where the history of non-industrialization by the British has left a statelet wide open to exploitation by international capital. Its attraction for multinationals are high productivity, cheap labour and little or no environmental safety controls.

Following lunch the first session was entitled 'Women Divided The Price of Partition'. Mairead Keane, Anne Speed and Bernadette McAlliskey addressed the social, economic and political consequences of Partition, particularly focusing on the consequences for women who bear the brunt of the poverty that has its roots in the partition of our

Country. The failure of the Womens Movement to develop in Ireland is closely related to its failure to recognise the centrality of partition in our oppression. Bernadette McAlliskey observed that some parts of the Womens Movement in the 26 Counties have fallen in to the trap of perceiving some of the legislative rights women have in the 6 Counties as being to be envied. This feeds in to the distortion that the main thing wrong with the 26 County State is that it 'left' the Empire. These prejudices have contributed to the Womens Movement in the 26 Counties avoiding the issue of Partition and being reluctant to involve women from the 6 Counties in campaigns. All speakers agreed on the need to build a womens struggle on a 32 County basis.

In the fourth session on P.O.W.s, a message was read to the meeting from the women republican prisoners in Maghaberry. The message outlined the womens conviction in building a united, socialist Ireland where men and women are equal. The prisoners laid out three issues they wished to see promoted: extradition, the

campaign for release dates for prisoners serving life sentences and the repatriation of Irish POWs serving time in English jails.

An ex prisoner spoke of life in Maghaberry - of the pettiness of the prison officers, the continuing strip-searching and censorship. Jackie Burke, whose son was born in Maghaberry, told of how, what should have been a joyful occasion, was made traumatic by the vindictiveness of the prison authorities. Jackie was left on her own overnight vomiting and in labour before being taken to the hospital. Despite the fact that Maghaberry has the most sophisticated security system in Europe, Jackie's baby was strip-searched at the age of 8 months. Despite the harassment, despite the vindictiveness, despite the pettiness of the prison system which sets out to break them, Jackie said 'We end up much stronger'.

In the final session Dodie McGuinness and Lily Fitzsimons, Sinn Fein councillors in the 6 Counties spoke of the need for women to become more involved in community politics and the need for women to push 'ourselves' forward.

Events

Guildford Four Freedom party

Camden Bidborough Centre,
Bidborough Street, WC1
Entertainment from:
Jacket Potatoes,
Maire Clerkins
Irish dancers and special
guests
£3 waged £2 unwaged

Thursday 7th December

Organised by Irish in Islington
Project & Free the Guildford Four
Campaign

Bloody Sunday march fundraiser

JACKET POTATOES
Unity Club, Dalston Lane E8
£3.70 waged, £2.20
unwaged

Tuesday 12th December

Organised by CBW1

Exhibition for hire

"IRELAND IN STRUGGLE"

A striking look at Ireland's
800 years of struggle for
independence. Photos,
maps, cartoons and text

From Redditch TOM.
Telephone 0527 41830

Connolly Association Social

JACKET POTATOES
Adm: £3 waged £2 unwaged
8 til late
Old White Horse, Brixton Rd.

Thursday 21st December

The Kilburn branch of
the Troops Out
Movement has been
dissolved and is to be
replaced by a new West
London branch shortly.

**A subscription for
'Troops Out'
costs less than it is worth**

Paul Hill - surviving solitary

While being held in Wormwood Scrubs in 1987 Paul Hill met with the poet Ken Smith, a 'Writer in Residence' at the prison. Smith subsequently published 'Inside Time', a collection of writings by prisoners. Smith, convinced of Hill's innocence, included a chapter on the Guildford Four case and a substantial contribution from Hill himself. We reprint below an extract describing the experience of solitary confinement. Paul Hill's nightmare is over, but the Birmingham Six and the Irish political prisoners in English jails are still waiting.

In thirteen years in prison I have been moved a total of, I believe, 44-45 times. I've been moved between prisons as follows: - Winchester, Brixton, Belfast Wandsworth, Bristol, Albany, Bristol, Hull, Durham, Hull, Leicester, Leeds, Long Lartin, Gartree, Wandsworth, Gartree, Exeter, Winchester, Wakefield, Albany, Wandsworth, Winchester, Parkhurst, Canterbury, Parkhurst, Wormwood Scrubs, Albany, Canterbury, Albany, Winchester, Albany, Parkhurst, Manchester, Wormwood Scrubs, Manchester, Wormwood Scrubs, Manchester, Gartree, Liverpool, Gartree, Lincoln, Hull, Wormwood Scrubs, and Long Lartin.

I've spent a total of around 1500 days in solitary confinement, the vast majority of which has been for good order and discipline, which basically in itself is not any offence. When I say it's not an offence it's not one which is punishable by the prison discipline system. I'm just removed from a prison, no warning given whatsoever, and moved hundreds of miles to another prison, sometimes on the day of a visit. The vast bulk of my solitary confinement has been for no reason whatsoever, though I have spent periods in solitary confinement for actual offences against discipline. I have sometimes been removed from prisons on my way to gymnasium, on my way to exercise, on my way to labour, which meant that I've had nothing at all with me; I've had no radio, writing materials, a pen, tobacco, books, nothing whatsoever. So when I'm taken to another prison I'm in solitary confinement and I basically have nothing apart from what I stand up in. And the bed's removed and all that I have for 23 hours a day is a po, a basin, a cup, a plastic knife, fork and spoon, a soup

*"My mind is free, but
the minds of my keepers
are in chains."*

bowl, and a water jug. Total silence. Obviously I'm in a punishment block, and almost all the time I'm lodged in the strong-box, which is a cell with double doors, a low bed which is a large raised platform about 6" off the ground which is concrete, upon which my mattress is placed. My mattress is removed in the morning about 7 o'clock and given back to me at night at 8 o'clock. So apart from the yard that I have exercise in, I sit in the corner all day or I pace the cell. When one's held in solitary confinement in a local prison they say that we're under the authority of the Board of Visitors in that prison. Now I've been visited by the BOV in some of these prisons, and I've asked the BOV that came up to my cell door why I was in solitary confinement, why I had been removed from my last prison, how long I was likely to be in solitary confinement, and the response I've had every single time is they turn to the prison officer who's there and they ask the prison officer what am I doing there. The prison officer says I'm here on good order and discipline, and they say to me they know nothing about it, which is totally absurd, seeing they are the watchdog committee as it were, responsible for my well-being in that prison.

I've been assaulted on several occasions in prison, three times pretty severely. I was assaulted in Hull prison, in the aftermath of the Hull disturbance in 1976, when I was forced to run a gauntlet of prison officers from my cell while collecting my breakfast, and I was beaten back along the same gauntlet. On being removed to another prison I was beaten

down a flight of stairs and placed in a cell. I was removed to yet another prison, where I had a period of constraint, where I was lodged in the strong-box, naked, with a body belt. A body belt consists of a broad leather belt round the waist about 4" broad with handcuffs either side, and a padlock on the front. This was kept on for a considerable period, several days, during which my food was just pushed into my cell and I had to lie sideways on the floor and eat off a dish. This wasn't removed even when I went to the toilet, which made my toilet physically impossible.

I have great difficulty attempting to describe what solitary confinement means to the person it affects. Its effect on me has basically been to make me totally hyperactive. I suffer from nervous energy, and after long bouts in solitary confinement I find it increasingly hard to engage in conversation. I know what the person's saying but it just goes in one ear and out the other ear. I listen to a conversation for about ten or fifteen minutes and I suddenly realize I haven't understood a thing the person has said. Solitary confinement to me has completely raped my memory in as much as I find it hard to recall instances, and I find it hard to put names to people I should know.

Solitary confinement itself, i.e. being locked in a cell, if that was the only thing, that would perhaps be bearable, but it's made even all the more difficult by the people holding me there. I've gone on exercise in some prisons and I've returned to my cell that night and I've attempted to write a letter and I've found the refill of my pen missing, which basically means I can't write a letter until I get my canteen the following week and I'm able to purchase a pen. I've spent periods of between a month, two months, three months, where I haven't even entered into conversation with anyone apart from asking for my weekly letter or a VO.

I view solitary confinement as an attempt to destroy me mentally and psychologically, so if ever the time comes when we're exonerated and we are released, we will not be in a condition, a lucid condition, that we'll be able to tell things as they were, and explain exactly what happened to us.

Remember the prisoners

Christmas is often a time for family re-unions and celebration. For Irish political prisoners in English jails it is a time of increased isolation and anguish. Readers of *Troops Out* are urged to send cards and greetings to all the prisoners on the list below to let them know they are not forgotten. Make sure to use the full address and the prison number.

Name	Town/County	Prison	Sentence	Number	Birthday
Martina Anderson	Derry	Durham	Life	D25134	16 April
William Armstrong	Belfast	Parkhurst	Life	119085	26 December
Liam Baker	Belfast	Long Lartin	24 yrs	464984	6 September
Eddie Butler	Limerick	Frankland	Life	338637	17 April
Hugh Doherty	Donegal	Long Lartin	Life	338636	7 December
Vincent Donnelly	Tyrone	Long Lartin	Life	274064	25 September
Brendan Dowd	Kerry	Full Sutton	Life	758662	17 November
Harry Duggan	Clare	Full Sutton	Life	338638	31 October
Noel Gibson	Laois	Frankland	Life	879225	11 December
Patrick Hackett	Tipperary	Parkhurst	20 yrs	342603	20 April
Paul Holmes	Belfast	Frankland	Life	119034	22 June
Paul Kavanagh	Belfast	Full Sutton	Life	L31888	12 August
Brian Keenan	Belfast	Long Lartin	21 yrs	B26380	17 July
Sean Kinsella	Monaghan	Albany	Life	758661	5 November
Ronnie Mc Cartney	Belfast	Gartree	Life	463799	3 September
John Mc Comb	Belfast	Frankland	17 yrs	851715	25 February
Liam Mc Cotter	Belfast	Full Sutton	17 yrs	LB83693	2 January
Gerard Mc Donnell	Belfast	Leicester	Life	B75882	19 December
Michael Mc Kenney	Down	Frankland	16 yrs	L46486	7 February
Patrick Mc Laughlin	Belfast	Leicester	20 yrs	LB83694	2 May
Danny Mc Namee	Armagh	Parkhurst	25 yrs	L48616	29 September
Patrick Magee	Belfast	Leicester	Life	B75881	29 May
Stephen Nordone	Louth	Gartree	Life	758663	2 August
Paul Norney	Belfast	Albany	Life	863532	11 November
Joe O'Connell	Clare	Gartree	Life	338635	15 May
Ella O'Dwyer	Tipperary	Durham	Life	D25135	3 March
Thomas Quigley	Belfast	Full Sutton	Life	B69204	23 July
Liam Quinn	San Francisco	Albany	Life	49930	6 February
Peter Sherry	Tyrone	Parkhurst	Life	B75880	30 June
Natalino Vella	Dublin	Full Sutton	15 yrs	B71644	24 December
Roy Walsh	Belfast	Gartree	Life	119083	1 November

Readers are also urged to send greetings to Peter Jordan, who has been on the receiving end of some particularly harsh treatment recently during a move to another prison.

Peter Jordan, H22338

HMP Full Sutton

As the Guildford Four enjoy their first Christmas in freedom for fifteen years, it is more important than ever that the Birmingham Six are made aware of the support that exists for them on the outside. Send cards and greetings to:

Patrick Hill

Gartree Prison,

Bill Power

Richard McIlkenny

Full Sutton Prison,

Gerry Hunter

John Walker

Hugh Callaghan

Long Lartin Prison,

PRISONS

HMP Parkhurst, Newport Isle of Wight, PO30 5NX
 HMP Albany, Newport Isle of Wight, PO30 5RS
 HMP Long Lartin, South Littleton, Evesham, WORCS WR11 5TZ
 HMP Gartree, Leicester Road, Market Harborough, LEICS LE16 7RP
 HMP Leicester, Walford Road, Leicester, LE2 7AJ
 HMP Frankland, Finchale Avenue, Brasside, Durham DH1 5YD
 HMP Durham, Old Elvet, Durham DH1 3HU
 HMP Maidstone, County Road, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1UZ
 HMP Full Sutton, York YO4 1PS

And also to the Winchester Three

Martina Shanahan P37693

HMP Durham,

John McCann T68272

Finbar Cullen T68273

HMP Frankland,

Reviews

Last night another soldier...

Aly Renwick
Information an Ireland
£3.95

At long last a powerful novel about the war in Northern Ireland has been written that really deals with reality and helps the not so well informed reader to understand why there is conflict in Northern Ireland.



This novel written by an ex-Scottish soldier, Aly Renwick has two main characters, Sorchá, a nationalist working class woman who becomes a member of the Irish Republican Army,

and Billy, a British soldier in a Scottish regiment. The book deals mainly with their experiences from the moment they briefly meet during a riot between Celtic and Ranger fans at Ibrox Park, Glasgow, to a tragic and terrible ending on a Belfast Street.

On the way to that heartbreaking final event we pass through all the prominent events of Northern Ireland's recent history. The Civil Rights marches, internment, Bloody Sunday and the ongoing war between the British army and the Irish Republican Army. One keeps turning the pages to find out what will happen next. The suspense is well maintained throughout. The language used is simple and easy to read. However, this book is definitely not for the faint hearted. The dialogue between soldiers is down to earth and sometimes crude.

One young soldier whom we meet in the book, who is due to go back to the north of Ireland, comes up with a solution to jerk the politicians out of their complacency. He suggests that the next time an army unit was due to go Belfast a bunch of politicians should be sent in their place. "Take a hundred Tories, a hundred Labour and a few of the rest and send them across instead. Give them SLR's and have them out patrolling the Falls. I bet there would be a political solution on the table quicker than you can say Jack Robinson." This is a book Mrs Thatcher should be compelled to read.

Peter Cleary

Waiting for justice

One woman's story:

Martina Shanahan

This compact booklet has been published to mark the first anniversary of the sentencing at Winchester Crown Court of Martina Shanahan, Finbar Cullen and John McCann to twenty five years on charges of conspiracy to murder Tom King and persons unknown. It clearly demonstrates by combining Martin's personal account, through letters to families and friends, of her harrowing treatment whilst at Risley Remand Centre with details of the way in which the "Show Trial" was conducted that; "the only conspiracy pointed to by the evidence was a conspiracy to dispense with the requirements of justice and find them guilty no matter what!"

Its visual format is striking and accessible to those who wish to know more about the 'Winchester Three' but are also concerned with other issues connected to the Irish struggle. For example, political manipulation of the judiciary including the use of jury vetting.

Her moving account of systematic strip searching and solitary confinement is juxtaposed with newspaper headlines of the time. These clearly served to bolster the Conservative Party, (who were at



conference at Brighton) in their argument that extreme measures were necessary in the face of yet another threat to national security.

The booklet also contains information on, for example, the operation of the PTA and the use of strip searching as a means of breaking down resistance. Given that Martina was held for 13 months on remand as a category A prisoner, and denied visits by her sister who became subject to an exclusion order, the salient point is made that; "when you can imprison people for such long periods without trial and restrict the movement of others without charge - who needs internment?"

The stated aim of the booklet is to motivate readers to become involved in the "Winchester Three" and other campaigns and it usefully provides contact addresses. However it also stands as a testament to the courage and fortitude of a young woman who despite continual mental pressures clearly asserts that her character cannot be broken down and that she is 'staying strong'.

Available from: Winchester Three Campaign c/o Grass Roots, 1 Newton St., Manchester 1

LISTEN TO THE NORTH WIND BLOW

The Jacket Potatoes

Cost £5.50 inc. p&p.
Available from T.O.M.

This tape is a lot about potatoes, and likely to give my hamster a heart attack. Let me explain. I used have a cat, but she did not like music and left me. I turned to a hamster called Hilda for solace. She's generally indifferent to music but does like anything by the great Algerian trumpet player Bellemou Messaoud as well as the Jacket Potatoes. When I told Hilda that I hoped to get a copy of 'Listen to the North Wind Blow' she got quite excited and ran around her wheel furiously. But on first hearing the tape

she trebled her speed in excitement and has behaved similarly whenever I have played the tape since. Although I am afraid she will collapse with a heart attack I fully sympathise with her excitement. This new offering from the Jackets is great and illustrates their development as a band over the last three years. All the tunes are powerful many of them written by members of the band.

It's hard to pick out special favourites, but 'The Lonesome Boatman' (written by Bobby Sands) and 'Birmingham, Guildford, Broadwater Farm' are both very strong songs and show the bands ability to promote their politics through entertaining music.

The title song is certainly one of the

best and hopefully will encourage the band to continue writing. Three of the tunes are titled after potatoes of various forms which is plenty to satisfy those of us with a liking for that particular vegetable.

I don't think a recording can ever capture the atmosphere of the Jackets live but this latest is as near as you'll get, so go out and buy it.

This still leaves me with a problem. Hilda. Should I tell her to take it easy and live to a ripe old age or have a blissful short one racing around to the sounds of the Jacket Potatoes?

Oh heck, put it like that and there's really no question. Go for it baby.

Philip An Codhlanh Beag

A subscription for
'Troops Out'
costs less than it is worth

All books/tapes/pamphlets reviewed are available from the Troops Out office

Letters

Dear Troops Out

Following the commotion caused in establishment circles by Mr Peter Brooke's comments on the Government's readiness to talk to Irish republican leaders, much verbiage was subsequently printed in the British press to remind us that Northern Ireland was a normal integral part of Great Britain, and not as claimed by some a 'colony'.

If this is indeed the case then one could assume that the law of the state should apply equally to all parts controlled. However along with regional anomalies such as Scottish Criminal Law procedures, Welsh Sunday drinking habits etc, it would appear that there is no provision to implement the Government's 'fair and progressive' (sic) Poll Tax in N. Ireland. Why?

Given the Government's

predilection for preaching fairness and integration for both Unionists and Nationalists of the province, it should surely not miss such an opportunity to unite all concerned (as seen in Strathclyde) through the rigorous implementation of the Poll Tax. Considering the vast amount of British and Irish taxpayer's money spent on security and policing alone one can only assume that the community charge for these "special services"

would be even higher than Camden, Haringey, or an other non colonial, integral parts of Mrs Thatcher's Britain.

Irish voters in Britain could perhaps bring this anomaly to the attention of their local MP's or the Home Office/Department of the Environment. I think we should be told!

Is mise le meas

T.O'Farrell (Camden IBRG)

One day at a time....

October

4th

A civilian, James Henry Babbington, is shot dead in N. Belfast by the IRA who mistook him for another man they describe as a hit man and intelligence officer of the UDA. Hours later, in a loyalist retaliation, a relative of Sinn Féin councillor Alex Maskey is shot and injured in N. Belfast.

A scandal involving the International Fund for Ireland: £200,000 given to "promote tourism in border areas" ends up as a swimming pool of an exclusive private club in Sligo. It is being picketed by the excluded local people.

5th

There is another meeting of the Anglo-Irish Conference, in London. It lasts eight hours but is inconclusive and both sides admit to a wide gap between them on the subject of the UDR and collusion with loyalists.

More leakage. The *Irish Times* receives a copy of Irish Defence Force codes and addresses of judges in the Republic, sent by the UVF. An inquiry is started within the Garda and Defence Forces. Paisley starts a "Hands Off the UDR" petition.

In the Ormeau Rd area of S. Belfast three homes of Catholics are attacked with petrol bombs.

The Labour Party Conference: a motion calling for British withdrawal from Ireland within the lifetime of the next Labour government is defeated, 5,308,000 against, 600,000 for. It is opposed by the NEC which, in the person of Kevin McNamara, argues for the policy review position of "reunification by consent".

In London several people are arrested under the Prevention of Terrorism Act.

7th

A spate of hijackings and sniper attacks in Belfast is claimed by the RUC to be cover for a planned republican break out of Crumlin Road Prison. The escape does not happen, but some explosives, ammunition and a hand gun are discovered and some prisoners get beaten up.

8th

As a result of the Stevens' investigation, 28 UDR members are arrested by the RUC and questioned. A number of photomontages and ammunition are seized during the raids. Four UDR members are charged with firearm offences.

An RUC superintendent, Alwyn William Harris, is killed by an IRA car bomb in Lisburn, Co. Antrim.

A Sinn Féin councillor, Brendan Curran, is shot and wounded by the UVF near Lurgan.

9th

A building worker, Thomas Gibson, is shot dead in Killea, Co. Derry, by the IRA, who say he was a member of the UVF.

In London, two people held under the PTA since 5th Oct are released; others are still being held.

10th

The Conservative Party conference in Blackpool, the NEC, backed by popular demand from the floor, agrees to the affiliation of the North Down Conservative Association (at present none of the British parliamentary parties has any constituency base in N. Ireland).

In London, a cache of explosives is found on Hampstead Heath; the media

speculate that it belongs to the IRA.

A Report by an International team of lawyers criticises the intimidating atmosphere around the judicial system in the North and the collusion between the Army/RUC and armed loyalists. The team their investigation after the killing of Belfast solicitor Pat Finucane by loyalists in February 1989.

11th

In Dublin, the High Court rejects Spuc's request for an injunction to stop student unions giving information about abortion services in Britain. Instead, the judge refers the case to the European Court in Luxembourg.

12th

In Dublin, the Director of Public Prosecutions rules that there is insufficient evidence to prosecute Father Patrick Ryan on IRA-related charges. In 1988 the British authorities had sought Ryan's extradition from first Belgium and then Ireland; the Attorney General in the Republic had proposed prosecuting him under the Criminal Law Jurisdiction Act; the DPP's decision now clears them.

Five building workers from N. Ireland are arrested under the Prevention of Terrorism Act in Cheltenham, and billed in newspapers as a "Thatcher Bomb Squad". Two days later they are released without charge.

And in London, one of the people held under the PTA since 5th October is charged with possession of explosives. Another is served with an exclusion order and deported to Derry.

13th

Two more of the 28 members of the UDR arrested on 8th October are charged with firearm offences.

14th

And two UDR members are charged with stealing photomontages of alleged "IRA suspects".

15th

A march in Belfast opposing the broadcasting ban is prevented by massed ranks of RUC and British Army from entering the city centre and going to the BBC's headquarters.

18th

Another meeting of the Anglo-Irish Conference is held in Belfast between N. Ireland Secretary Peter Brooke and the Republic's Minister for Foreign Affairs, Gerry Collins. They fail to agree on the precise extent of the rottenness in the UDR barrel, although the British side concedes some tidying up.

A member of the UVF, Robert Metcalfe, is shot dead in Maheraulin, Co. Armagh, by the IRA.

19th

The Guildford Four are released. Patrick Armstrong, Gerard Conlon, Paul Hill and Carmel Richardson served nearly 15 years on charges of which they were innocent. The Court of Appeal in London overturns their convictions on the recommendation of the DPP as new evidence shows that the Surrey police fabricated their "confessions". The Home Secretary announces that there will be a judicial inquiry into their case and that of the Maguire's family and friends arrested, convicted and imprisoned as a direct result of the "confessions".

A marine bandsman dies from injuries caused by the IRA bombing of Deal barracks, in Kent, on 22nd September; he is the eleventh to die.



There are demonstrations and pickets in London, Belfast and other cities in Ireland and Britain against the broadcasting ban, introduced a year ago.

20th

The Belfast Court of Appeal frees on bail Paul Hill, one of the Guildford Four. He had been re-arrested at the Old Bailey after the appeal and flown to Belfast to face a life sentence for the killing of an ex-soldier in Belfast for which he was convicted at the same time as the Guildford bombs trial.

21st

In N. Ireland, the annual conference of the Ulster Unionist Party reaffirms its opposition to the Anglo-Irish Agreement and reflects the traditional pull between the devolution direction and the integration direction.

One member of the RUC is killed and one is injured in Co. Armagh when the IRA blast through their armour-plated car with a heavy duty machine gun.

24th

Amnesty International publishes its annual report: amongst other things it records criticism of the British government about the Birmingham Six, about the SAS killing of unarmed IRA members in Gibraltar and about shoot-to-kill activities in 1982.

26th

A corporal in the RAF and his 6-month baby daughter are shot dead by the IRA near Wildenrath, West Germany.

The International Association of Democratic Lawyers plans to make a submission to the UN Human Rights Commission on behalf of the Birmingham Six, in February.

New security regulations come into force in N. Ireland, following the last Anglo-Irish Conference: all British soldiers serving or having served in N. Ireland, and all UDR members are ordered to return all documents, photomontages etc. within five days, or face prosecution. The ruling does not apply to the RUC.

27th

In Belfast and Lisburn, the homes of two Catholic families are damaged by loyalist petrol bombs.

At Belfast Crown Court, four loyalist are convicted of wounding or murdering a man near Coleraine in August 1988; one of those convicted of wounding is a "former" member of the UDR, who is also convicted of membership of the UVF.

28th

Three of the Guildford Four receive interim compensation payments of £50,000; Paul Hill receives £10,000 pending his appeal. Also, 25 Labour MPs table a motion in the House of Commons calling for all the involved in the original case to be suspended and for Sir Peter Imbert to resign. Imbert was a senior officer in the bomb squad in 1974 and 1975; he then became Assistant Chief Constable of Surrey police; he is now head of the Metropolitan police.

A "peace train" is organised by anti-republicans between Dublin and Belfast, to protest against the IRA's disruption of the service by bombs and bomb hoaxes; about 800 people take part. At the same time local people in border areas of Monaghan, Armagh and Tyrone attempt to reopen roads blocked up by the British Army 15 years ago to suit their "security" and to make life a misery for farmers and the community.

Prison escape plans foiled: in Dublin's Special Criminal Court a man is charged with possession of explosives in connection with an alleged plan to bomb the Bridewell (holding cells) in Dublin and spring a republican prisoner due to appear at an extradition hearing, last June. And in Belfast a man is charged with plotting to escape and with possession of explosives while a remand prisoner in Crumlin Road jail. It is alleged that there was a scheme to free 78 republican prisoners on 7th October. The prisoner claims it is a vindictive prosecution because the original charge for which he was remanded had been dropped.

In the Queen's Honours List, 17 members of the UDR win OBEs, MBEs and such like.

Figures released by the Home Office show that 109 people were arrested under the Prevention of Terrorism Act in the first 9 months of 1989 (the total in 1988 was 170).

November

2nd

The parents of plastic bullet victim Seamus Duffy (aged 14 years) are held under the PTA for some hours on their way to London. They take part in a picket of Astra fireworks, whose subsidiary company makes plastic bullets for the British Army and RUC.

3rd

An unexpected outbreak of honesty by N. Ireland Secretary Peter Brooke. In a broadcast interview he says that it is unlikely that the IRA could be defeated, and that it is conceivable that the British government would negotiate with Sinn Féin in a future scenario that envisaged some economic improvements, devolution and a downturn in the armed struggle.

Gerard Conlon and Paul Hill meet Charles Haughey, the Taoiseach (prime minister) of the Irish Republic. He pledges to "make every possible effort to have the Birmingham Six case resolved."

4/5th

The annual conference of the Social and Democratic Labour Party (SDLP). As usual, its leader John Hume blames the republicans for all the violence and corruption of the legal process. In the brave new world of European unity, he urges unionists to overcome their suspicions of the rest of Ireland and start negotiations.

No more Bloody Sundays

Demonstrate for British withdrawal from Ireland

Saturday 27th January 1990

**Assemble: Hyde Park, Marble Arch
(Marble Arch Tube) 12 noon**

March leaves 1pm sharp.

Rally in Kilburn NW6

Creche available

Support the Irish people's demand for self-determination

I/We would like to sponsor the 1990 Bloody Sunday Demonstration

Name Sponsoring Organisation

Sponsorship enclosed £..... (£5 Individual £15 Local Organisation
£30 National Organisation)

Please send..... Leaflets..... Posters

Please complete and return this form to Committee for a British Withdrawal from Ireland, Box 353, London NW5 4NH.

The CBWI is composed of representatives from the Troops Out Movement, Irish in Britain Representation Group, Black Action, Labour Committee on Ireland, Women & Ireland Network.