

TROOPS OUT OF IRELAND

**TROOPS OUT
NOW**

**SELF
DETERMINATION
FOR THE
IRISH PEOPLE
AS A WHOLE**

Paper of the Troops Out Movement 20p

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MESSAGE OF YOUTH



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THE HARRODS BOMB

On Saturday 17th December, a car bomb exploded outside Harrods in Knightsbridge, London. Six people (3 police and 3 civilians) were killed and several others wounded. A 40 minute warning had been given but police had failed to clear the area. On Sunday evening the IRA Army Council issued a statement claiming responsibility, which regretted the civilian casualties and said the attack had been unauthorised. Later statements have said that this was no attempt to disown or condemn the attack but rather an indication that it was untypical of present IRA strategy.

Reaction to the attack was unnervingly predictable, the chorus being led by Prime Minister Thatcher, who called it a 'crime against Christmas'. The Home Secretary, Leon Brittan, speaking in the House of Commons, called the IRA statement 'utterly contemptible' and 'nauseating hypocrisy'. This stand was widely supported from the Labour benches, dissent being limited to pleas to the government not to outlaw Sinn Fein. The general consensus was a mutual, if hackneyed, expression of determination never to give in to the bombers or concede to terrorist demands.

This chorus of outrage was orchestrated by the British media, who concentrated on the attack to the exclusion of most other 'hard' news for the following week. The extent of this coverage, when compared to reporting of a similar explosion in Ireland or the Lebanon, showed clearly the hypocritical and overtly political nature of the British press. Another aspect of this was shown when the opportunity was again taken to attack any public figure who doesn't subscribe to the government's Irish policy, and condemn them as pro-IRA. Ken Livingstone, for example, condemned the bombing but said he thought such attacks inevitable while the present situation continued in Northern Ireland. He was once again pilloried by the press, and his unpatriotic realism held indirectly responsible for the bomb itself.

News from Ireland

Two Standards of Show Trial

An early victim of the use of informers or "supergrasses" in N. Ireland trials was a certain Charles McCormick. He was charged on the word of an alleged accomplice with murder, armed robbery and a string of lesser offences.

At his trial in April 1982, Judge Murray found that it was "wrong and dangerous" to convict purely on accomplice evidence, without corroboration (independent back-up evidence). There was corroboration for the armed robbery charge, however - a false statement made by McCormick and a note in his diary - and McCormick was sent down for twenty years.

His appeal was heard on January 12th, before Lord Chief Justice Lowry, and resulted in all charges being dropped. McCormick was exonerated and released. Lowry found that the corroborative evidence was weak and insufficient.

Charles McCormick was a sergeant in the RUC Special Branch. His accomplice was allegedly an IRA man who, it had been claimed at the original trial, was both feeding him information and assisting him in his criminal career.

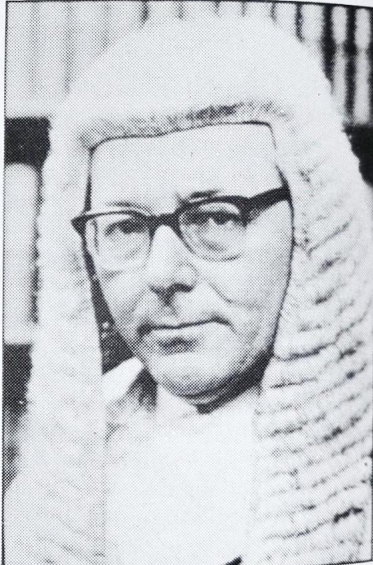
The same Judge Murray who had tried McCormick also presided over the first of the mass "show trials" last year. Then he found fourteen people guilty on the word of loyalist supergrass Joseph Bennett, entirely without corroboration. It should not be forgotten that all these trials are

held without a jury, under Northern Ireland's emergency legislation.

Lord Chief Justice Lowry convicted seven people on the word of supergrass Kevin McGrady. Three of the defendants were convicted on uncorroborated evidence and in the other cases the only additional evidence was some admissions allegedly made during police interrogation which the defendants retracted and the defence sought to have excluded from the trial.

American Indictment

The stink of corruption in these show trials has even reached the United States Congress. A protest was registered there by Representative Norman Lent against the "frightening and intolerable abuse of legal rights" in Britain's "frantic attempts to curb Northern Ireland's Catholics' efforts to win freedom from its oppression".



Lord Chief Justice Sir Robert Lowry, ex-Unionist MP, ex-Attorney General in Stormont 1944-7, Orangeman, ex-British Army Intelligence Officer.

For many Irish nationalists, the only 'nauseating hypocrisy' on display was that of the British media. The sympathy for the victims and the outrage expressed by the newspapers and television could not but be compared with the relative silence surrounding similar tragedies in the Six Counties. Few of the 154 civilian victims of the 'security' forces have made the front pages of the British newspapers. Maybe lives are worth more in the capital than in some corner of the 'United' Kingdom. Seen in this light, it is perhaps inevitable that republicans will occasionally bring the war to Britain, if only to remind the British people that a war is still going on.



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

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

TROOPS OUT NOW

SELF-DETERMINATION FOR THE IRISH PEOPLE AS A WHOLE

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'Security' Force Murderers

In recent months five members of the RUC (police) and at least eight members of the UDR have been charged with murders in the North of Ireland. The Ulster Defence Regiment is the local wing of the British Army.

The most alarming and sinister feature of these cases is that some of the killings were committed in the course of "security" duties, others were committed as acts of unauthorised violence. The distinction between British "law and order" and loyalist sectarianism is totally blurred.

Three members of the RUC have been charged with the murder of Eugene Toman in November 1982. Toman and two others were killed in Armagh when the police — acting in an official capacity — pumped more than fifty bullets into their car. All three were unarmed. Another RUC man has been charged with the murder of Seamus Grew, who died in a similar incident the following month. Again this was an official RUC operation, which at the time was justified and defended by the police authorities.

In December, young Tony Dawson was shot dead in the street in the Catholic area of Short Strand, Belfast. It looked like a sectarian loyalist attack. Days later, a member of the RUC — Thomas Andrews — was arrested and charged with the murder. He had used his own car and police-issue revolver, and had carried out the shooting just yards from the local police station — which, like all police stations, has video cameras around its walls.

Regarding the Ulster Defence Regiment, William Orr and Stephen Watson were convicted on January 11th after pleading guilty to the manslaughter of John McConville in Lurgan last year. They were members of the UDR, but had conveniently resigned from the Force so that they figured in the trial merely as "former members of the UDR". They and a RAF deserter decided one night to "go out and beat up a Catholic".

UDR soldier Geoffrey Edwards has been charged with a horrific series of attacks in Armagh in 1982: the murder of Sinn Féin election worker Peter Corrigan, shooting and wounding Martin Heggarty and Kevin Trainor, planting a booby-trap bomb under Emmett Trainor's car, and shooting and wounding Seamus Grew. They were all unauthorised actions, but the distinction is blurred: three months after the attempt on Seamus Grew, he was killed in the authorised attack mentioned above.

In January, six men including two UDR soldiers and an ex-UDR man were arrested by the RUC in Ballymena, County Antrim. They are being questioned about UVF (a loyalist sectarian group) activities and an arms dump which included 4,000 rounds of ammunition, 10 rifles, 9 handguns, one home-made sub-machine gun and two shot-guns.



Thatcher's Christmas trip to boost morale of her loyal subjects and her military wing includes a visit to UDR barracks at Dromadd, Armagh. It is UDR soldiers based here that have been arrested.

Seven UDR soldiers have been arrested in Armagh and charged with the murder of Adrian Carroll. He was shot dead on November 8th and the killing was claimed by the "Protestant Action Force", apparently a loyalist gang. At the time, Adrian's brother Noel stated "Adrian was always being harassed by the UDR at his work. Just at lunchtime yesterday, shortly before he was shot, they asked him if he'd be there long." He added that the shooting showed a professional touch suggesting that "the Protestant Action Force consists of off-duty members of the crown forces."

And there the matter would have rested, with the allegations dismissed as republican propaganda, had not an Irish Sunday newspaper announced that it would publish an expose of the UDR in Armagh. In the week following the announcement the arrests started.

The Protestant Action Force also claimed the shooting of a Catholic taxi driver in Lurgan (who fortunately survived the attack). Were the UDR responsible for this too? There is certainly evidence of collusion with or knowledge of the "security" situation: until one hour before the attack there were British Army/RUC roadblocks all around the estate.

The Protestant Action Force also claimed the killing of Joseph Craven who was shot dead in North Belfast as he went to sign on the dole. Again, inside knowledge was needed for the attack because Craven's regular singing-on time had recently been changed.

We recognise that most of the accused people have not yet been tried, let alone convicted, but a number of questions need to be put now.

Will the UDR be investigated for various crimes committed in the name of loyalist gangs?

At what point does a killing in the line of duty become a crime of murder? For example, there have been prosecutions for some "shoot to kill" incidents (mentioned above; also of Thomas Reilly, for which a British soldier is facing charges). In other incidents of *precisely the same nature* there have been no charges brought, and no apparent investigation. The SAS undercover squad that ambushed and shot dead two men last December are not, evidently, faced with the threat of criminal charges.

Finally, who among the N. Ireland "security" forces is competent to investigate the killings and bring charges? Consider this: it was the RUC who arrested the UDR soldiers for Adrian Carroll's murder. It was the self-same RUC who shot dead Adrian's brother Roddy Carroll along with Seamus Grew in December 1982. No one is charged with Roddy's murder.

THE HIGH COST OF REPRESSION

The Minister of State for the Armed Forces, John STANLEY, said in a written reply to the Commons in December 1983 that the cost of military operations alone in Northern Ireland for the financial year 1983-84 was estimated at £141 million.

News from Ireland

Vicious Treatment in Custody

At 5am one Monday morning in November, Michael Doran was taken for questioning to Gough Barracks, Armagh by the RUC (police). He was asked about the killing of an RUC man four days earlier.

He was held until the following Sunday. During his time in Gough Barracks the police kicked his legs, hit his neck with karate chops, poured water over his head and turned the heating and air conditioning in his cell off and on during the nights to prevent him sleeping.

When he was finally released, he says that the police threatened to "arrange for a member of the UVF [loyalist gang] to shoot him".

Louise Doran was arrested the day after her husband. She was interrogated every two or three hours until she too was released on Sunday. Michael was shown his wife through a peephole, and could hear detectives shouting at her and her crying. Throughout, obscene sexist abuse and threats were hurled at them both.

In Derry, Anna Moore and Jacqueline Moor - mother and daughter - were also arrested and held by the RUC for seven days. They were questioned about the bombing of the Droppin Well bar back in December 1982.

They were forced to stand to attention and spreadeagled, slapped and pushed around. Anna Moore was pushed to the floor and dragged up by her hair, hit on the head and punched in the back and kidneys. By the end of it she was

bleeding internally. In spite of this, and in spite of the fact that Jacqueline was two months pregnant, a doctor was denied access to see them.

As a result of this brutality, both women signed statements against themselves - statements they withdrew as soon as they could see a solicitor. However, they are still held in Armagh Jail on the bombing charge.

Meanwhile, Anna's sister Eileen McCool was arrested at her father's house. A large party of RUC searched the house while Army checkpoints were set up in the neighbourhood. In fact, the Shantallow area of Derry was saturated with "security" forces. Sean McCool's house, and Eileen's own house, were wrecked by the RUC; two neighbours were hit by rifle bullets; Sean was thrown into an RUC land-rover with her ten-month old baby; Sean and Eileen were made to run the gauntlet of a stone-throwing jeering loyalist mob when they appeared in court. They have since been released.

In Northern Ireland 67% of those arrested under the Prevention of Terrorism Act are held for more than two days, which is supposed to mean that the Home Office is satisfied that there are grounds for extended detention. And yet 88% of those arrested under emergency legislation are released without being charged with anything at all.



Typical results of Army or police house 'search' (Photo: Camerawork Derry)

Discrimination Lives On

Reports published in the last few months by the Fair Employment Agency have shown that massive discrimination against the employment of Catholics continues to operate in the Harland and Wolff shipyards, Shorts Aircraft factory and the Belfast Telegraph (the North's "quality" newspaper).

Their findings are no surprise to the working class of nationalist areas, where there is up to 80% unemployment. The only "growth areas" of the economy which affect them are the prisons, police stations - and leisure centres.

In December, the Fair Employment Agency published the results of their enquiry into the Northern Ireland Civil Service. This report also shows discrimination against Catholics in what is the largest single workforce in the North of Ireland - 23,000. The significance of discrimination in this area is that it means not merely that Catholics have less chance of a job, but also that they are denied any decision-making role in the State, even if they wanted one.

The report shows that in 1973 - at the beginning of Direct Rule from Westminster - Catholics made up 8% of the workforce. In 1980 the figure had risen, but only to 16.6%.

Yet Catholics make up almost 42% of the total population.

Worse still when we come to promotion prospects: only 5% of Catholic males (practically nil females) were appointed at Executive Officer Two grade or above from 1970-80. Out of the 43 most senior grade officers in 1983, only two were Catholics.

There is much to fault in the Agency's report. It took nearly four years to produce, went through five re-drafts and incorporates part of the Civil Service's own enquiry. The findings of the latter enquiry indicate that a bit of window-dressing was going on to gloss over the worst aspects of discrimination (by 1983 for example, there were four Catholics in the top circles, not just two). The methods used by the Fair Employment Agency and the form of their report have been disputed by social scientists and statisticians.

What is undisputed is that the low promotion prospects and the disproportionate recruitment of Catholics into low general service grades means that the imbalance will be perpetuated upwards for many years to come.

THE REALITY OF 'Don't

This is the first time I have put pen to paper to try and document some of the crimes I have been subjected to.

You'll forgive me if I don't feel the need to ask you to understand just what is happening here in the occupied Six Counties. Rather I demand your realisation of what is being done in your name, to me, and to countless hundreds of my sisters. You have read of us, some of you have even met us, but you have never 'lived' us. Maybe this will help. Think of it as 'A Day in the Life'.

I am the eldest daughter of four children, born to working class parents in a Catholic ghetto in Belfast. In August 1971, the British Government introduced internment. My father evaded arrest until December, then was taken by British troops to Castlereagh Interrogation Centre and held there incommunicado. Witnesses to his arrest testified to the savage and brutal beating he received. We were denied access, and were denied a writ of habeas corpus. At this stage, we just wanted his body. We believed him dead.

Our home became a regular haunt of the occupation forces. Early morning raids, dawn arrests, these were our examples of 'British impartiality'. I was first arrested on the morning of my birthday in June 1974, forced to stand 'spread-eagle' against a brick wall, for four hours, subjected to a continual barrage of insults, rubber batons run up the inside of my leg, enquiries as to my sexual preferences, physically searched, again and again by British troops, insulted, degraded, humiliated. I was sixteen that day.

ARRESTS AND SHOOTING

My first arrest set a precedent for the next few years of my life. Every time I encountered a British army foot patrol I was searched. My demands for the search to be carried out by a female 'Brit' always ended with my arrest. I was forced to leave school after being shot, and was arrested when I left hospital and told not to go to court or 'I'd get it right in the head the next time'. I was at this stage seventeen.

Eventually a few months ago, the British forces of occupation arrested me at 5.30 in the morning. I was informed that I was being arrested under the infamous Section 12 of the P.T.A. and was taken to Castlereagh Interrogation Centre. There followed seven days of repeated interrogations by Special Branch detectives. I was told I could end my ordeal by 'picking' a charge, making a statement, such as

ARMAGH JAIL STRIP SEARCHES BY EX-PRISONER *Let Them Break You, Love*

'At an unspecified time, on an unspecified date, I was in possession of an unspecified weapon (or bomb) at an unspecified place'. Evidence such as dates, times, places are trivialities in the special Diplock courts.

FRAME-UP

Your guilt is not established at your trial. Mine was established at birth. I was Catholic, and worse, I was republican. I refused to make any statements, I refused to speak one word from my arrest. Four days later, I became another victim of the Paid Perjuror System - a man identified me as being a Republican activist. They told me they knew I was innocent of the charges, but were delighted at this opportunity to 'stitch me up'. I maintained my silence, knowing that within the week I would join those women whose very existence denies every atrocity inflicted by their oppressors. I was charged, and taken from the court to Armagh.

STRIP SEARCHES IN ARMAGH

I remember a tremendous feeling of unreality about my arrival in Armagh. Detached, I entered the prison, thinking wryly of my next forthcoming encounter with British rule. Photographed, weighed, I was brought into the 'reception room'. Eight screws were present, standing silently, waiting, hoping to see another one 'break'.

Then the dreaded words: 'RIGHT - STRIP'. I was hustled into a small cubicle and slowly began to undo the buttons of my shirt. 'This can't be happening to me, it can't'. But, of course, it could. Item by item, I removed my clothes, each article taken from me and scrutinised. I knew there was no need to search me. I had been in custody for over a week. I hadn't seen one friendly face, heard one word of kindness since leaving the house, dragged out, shoeless and coatless, by a mixed force of British troops and R.U.C. As I stood there naked, I grasped my ideals to my heart. They weren't going to succeed. I would NOT break. I thought of the women waiting for me on the wing. They'd gone through this. I thought of the Blanket Men of Long Kesh - they'd been forced to remain naked for five YEARS. I thought of my sister, sixteen, and dreaded this ever happening to her. I thought of my mother's face the morning of my arrest, trying so hard not to cry, and her shouts of support: 'Don't let them break you, love'. 'Be strong'. And of her face that morning in the court - ashen, aged, prepared to run to Armagh for the next decade - just as she's run to various jails to visit my father and brother.

And I thought of all the women, striving everywhere to achieve their freedom. Aye, I thought of a lot of



Photo: Helen Dady

things. Anything to block out what was happening to me. I was stripped naked to confront me with their control, to enforce on me my own vulnerability, to degrade me. But they were not going to succeed. I saw my nakedness as an indictment against them. They thought my womanhood would serve to help defeat me. They didn't understand that the strength of ideals cannot be stripped from one's mind. As I felt a hand slowly moving down the calves of my leg, my flesh crawled. They weren't content to jibe at my naked state, they had to 'search' me. A skin-search, aye, it sounds ridiculous, but it's true. I was ordered to turn around, and I managed to totally ignore that command and the following ones. They could strip me, but no way was I going to assist them. They were forced to move behind me. I steeled myself again as they searched my hair. Eventually, they could draw out the search no longer. They told me to re-enter the cubicle and dress quickly. I remained there, silently staring at each one of them in turn, wanting them to look at my face. These were women - women who did this to me. I am 5ft 11in. I weigh 6st 9lbs, and it took eight of these screws to be present. I slowly returned to the cubicle and started to dress. I felt drained, and noticed a tremble in my hands. I felt violated, invaded, victimised. And very, very angry.

Within the next 48 hours, I was strip searched five times. I wrote numerous letters of complaint to the Board of Visitors, calling into question their empty excuses that strip-searching is necessary on 'security grounds'. Each time I left the prison I was under joint military/police escort. I was taken to the court (two minutes' journey away) in a steel-reinforced van, locked into a steel 'pig-sty' within the van; dragged

out of the van and hustled into the courtroom for a 30 second appearance in the dock, and returned immediately to the prison. Both before getting into the van and when leaving it back at the jail I was strip-searched, stripped naked TWICE within 20 minutes - no contact at all with the public.

The governor also states that strip-searches are carried out on a 'spot-check' basis. My repeated ordeals denied that as true. The ordeal of being strip-searched continually had a pronounced and adverse effect on many of its victims, both physical and psychological. I saw girls being physically ill the morning of their court appearance. I saw girls biting back tears upon their return, and I heard them stifling their sobs in the privacy of their cells. I saw their anger and their revulsion. And I felt their pain.

Within a few months I was released from Armagh, when the Crown witness became unwilling to perjure the lives of so many innocent people. Within me I carry the memory of the Armagh women, their joy when we heard the British would HAVE to release me. I think of Marie, who felt everyone's troubles of any nature. Of Siobhan, five feet of sheer resilience, who maintain their dignity throughout each assault upon their bodies. They cannot appeal to you, so I do in their name. They are imprisoned because they denied the British Government the right to invade their country. For their audacity, that same government has sought to invade both their bodies and their minds. The Armagh women deserve every accolade laid on them. They suffer and endure, resolutely, continual strip searches, cell-raids, and internal lock-ups.

They expect nothing less. They deserve so much more.

The above is an extract from a pamphlet on strip searches currently being prepared by the Armagh Group in London.

GROWING UP IN WEST BELFAST



One of the first things that strikes any visitor to West Belfast, apart from the massive Army forts in the area and the military helicopters overhead, is the large number of colourful murals painted on gable ends. Painted by local youth, the murals are one visible way of demonstrating that West Belfast is part of Ireland, not part of Britain, but painting murals is not all that the youth do.

On a recent trip to Belfast, two members of the Troops Out Movement from Leeds interviewed 19-year-old Christy McKenna, Belfast organiser of the Sinn Fein Youth Department.

First, we asked him about the murals.

Christy: The murals came about during the hunger strike, when people were trying to express themselves both on the humanitarian issues and the political issues which were to the fore. The young people were doing sketches of how they thought things were going.

From that came the wall murals. It was a way of expressing themselves, and they couldn't be missed going up and down the road. So from then on we were engaged in doing murals throughout West Belfast of a political nature.

Most of the young people involved have had no artistic backgrounds, they just drew how they felt.

Do British troops harass you when you're painting murals?

Christy: Harassment is just an on-going thing on the streets of West Belfast, and it's nothing new to young people to get harassed by the British Army no matter what activity they're involved in.

Especially during the hunger strike, once a mural went up, about two hours later the British Army came along and destroyed it with paint bombs. It was just a competition of who could get it cleaned up the quickest and who could ruin it.

What other activities is the Sinn Fein Youth Department involved in?

Christy: We're currently involved with what we term 'disaffected youth'. We've a big problem in West Belfast with joy-riding, petty theft, by those termed the 'hoods' by the media and the community in West Belfast.

We see the disaffected youth on two levels. We class one as a soft core and the other a hard core. We believe that the soft core is a product of the war in Ireland, of social conditions like Divis

Flats, like Moyard, the education system, the whole lack of amenities for young children.

There's three leisure centres in West Belfast, which working-class people can't afford to go to on a regular basis, so they're no good for the kids.

You've youth clubs which are mostly run by the Catholic Church and are dead conservative and authoritarian — break a silly rule and you're barred for life. So kids have nowhere to go other than knock about the street corners and it leads from there. It's nothing to do — just take a car for a bit of excitement.

Then what we have is a criminal element that is growing within West Belfast. We think this would exist whether there was a war going on or not. The soft core is merging with the hard core, so we're trying to isolate the two and provide alternatives for the young people who've nowhere to go.

Presently we're involved in opening two drop-in centres, in Divis Flats and in Beechmount. We're setting up committees of these young people to organise for themselves, and be responsible for the clubs, and set up their own rules. So it's not an adult telling them what to do, it's not something that's shoved upon them, it's something that they've created, that they have the responsibility to run.

Hopefully we'll be setting up projects, like taking kids away

THE TROUBLES

Derry is a city I love so well. It is a great city. The only thing that gets me down is the troubles, like Bloody Sunday when fourteen innocent people were shot dead by the Brits.

I am now nineteen years old. The troubles have been going on for fifteen years. I remember when they started in 1968. Everyone was involved then and people were always on the streets. Even the priests. People no longer come out on the streets in large crowds to help those who are being arrested. The troubles, to most people, have become a reluctant part of everyday life. Brits have become a familiar sight

in Northern Ireland but I still hate them. Most of all I hate the so-called police. I can find no words to describe my hatred for them.

1981 stands out most in my mind. It was the year of the hunger strike, when ten brave men died fighting for their rights. Bobby Sands died on the fifth of May. Practically every few weeks a hunger striker died. I remember the week Patsy O'Hara, a Derry man, died. Three days before he died I was lifted by the RUC. They accused me of rioting and produced a photograph to back up their claim. I didn't sign, but that evening I was up in court. It was a kangaroo court. I was

FAST : INTERVIEW WITH SINN FEIN YOUTH DEPT

for the day, out of West Belfast, maybe go to Dublin or to Derry, to meet other young people and maybe discuss their ideas and thoughts about what's going on.

We find that the main problem with young people is understanding what's going on around them. We're back again to the Catholic Church, who run most of the schools within the Six Counties, and who've a big influence on what young children are taught.

At primary school age there's no Irish taught, and from there a kind of mould is built in young children, on how they think and how they behave.

It's dead easy for them to see British soldiers going up and down the street but it's harder for them to see things like YOP or YTP schemes exploiting them. (YTP is the Youth Training Programme, the Six Counties version of the Youth Training Scheme.)

What is the feeling of the Sinn Fein Youth Department regarding IRA policy to the hoods?

Christy: The IRA last year done a middle-page spread in *An Phoblacht/Republican News* which tried to analyse the situation, asking for a debate within the movement and outside the movement, about how we could provide alternatives to physical punishment.

Being a revolutionary group, first of all they didn't want to be a police or army within the districts, but there were a whole lot of problems which made them take action against those elements. You'd people actually coming to the movement asking that action be taken against people. The whole projection of the organisation within the areas was that it was to defend people. People expected them to take action against the criminal element.

I believe personally that the movement and the community formed the hoods, that the hoods didn't form themselves. Because they were alienated. Once you got involved in joy-riding you were classed as a hood and from there you were isolated both from the movement and from the community and you'd no other alternative than to go back to the circle you were already involved with.

It's a very complex issue, and the movement has tried to change the whole system of it. Kneecapping became a status symbol among the criminal element; when you were kneecapped you went up a bit into a higher circle, you became the chief. And it was counter-productive.

I feel there are some on the periphery who are just a by-product of the war — conditions like Divis Flats that are not fit for animals, families where mothers and fathers have alcohol

problems, when you've no money.

What's the level of youth unemployment?

Christy: A survey was done in West Belfast: places like Moyard, Divis Flats and Ballymurphy have 80% unemployment, especially among young people.

We are trying to organise politically on the issues which are on-going, like plastic bullets, and shoot-to-kill on sight, which was directly aimed at young people; the likes of Martin Malone, Gary English, Danny Barrett, Michael McCartan, Julie Livingstone, Carol Ann Kelly.

Seven of the 14 people shot dead with plastic bullets were young people, who weren't involved at any time in the movement. What we saw was that during the hunger strike or any phase of the struggle, youth have always played an integral role in the struggle for Irish freedom. During the hunger strike the mass support on the streets came especially from young people.

The British Government and the British Army see this as a big threat to the state, and the plastic bullets thing was just one way of trying to scare young people off the streets, to shoot them off.

Can you comment on a recent speech by Gerry Adams MP in which he said that petrol bombs and stones can't get through armoured cars or flak jackets? Was that a criticism of young people's actions?

Christy: Rioting has always been a resistance to British rule in Ireland, I think more so in the early '70s when you had open oppression on the streets.

You can make a message without throwing stones or petrol bombs, you could do it politically. And if other people want to do it other ways, they should join the movement but do it anyway.

Rioting hasn't been organised on any scale. It's sporadic rioting, on your own road, and it really causes inconvenience to the people in the area, although it's not wrong. I certainly don't object to rioting. But the young people always seem to come out worse. If we can channel their energies more constructively we should do it.

Finally, there seems to be a lot more involvement of different generations here, right from young people to elderly people, both in the community generally and within political activity. Is that true?

Christy: We're all in the same boat. We're just a united people, united in opposition to British rule in Ireland.

IN DERRY CITY

remanded in Crumlin Road jail and was kept there for four days. While in jail I was pushed around by the screws. It was a frightening experience.

On Thursday night, Patsy O'Hara died. There was severe rioting that night. A Derry man called Henry Duffy, who was not involved in rioting, was shot by the RUC. He was hit by a plastic bullet and died the next day. On Friday when I was in court I was found not guilty of rioting. The magistrate dismissed the photograph as evidence of rioting because it showed me with my hands in my pockets.

I remember the day that Gary

English and Jim Brown were killed by the Brits. They were both teenagers. That same day another Derry teenager was shot by a plastic bullet at close range. It was fired by the RUC. A week later he died from his injuries.

The Derry people went on the rampage because of the killing. It was like 1969 all over again. Even people who don't normally riot came out on the streets to show their anger.

I would not like to see another year like 1981 but sometimes time repeats itself. Who knows?

Frankie M.
1983



Photo: Camerawork Derry

THE NEW POLICE BILL LEARNING FROM IRELAND

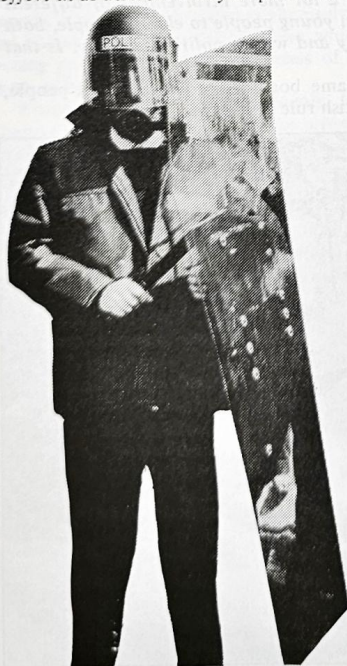
For many years now various paramilitary policing methods have been imported to Britain from Northern Ireland. For example, Special Patrol Groups (SPG) and plastic bullets were first used against the nationalist people there.

With the new Police and Criminal Evidence Bill we see the main substance of the Emergency Provisions Act (EPA) and the Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA) being integrated into everyday police practice in England and Wales:

- 96 hour detention without charge
- Stop and search powers.
- Forcible body searches
- Power to set up road blocks.
- Power to search houses.

Ever since the Army first went on the streets of the north of Ireland in 1969, senior police officers including Sir Kenneth Newman have stated that they saw their experience there as relevant to future policing strategies in Britain.

The type of 'community policing' developed in the north of Ireland involves co-operation between civil (DHSS, NHS and council), police and military authorities, and the widespread gathering of low-level information on people, while at the same time maintaining a 'clean' public image. Said Brigadier Frank Kitson, pioneer of these methods: *'the law should be used as just another weapon in the government's arsenal, and in this case it becomes little more than a propaganda cover for the disposal of unwanted members of the public - for this to happen efficiently the activities of the legal services have to be tied into the war effort in as discreet a way as possible.'*



When the Emergency Provisions Act was introduced in 1973, house searches jumped from an average of 17,000 to 73,000 per year. The main use of the new powers to search houses and people, and of 96-hour detention without charge, is to gather information. Longer detention also makes it more likely that people will be coerced into signing 'confessions'.

In 1978, a Colonel Eveleigh published a book called *Peacekeeping in a Democratic Society - the Lessons of Northern Ireland* (Isic) which outlined the thinking of leading army and police officers in Northern Ireland. Two of his main proposals for British law were: (1) to give the police/soldiers wider power to hold people and gather information; and (2) that identity cards should be introduced as part of an overall data system. The first proposal is fulfilled by the Police Bill; and in January it was announced that the DHSS have begun to introduce identity cards.

The trend from policing crime to policing people has been evident in the north of Ireland for the past twelve years. And as long as Britain uses these increasingly repressive strategies to occupy Ireland, that trend cannot be reversed.

The National Campaign against the Police Bill is based at 50 Rectory Road, London N16. Tel. 01-249 8334.

Also see a new leaflet produced by TOM, called *Policing Strategies in Northern Ireland*, 10p plus p&p.

'SHOOT TO KILL' OPPOSED IN LEEDS

The police killing of 80-year-old Bridget Foster in the North of Ireland last November highlighted the Shoot To Kill policy of Britain's so-called "security forces".

She was shot dead at a Post Office in Pomeroy in County Tyrone, by RUC (police) firing into the Post Office after two armed raiders had fled. The robbers didn't fire a single shot. It seems that the RUC had a tip-off but, rather than move in to prevent the robbery, they laid in ambush until afterwards. Then they pumped bullets into the Post Office in the vain hope that there were more robbers inside.

The killing was strongly condemned by local people. Among those in Britain who registered their protest were three Labour councillors in Leeds. In a statement issued by the local TOM branch (who held a protest leafletting on the streets), Councillors Lorna Cohen, Neil Taggart and Garth Frankland condemned the killing as representing bankrupt British policies in Ireland. They went on to demand immediate British withdrawal from Ireland.

The councillors' views incurred the wrath of the local Young Conservatives, who wrote to the local rag saying that N. Ireland was of no concern to the councillors who should *'keep their immediate business on local affairs'*.

Fortunately, however, an increasing number of councillors up and down the country are now prepared to state publicly their belief in troops out.

Birmingham -Terror Act

In the wake of the Harrods bomb, several houses were raided in Scotland, Wales and England. The police cynically used the situation to obtain political information and harass activists, whilst at the same time appearing to the public to be doing something about the bombing. Cath Haywood of Birmingham Troops Out Movement describes one such raid:

At 6.45am on Thursday December 22nd our house was raided by eight police officers. They gained entry with a warrant to search for explosives under the Criminal Damages Act, but once in the house they proceeded to use the Prevention of Terrorism Act. They arrested a friend - Alan O'Dwyer, an ex-member of Sinn Féin - and they searched the premises for political information, not explosives.

Alan was held for 30 hours, during which time he was questioned about the members and activities of Sinn Féin Britain and the Troops Out Movement. He was also asked to account for his whereabouts at the time of the recent London bombings, but his alibis were never checked out.

After Alan was taken away, the police continued to search our house, only looking at political papers and books. My eleven-year-old daughter saw one of them steal a petition sheet; when challenged on this the officer became very abusive. Other policemen tried to steal lists of Republican prisoners, but were caught in the act and the lists were retrieved.

We realise that what went on in our house was nothing in comparison to what goes on in Ireland on a regular basis, but still we feel that it should be challenged very strongly.

We immediately contacted a solicitor for Alan, then got in touch with local MPs Roy Hattersley and Claire Short, local councillors and the Trades Council, asking them all to ring the police station to demand an explanation for the arrest. Because of the Trades Council's policy of opposition to the Prevention of Terrorism Act, its officers were able to act immediately knowing they had full support.

We are now in the process of making an official complaint against the police and reporting the whole episode to the National Council for Civil Liberties. The complaint against the police involves three main points:

- they entered the premises under false pretences and misused their warrant. (We have been told by a police inspector that we would not have liked it if they had used the Prevention of Terrorism Act because the door could have been kicked down!)
- the theft of a petition sheet and the abusive behaviour towards my daughter.
- that no senior police officer was left in the house after the arrest. The ones that stayed in the house said they had no authority to talk to us or explain anything they were doing.

It was quite clear that the police felt they could intimidate us, particularly as they know we are two women living with four children, including a new-born baby. It is important that we resist such attempts by speaking out, thus showing not only the police but also other people in such circumstances that the intimidation doesn't work. We need also to expose the behaviour of the police to the general public, who are encouraged to believe 'there's no smoke without a fire' and that 'suspects' have been apprehended. Maybe the question will be raised as to why the police have to go to such extremes to attempt to silence people who are critical of Britain's role in Ireland.

Against the Show Trials

As yet another Belfast Show Trial opened in January, opposition in Britain is growing against the use of supergrasses in no-jury courts. So far over 400 people have been charged, the majority of them are remanded in prison, and over 80 people have been convicted, in what amounts to internment with a legal face.

The Troops Out Movement organised a series of meetings in the North of England early in January, covering York, Manchester, Leeds, Newcastle and Sheffield. Speakers from Derry were unable to come due to the spate of arrests under the Prevention of Terrorism Act at that time. However, the meetings went ahead and helped reveal the truth behind this legal charade. In Sheffield, 120 people heard a TOM speaker Joan Maynard MP and barrister Lord Gifford. Gifford has just returned from Belfast and spoke strongly against the "Club of Nine" — the tiny elite of N. Ireland's high court judges, all but two of whom are Unionists (Judge Kelly, for example, served as Attorney General in the old Stormont Government). A speaking tour of the Midlands was also organised by the TOM, with a relative of a supergrass victim.

Lord Gifford has just produced a pamphlet, for which he held a Press Conference in London on January 12th. It traces the background to the use of supergrasses, analyses four of the Belfast trials and makes a number of recommendations for the reform of N. Ireland's legal procedures.

Amnesty International has also expressed concern about the use of supergrasses — in particular, the acceptance of uncorroborated evidence, supergrass immunity from prosecution for serious crimes, and the long periods of remand for defendants. In the context of no-jury courts, the reduction of defendants' safeguards presents a serious danger.

The Liberal Party passed a motion at Darlington noting the various disturbing aspects of the Show Trial strategy and calling for the return of normal judicial procedures in N. Ireland: partial return to jury trials, "an independent prosecution service . . . and independent investigation of all complaints against Police and Army", and revision of the Emergency Provisions Act. It called on the Party spokesperson to set a meeting with James Prior and for "the joint Liberal/SDP commission on Northern Ireland urgently to look into this subject and issue guidelines as soon as possible."

'SUPERGRASSES — The Use of Accomplice Evidence in Northern Ireland' by Tony Gifford QC, The Cobden Trust, £1.50. Available from 21 Tabard St, London SE1 4LA, or the Troops Out Movement, PO Box 353, London NW5 4NH.

TOM leaflet on informers, 10p plus postage. The TOM also has two video films about the supergrass strategy available for hire.

Bristol Labour Party

Bristol West Labour Party held a public meeting on Friday 25th November at which Jim McAllister, an elected Sinn Féin Assembly member, spoke. The other speakers were GLC Councillor Steve Bundred, Ron Brown, an ex-Bristol Labour MP, and Martin Collins, editor of New Labour and Ireland. The initiative for the meeting was taken by members of the local Labour Committee on Ireland.

The meeting had gone ahead despite months of concerted opposition from within and outside the local Labour Party. Michael Cocks, a Bristol MP and Labour Party Chief Whip, had led the internal opposition by describing the proposed meeting as a disgraceful move and expressing 'the concern of some of his constituents who have been wounded on active service in Northern Ireland'. This refers presumably to the 'Glorious Gloucesters', a regiment renowned in Northern Ireland for their brutality, even by British Army standards. Other opposition to the meeting included a prolonged campaign by the two local newspapers and several threats of disruption from the National Front. Despite all this, the meeting went ahead and was a great success, with 250 people packing the hall and a further 100 supporters turned away by police at the door.



NEWHAM EIGHT

Newham Eight trial ends with 4 acquittals and 4 convictions for affray. They were sentenced on Jan. 20th to a token 50 hours' community service. Like the Irish, the Asian community has had to defend itself against state racism. (Photo: Paul Mattsson)

CAMDEN COUNCIL ON STRIP SEARCHES

The December 7th meeting of Camden Council passed a report of Camden Women's Committee which condemned strip searching Armagh jail as 'sexual harassment on a mass scale'. As well as protesting to the Prime Minister, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland and the governor of Armagh, Camden will be urging the women's committees of other local authorities to join the protest against the strip searching of women.

Tory opposition councillors who objected that the matter was irrelevant to Camden were reminded that Camden has a large population of Irish women. The women's committee also pointed out that many repressive measures introduced in the north of Ireland have subsequently become accepted practice in England and Wales and that issues of both national and international oppression of women must be taken up with the government by local bodies.

PLASTIC BULLETS CAMPAIGN

The British Society for Social Responsibility in Science and the National Council for Civil Liberties have launched a London-based campaign against the use of plastic bullets. On 12th December 1983 organiser Gerry Danby outlined the details of this broad based campaign during a press conference at the House of Commons. It is hoped that a campaign conference will be held in June this year.

The launch of this campaign comes in the wake of an announcement by Douglas Hurd, Minister of State at the Home Office, that 20,000 plastic bullets have been supplied to 15 police forces in England and Wales for use during public disorder.

PRISONERS' BIRTHDAYS

Please send cards to these prisoners who endure horrific conditions in English jails — often in isolation, so they know that they are not forgotten. Please remember the number.

ANTHONY CLARKE
726381 HM Prison, Southall St,
Manchester M60 9AH

February 11th

JOHN MCCLUSKEY
136282 HM Prison Gartree, Leicestershire Rd,
Market Harborough, Leics

March 12th

PATRICK MULRYAN
461575 HM Prison Long Lartin, South
Littleton, Evesham, Worcs

March 23rd

GERRY CUNNINGHAM
132016 HM Prison Long Lartin, as above

March 24th

NEWS FROM THE PRISONS

Gerry Young, Kevin Dunphy and Ray McLoughlin have all recently been released from English prisons. Ray and Kevin both served nine years, and were immediately deported on their release. Gerry Small, who was released a few months ago, was also deported by the police using as an excuse the hysteria whipped up after the Harrods bomb. We wish them all well for the future.

A picket was held outside Wormwood Scrubs on January 22nd on the anniversary of the death of Giuseppe Conlon in 1980, who died from a lung disease made worse by prison conditions and medical neglect. He was a victim of a frame-up. The picket was called by Sinn Féin (Britain).

POLICING BY COERCION

by Louise Christian
GLC Police Committee

Policing by Coercion examines the issues raised by the Police Criminal Evidence Bill which is about to become law in the near future. The author is a solicitor who works for the GLC's Police Committee Support Unit.

She writes the book in order to show that new policing strategies are not 'better ways of catching criminals' as is claimed, but are closely linked to the social and economic conditions with which the Tory government has to deal. *'High unemployment, bad housing, and lack of prospects create tensions and anxiety on the streets in working class areas, particularly among the youth. The police increasingly see themselves as agents of social control, as part of a repressive rather than redistributive welfare state, which stigmatises its recipients as both scroungers and criminals.'*

She shows how the British legal system, at least in theory, has always required that police powers should be directed at specific crimes. With the new Police Bill two new police functions have emerged: to maintain order on the streets (e.g. the new powers of arrest), and to gather intelligence (e.g. the new powers to search people's homes).

Christian shows how the Bill will disproportionately affect black people, the young, the unemployed and the homeless, who will all become 'targets' for the police. The bill is also framed to be used against trade unionists and political activists should the need arise. Gay men and women could be arrested for 'affronting public decency' and women could be subjected to 'intimate body searches' in police stations, especially if classified as prostitutes.

The book's weakness lies in Louise Christian's idea that there was a time when the police were just 'citizens in uniform', when policing was 'by consent rather than coercion'. She ignores the fact that the police have always acted in the interests of property owners and the status quo against any groups who dare to challenge them. The legal system has never been neutral, and certainly not based on ideas of a 'redistributive welfare state', as she claims. She does not ask who has always given 'consent' to policing, and who has been excluded from this process.

However, she does show that the new bill legitimises what already happens – such as *'brutal friskings on the street and destructive rampages through people's homes'*.

A very useful part of the book stresses the parallels between the Police Bill and 'emergency legislation' in the Six Counties. In this she sees the importance of the role of Sir Kenneth Newman. From 1976–79 he was the Chief Constable of the RUC. He inherited and refined the intelligence system set up by General Kitson, whose aim was:

'The saturation and harassment of the ghettos on a massive scale, alternating with selective intervention in a district, a street, a house, a family or an individual... to harass and terrorise the population and to collect low intensity intelligence.'

Newman's period of office in the Six Counties was most notorious for allegations that suspects were 'maltreated' during interrogation. After being appointed Metropolitan Police Commissioner in 1982, Newman revealed how he would apply this experience in London, especially including the systematic collection of intelligence on the streets, and the stereotyping of criminal 'types' by the police. These new techniques were first used in Belfast against anti-British forces.

The author also deals with the Prevention of Terrorism Bill, which allows people arrested to be detained for up to seven days without

charge. She points out that this law, aimed at the repression of the Irish people, was used *'... in an insidious circular process in which draconian laws soften us up for similar laws which then become the desired standard for further measures.'*

Policing by Coercion is a useful book for those interested in how 'heavy' policing of urban areas is being legitimised. By showing how policing strategies in the Six Counties have affected those in this island, it presents a strong warning to people in Britain about the kind of repressive policing we can expect.

Available from the Troops Out Movement, price £1.

THE ROAD TO BLOODY SUNDAY

By Dr Raymond McClean, Ward River Press
(Knocksedan Hse, Swords, Co.Dublin, Ireland)
IR£4.95

This book is a very readable account of life in Derry from 1968 to 1972. It recaptures the first civil rights marches that were viciously attacked by the RUC, a reaction which proved to be the catalyst for the nationalist people's anger and frustration with N.Ireland under Unionist rule. Then came the Battle of the Bogside, the deployment of the British Army to strengthen the defeated RUC, internment and the horror of Bloody Sunday, when 14 unarmed demonstrators were shot dead by paratroopers.

These events are described by one who took part in them, as a doctor providing first aid treatment for the victims of the RUC and Army. He has a very graphic way of writing – for example, the death of Sammy Devenney, the first fatality of 'The Troubles':

'I went into the front room and stood aghast. There was blood on the floor, on the chairs, on the walls, and even on the ceiling. Hugh McDaid was standing in the middle of the floor, with a brush in his hands and obviously very dazed, trying to brush the blood off the floor.'

An interesting aspect of *The Road To Bloody Sunday* is the class position of the author, and for this reason it is a complement to Eamonn McCann's equally vivid account of the same period in *War And An Irish Town*.

Ray McClean was part of the 'new' Catholic middle class which emerged in the '60s and which played an undoubtedly progressive role in that period – using its organisational skills in the formation of the Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association and breaking through the stagnation of the old National Party and the N.Ireland Labour Party. McClean himself provided the first research on the effects of CS gas based on its actual use rather than in laboratory conditions. He lent at least passive support to the Provisionals, treating a sick combatant. His reaction on Bloody Sunday was *'My first thought that I wished I had a rifle so that at least I could put up some defence'*. In an honest piece of self-analysis he acknowledges that his class position had given him a *'soft-centred approach to life'* where the needs of the people demanded *'a more ruthless attitude if they were to confront the forces which had now been brought to bear on them'*.

His admission of failure could also stand for the failure of the professional middle class. In this book McClean describes the formation of the Social Democratic Labour Party (SDLP). That party went on subsequently to betray the nationalist people by retreating into timid reformism completely opposed to the needs of the situation. That history has yet to be written.

FILM REVIEW: ACCEPTABLE LEVELS

Made by Frontroom Productions and the Belfast Film Workshop, in association with Channel Four. Colour, 102 minutes.

This is a new fictional film set in present-day Belfast, about the war and the distortions of British TV coverage of it.

A fictional TV crew set off to Belfast to make one of a series of documentaries about children. They embark on this enterprise with a typically English blend of arrogant ignorance – even the title of their film is doubly at fault: *'Britain's Children/Ulster'* (for Northern Ireland isn't Britain and Ulster isn't Northern Ireland!)

Within that framework we are introduced to a family living on the Divis Estate, and their community. *Acceptable Levels* opens with the teenage son being gratuitously beaten up by British soldiers. The nine-year-old daughter Roisin agrees to be interviewed for the TV programme, but while the interview is taking place her friend Jackie is shot dead outside by a plastic bullet fired by soldiers. The TV crew rush out and film her poor mutilated body and a neighbour screaming *'Will you show this on your British TV?'* Roisin and her sister reluctantly agree to do a further interview about this tragedy.

The rest of the film shows what happens to the documentary before it will finally hit the TV screens as a bit of sentimental nonsense, identical to what we see in real-life TV. The director says at one point, *'Yes we know what happened, but let's hear the other side'* without apparently noticing the appalling cynicism of his statement, and goes off to interview the Army Public Relations Officer. Both the Army and the RUC fob him off with patent untruths (*'There was a riot'*) but he is unprepared to nail them as lies.

Even worse, the footage of young Jackie's death is a bit 'rough at the edges', and anyway it makes the programme too long, and anyway they don't know the whole story... A string of rationalisations whereby the TV crew prefer to misbelieve the evidence of their own eyes rather than question their own corrupted ideology which we see being reinforced by their sexual skirmishes and drunken high-life in the Europa Hotel.

And so we witness an entirely credible transformation from the full footage of the interviews plus the killing, to an edited version which merely shows the first interview and Roisin at the end in tears expressing the hope of just surviving somehow. The entire sequence of Jackie's death falls to the cutting room floor. TV viewers are to be shown the standard picture of Ireland in which suffering and violence are somehow just part of the landscape – without explanation, without cause, and therefore certainly without a solution. The commentary on the final version pontificates, *'Good and bad founder on the realities of extremism'*, whatever that is supposed to mean.

Acceptable Levels is an excellent film, which takes the time and trouble to expand on the lives of the Irish characters and contrasts their reality with the debased values of the TV crew. It should really be dedicated to Julie Livingstone and Carol Ann Kelly, whose deaths in 1981 are so accurately and movingly mirrored by the fictional death of Jackie in the film.

Frontroom Productions can be contacted at
79 Wardour St, London W1E 3TH

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



NOVEMBER

16th

The Employment Equality Agency in Dublin complains that the most consistent offenders against women are the government agencies. The government is to be taken to court for sexual discrimination.

17th

The Provisional IRA claim that the RUC man shot dead in Derry today was involved at a high level in the handling of 'supergrasses'. NATO's deployment of Cruise and Pershing II missiles is supported by five Irish MEPs in the European parliament. Mr Joe McCartin, a Fine Gael MEP, claims the resolution does not affect Ireland.

18th

A group of nuns and priests condemn the new Criminal Justice Bill. They say it would result in '...harassment... and innocent people being kept at length in police stations'.

19th

Prison officers at Mountjoy who have been in dispute with the Department of Justice go back to work. A new grievance procedure is to be set up and they agree to a ban on further industrial action.

21st

The Northern Ireland Committee of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions joins the opposition to the use of 'supergrasses'.

22nd

Three Pentecostal Church elders in Darkley, Co. Armagh, are killed, and seven people wounded. The 'Catholic Reaction Force' claim the killings were in retaliation for the killing of Catholics by the Protestant Action Force, a cover name for the UVF, in Armagh and Down over the past two years.

Mr Terry Carlin of the ICTU claims that half of the twenty-three areas in the UK with unemployment rates of 20% or over are in Northern Ireland. Only one area outside the North has over 30% unemployment, whilst there are four such areas in the North. He was replying to a statement by the Minister for Health and Social Services, who claimed the North was no worse off than other parts of the UK.

22nd

Radioactivity in fish from the western Irish Sea increases. British Nuclear Fuels come under pressure to reduce their radioactive waste discharged into the Irish Sea from Sellafield (formerly Windscale).

23rd

Merlyn Rees, former Labour Sec. of State for N. Ireland, calls for the establishment of direct communication between the British and Irish Armies to provide 'better security for border areas'.

British government send two extra companies of troops (240 men) into South Armagh to be employed in undercover SAS-style operations.

24th

Mr Don Tidey, chairman and chief executive of Quinswoth supermarkets, is kidnapped by the IRA near his home in Rathfarnham, Co. Dublin. Ireland votes for three resolutions in the UN calling for a freeze on the manufacture and deployment of nuclear weapons, breaking ranks with other EEC countries.

Mr Noonan, Irish Minister for Justice, says Dominic McGlinchey, of the INLA will be

immediately handed across the border if arrested.

25th

The first licence to import IUD contraceptives into Ireland is passed by the Minister for Health. SPUC threatens to take him to court under the new 'Right to Life of the Unborn' in the constitution.

26th

A 37-year-old man is seriously injured, in a gun attack in Portadown and a middle-aged man beaten to death in Lurgan. Both were Catholics. The sectarian attacks were carried out by organised groups of Protestants in the Protestant Action Force.

DECEMBER

3rd

Thousands of farmers demonstrated in Thurles, Co. Tipperary to protest against the proposed milk super-levy imposed by the EEC. 26,000 Irish farmers have gone out of milk production since joining the EEC.

5th

The deaths of Colm McGirr and Brian Campbell brings the number of people shot by the security forces this year to 17. Of these all except one were Catholics. These deaths are largely the result of the RUC's shoot to kill policy.

Dublin deep-sea dockers go on strike as a protest against redundancies.

An SAS undercover unit of the British Army shoots dead two IRA men and wounds another on a lonely road in Co. Tyrone. There were no calls to halt, no challenges and the men were not armed.

Five UDA men were arrested for the sectarian killing of Catholics whilst in the Protestant Action Force.

6th

The number of unemployed in the South rises to 200,000. 61,000 of these are young people.

The family of Mr Joseph Craven, the 25-year-old Catholic shot dead in the Whitehouse area of Belfast, blamed his killing on a Loyalist assassination gang.

According to a study by the Criminal Law Reform Group, the new Criminal Justice Bill currently before the Dail will undermine the right of citizens to remain silent when accused of a crime, and to be presumed innocent until proven guilty.

Mr Edgar Graham, the Official Unionist Assembly member for South Belfast, is shot dead by the Provisional IRA at Queens University. In a statement the IRA said '... Mr Graham supported the corruption of even British law on the use of show trials and paid perjurers'.

9th

London police mount a big security operation as Thomas Quigley of West Belfast appears in court on bombing charges.

Fighting breaks out at a Republican funeral as RUC men force their way through the mourners to remove a beret and gloves from the coffin of Joseph Craven, an INLA man shot dead by Loyalists.

12th

An explosion occurs at the Royal Artillery Barracks in Woolwich and is claimed by the Scottish National Liberation Army and the IRA!

13th

Women members of the Dail and Senate pledge to unite across party lines to work for disarmament and against the spread of nuclear weapons. Mr Ken Livingstone visits Dublin and declares that Britain should withdraw from Northern Ireland 'within a very short time-scale'.

14th

A bomb planted by the Provisional IRA is discovered in Kensington High Street. It is exploded up by the police.

Amnesty International expresses concern about the use of 'supergrasses' in Northern Ireland in

a letter to James Prior.

17th

A soldier and a garda are killed in Co. Leitrim during a gun battle to free Mr Don Tidey from the Provisional IRA. Hundreds of gardai and 1,000 soldiers are drafted into the area.

40% of the defendants appearing in the North's anti-terrorist courts have no connection with terrorism according to a study published today by Mr Dermot Walsh, a law lecturer at University College, Cork.

20th

Anti-Irish hysteria — complaints telephoned to the BBC that 'The Mountains of Mourne' had been played on the radio after the Harrods bomb. Th producer apologises!

More than 700 extra police and huge numbers of 'bomb patrols' are drafted into central London.

24th

Mrs Thatcher visits armed forces in Northern Ireland and reaffirms her government's commitment to maintaining the union.

29th

Mrs Maureen Dodd, an Irish Catholic and wife of the police inspector killed by the Harrods bomb, says '... When I was 18 I was in Belfast. I saw the Rev. Ian Paisley raising the rabble against the Catholics. I have never seen anything so frightening in my life. We were forced down a basement and we had to stay there for two hours'. These remarks were not reported by the British press.

Mr Michael O'Connor, chairman of SPUC, says he is determined to close abortion referral centres in Ireland.

JANUARY

2nd

Mr Neil Kinnock is vague about whether he is prepared to meet West Belfast MP Gerry Adams. He succeeds in leaving the question unanswered.

7th

A report by the Northern Ireland Equal Opportunities Commission reveals that women's earnings dropped from 76% of men's in 1981 to 72%. Also that the true rate of female unemployment is 8% compared to the official figure of 2%.

The general sale of condoms and spermicide is to be allowed in the South under the new family planning legislation drawn up by the Minister of Health.

10th

DUP members who have studied security measures in Israel propose that the border between Northern Ireland and the Republic be sealed with wire fencing and electronic surveillance equipment.

11th

A review of security takes place in Dublin between the Minister for Justice and Mr Prior. Cross-border gardai co-operation has become a problem because of personal animosity between RUC Chief Constable Sir John Herman and Gardai Commissioner Mr Lawrence Wren. Fianna Fail press officers are urged in a confidential document to maintain files on members of other parties and to forward incriminating stories about them.

Britain's acid rain, produced by burning coal or oil is spilling over into Eastern Ireland according to a government report. It produces damage to crops, wildlife, forests and buildings.

12th

Belfast Crown Court hears how three men decide to 'go out and beat up a Catholic' after a night's drinking. Two former members of the UDR and an English deserter from the British Air Force plead guilty to the manslaughter of a Catholic youth, Mr John Edward McConville.

Events & Resources

In Memory of Frank Stagg



February 12th is the anniversary of the death of Frank Stagg, an Irish prisoner of war who died in Wakefield Jail in 1976 after 60 days of hunger strike. This was the third long fast he had undertaken for repatriation to an Irish jail in Ireland and against criminalisation, that is, for special category status as a political prisoner. At the time,

prisoners in the 'cages' of Long Kesh in the north of Ireland had this status, and lived under a totally different and freer regime than in Britain. Only two weeks after Frank died, this special status was withdrawn in Ireland and the H Block 'blanket' protest began - which itself was to end in the massive hunger strikes of 1980 and 1981, when ten prisoners died.

Stagg's death created deep sorrow and anger throughout Ireland, and a huge funeral procession was planned in Dublin. But the southern Irish government, frightened of anti-British protest, diverted the plane carrying his body away from Dublin to Shannon Airport and had him buried almost in secret in County Mayo.

Frank Stagg was not the only Irish prisoner to fight for political status in jail in England. For the four years that 'special category status' existed in the north of Ireland from 1972 to 1976, Irish prisoners in England fought for its extension, by

refusing to do prison work or by fasting: Michael Gaughan died on hunger strike, and Dolours and Marian Price, Hugh Feeney and Gerry Kelly fasted for 213 days and were force-fed for 166. They are the only Republican prisoners who have been repatriated. Repatriation is still the main demand of Irish prisoners in England, Scotland and Wales, and a picket of Wakefield is being organised on the anniversary of Frank Stagg's death

YORKSHIRE

PRISON PICKET on the anniversary of Frank Stagg's death

Wakefield Prison, Love Lane,
Wakefield, Yorks.

Organised by Sinn Féin
CONTACT T.O.M. FOR TRANSPORT
REPATRIATION FOR IRISH POLITICAL
PRISONERS!

12th February, 1pm

1984 CALENDAR

Produced by the Ireland Komitee Nederland, printed in English, Irish and Dutch. Thirteen top quality photographs giving a realistic picture of streetlife in West Belfast.

Available from the Troops Out Movement,
PO Box 353, London NW5 4NH, price
£1.80 + 50p postage.

CHRISTY MOORE CASSETTE

'The Spirit of Freedom', twelve powerful songs centred on the hunger strikes and produced for the Republican Prisoners' Dependents. It includes moving tributes to the prisoners' agony and bravery, both familiar ('Michael Gaughan', 'No Time For Love') and new ('The People's Own MP', 'Boy From Tamlaghtduff'). Also the humorous 'Granny's Dustbin Lid' and 'Jesus Christ And Jesse James'.

Available from the Troops Out Movement, price £4.50 + postage.

LONDON

CAMDEN POLICE BILL CAMPAIGN CONFERENCE

Harmood Centre, Ferdinand St,
Camden (Chalk Farm tube)

SPEAKERS ON:

Police Bill:
Neighbourhood Watch/
Multi Agency Policing,
Policing in Northern Ireland (TOM speaker)

Camden TOM bookstall

February 4th, 1pm-5pm

LEICESTER

Day Conference on IRISH DIMENSIONS IN BRITISH EDUCATION

at Soar Valley Community College,
Leicester

Further information:
Eric Sylt (0533 6696 25)
or Messen Danaher (0533 875 368)

Organised by the Irish in Britain
Representation Group

February 11th

LONDON TOM BENEFIT

Irish night with music, bar, food.
Organised by East London TOM.

At Hackney Trades & Labour Club,
Dalston Lane, E8. £1.50 (£1 unwaged)

SATURDAY 18th FEBRUARY
8.30 till late

LONDON

IRELAND AND WOMEN

A series of educational for women,
organised by the Armagh Co-ordinating
Committee

HISTORY OF STRUGGLE IN
ARMAGH GAOL

SUNDAY 19th FEBRUARY
4.30-7.00pm

At A Woman's Place, Hungerford House,
Victoria Embankment, WC2

ARMAGH

Support the PICKET OF ARMAGH JAIL for International Women's Day On the weekend of 10/11 March, travelling by train

Contact the Armagh Co-ordinating Cttee,
c/o 374 Grays's Inn Rd, London WC1.

STOP THE STRIP SEARCHES

Join the TOM

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

ENGLAND	Swindon
Birmingham	Tyneside
Brighton	York
Bristol	
Cambridge	LONDON AREA
Colchester	Camden
Coventry	East London
Derby	Enfield
Gravesend	Haringey
Harlow	Islington
Hemel Hempstead	North-West London
Hull	South London
Lancaster	South-East London
Leamington	West London
Leeds	Tower Hamlets
Leicester	
Manchester	SCOTLAND
Merseyside	Aberdeen
Northampton	Central Scotland
Norwich	Dundee
Nottingham	Edinburgh
Oxford	Glasgow
Portsmouth	Stirling
Preston	
St. Albans	WALES
Sheffield	Cardiff
Slough	Newport
	Swansea

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

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

Name
Address

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

URGENT FINANCIAL APPEAL

Troops Out has worked for ten years to achieve its two demands, but in order to do this effectively we need your financial support. Since we have been running a national office we have been able to coordinate our work, but we still need money for the people who work in the office. All donations are welcome and you can send them to the T.O.M., PO Box 353, London NW5 4NH. Make cheques or postal orders payable to the Troops Out Movement. You can also ask us for a standing order form, to take to your bank and the bank will credit it directly to our national account. This is on a monthly basis, and people usually pay between £1 and £6 per month.