

TROOPS OUT NOW

In the three years since Bloody Sunday, Britain's strategy in Ireland has changed its name a number of times - but the troops are still there.

The events of January 30th, 1972, should have shattered the myth of the British army's 'peace-keeping' role once and for all. They could have proved a turning-point in the solidarity campaign, drawing thousands of people into struggle for the right of the Irish people to determine their own future.

Unfortunately, the left organisations either failed to take the question seriously or else subordinated the key task of the labour movement - building a mass campaign to force the government to withdraw the troops - to tying the solidarity movement to support (though not 'uncritical') of the IRA.

The sectarian chickens of that period have come home to roost with the vicious anti-working class legislation of the Jenkins' Bill.

The aftermath of the Birmingham bombings demonstrated only too clearly the need for practical solidarity with the Irish people such a mass campaign could have given - not just as an abstract principle but as a concrete way of defending the struggles of the working class in both Ireland and Britain.

We must reject all attempts to impose sectarian formulae on our solidarity. The attempt to wish away the national struggle in Ireland by abstract pleas for working class solidarity and the other extreme of effectively uncritical support for an organisation which has taken the struggle out of the hands of the masses in Ireland, are equally sterile.

The central task remains to show that the responsibility for bloodshed today lies as squarely on the British Government as it did in January 1972.

That bloodshed can only be ended and the democratic rights of the Irish people realised by building a mass campaign around the demand TROOPS OUT NOW!

END ALL REPRESSIVE LAWS IN BRITAIN AND IRELAND!
RELEASE ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS NOW!
FOR THE RIGHT OF THE IRISH PEOPLE TO SELF-
DETERMINATION!
TROOPS OUT NOW!