

TROOPS OUT

Paper of the Troops Out Movement 20p

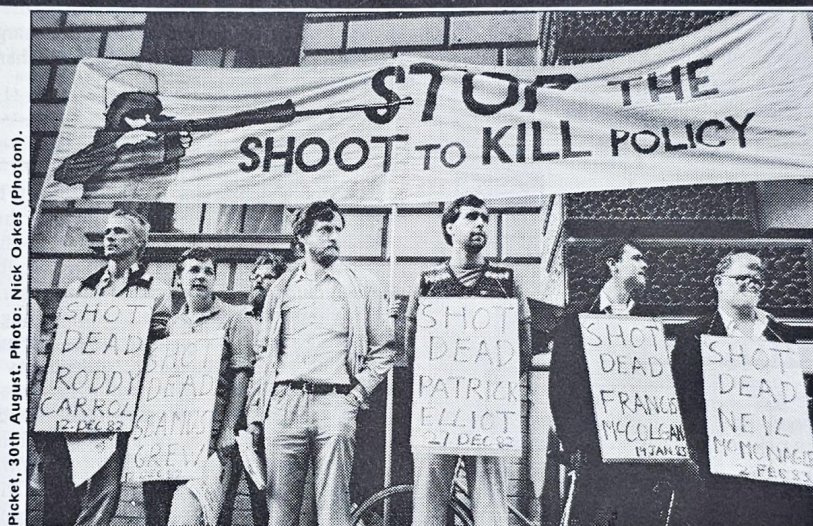
Vol. 7, No. 1, October 1983

Troops Out Now!



Self Determination For The Irish People As A Whole!

13 SHOT DEAD



Picket, 30th August. Photo: Nick Oakes (Photon).

AND THEY STILL CALL IT PEACEKEEPING

At least thirteen people have been killed in the North of Ireland under the British Shoot-to-kill policy.

Over just this summer, Anthony O'Hare was shot dead by the Royal Ulster Constabulary on 28th July; Martin Malone was shot dead by the Ulster Defence Regiment on 30th July; and Thomas Reilly was shot dead by the British Army on 9th August.

All but two of the 13 victims were unarmed, and in no case were any shots fired by the victims. All but one of them were Catholics from the nationalist communities of N. Ireland.

So far the killers have walked away scot free, the Government denied there is any actual policy and there was little international condemnation or even knowledge of the shootings. Just recently the policy has begun to be exposed, and a soldier was charged with the murder of Thomas Reilly in August. Subsequently four RUC constables have been charged with two killings which took place last year.

What this soldier and policemen have to fear from the law was shown at a trial of two soldiers in September. They were charged with the murder of Eamonn Bradley, an IRA man, in Derry. They 'claimed' that they *thought*

he was armed and they *thought* their lives were in danger. In fact Bradley was unarmed, but this didn't bother the judge who acquitted the two soldiers.

After the shooting of Thomas Reilly in Belfast more than a thousand people marched in protest, and hundreds more attended his funeral. Rioting broke out for several days and nights afterwards.

Troops Out Movement branches in this country also staged protests at the killings. In Leeds for example, leaflets detailing the killings were distributed on successive weekends in August. Local Labour councillor Garth Frankland made a public statement condemning the killings and calling for the immediate withdrawal of British troops.

In London, TOM organised a picket on 30th August outside the Northern Ireland Office, which was supported by over 40 people from different organisations. Islington MP Jeremy Corbyn attended and messages of support were received from MPs Harry Cohen, Ernie Roberts and Tony Banks, Euro-MP Alf Lomas, GLC leader Ken Livingstone, Islington Borough Council, the National League of Young Liberals and the Liberal Friends of Ireland Group.

Newham 8, Police Bill & Ireland

In September last year there was a series of attacks by gangs of white youths on Asian schoolchildren from a school in Newham in East London. A number of children were hurt and a 10-year-old was hospitalised. Some older Asian youths began to escort the children home from school.

On the afternoon of September 24th, the youths were set upon by three men and immediately began defending themselves. Within minutes they were surrounded by a large number of police and eight were arrested. At the police station the 8 were subjected to racial and physical abuse, resulting in the hospitalisation of one youth for several days. They were told that they three men who set upon them were police. The 8 were then charged with a series of offences ranging from 'threatening behaviour' to 'actual bodily harm'.

The incident took place against a background of continuing racial attacks and police harassment. It has echoes of N.Ireland where sectarianism against Nationalist people is condoned and supported by the RUC. And like the nationalist people in

N.Ireland, black people have to endure special laws such as the Nationality Act and the immigration laws. Physical attacks are commonplace. According to Home Office figures Asian people are 50 times more likely to be attacked than white people. Ten Asian households have been fire-bombed in the past two years in the London borough of Walthamstow.

CONSPIRACY

The police and Government's attitude to these attacks again have echoes of N.Ireland. When the Nationalist people organised against their oppression, they were faced with further emergency laws (P.T.A.), juryless courts, forced confessions, 'Shoot to kill' policy, and lately bribed perjurers and show trials.

In reply to the massive local political support the police further charged the Newham 8 with 'conspiracy to assault persons unknown' — three months after their arrest. Conspiracy is a charge which needs very little evidence as a basis for prosecution. It is very difficult to defend against because of its vagueness. The charges and particularly the conspiracy charges are a direct attack on black people's attempts to defend themselves in their own areas or in the courts.

POLICE BILL

The trial which begins on October 24th has even more significance as it is just one month before the new Police Bill is published. The Bill will greatly extend police powers with new provisions such as 96 hours detention; forcible fingerprinting and photographing, forcible internal body searches; roadblocks; and arrest without warrant for almost anything. The Bill owes a lot to policing experience in N.Ireland. The main provisions of the police Bill were demanded by senior army officers in N.Ireland as long ago as 1976.

The Bill is a part of an overall trend towards more co-ordinated state control of the population, first suggested by Brigadier Frank Kitson in his book *Low Intensity Operations*. It is a philosophy close to the heart of the Chief of the Met. Police, Kenneth Newman, who after his experience in N. Ireland has been busy trying to develop a much wider policing role. This takes the form of increased powers, and using state agencies such as social services as 'eyes and ears', community police involved in youth clubs, schools, tenants associations etc.

Opposition to this type of authoritarian police state cannot be effective if we ignore the gross injustice of Britain's presence in N.Ireland or the continuous harassment by racists and police on black people in Britain. The defence of the Newham 8 is a cause for us all.



A nation that enslaves another can never itself be free



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 what-

ever 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

TROOPS OUT is produced by an editorial collective drawn from TOM branches in London. Contributions are welcome (although we can't guarantee to publish everything that comes in).

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Supergrass Trial 35 Imprisoned

One man's self-interest has resulted in 4,000 years imprisonment for 35 men and women. They were convicted at the major 'supergrass' show trial at Belfast Crown Court which ended on 4th July.

The sentences were passed by Judge Basil Kelly, a former Unionist MP, on the evidence of the former IRA volunteer turned informer Christopher Black. The Unionist judge, although conceding that Black's motives were 'entirely self-interest' and that he was 'up to his neck in terrorist activity', had no hesitation in accepting his evidence without corroboration.

Black was picked up by the RUC (police) in November 1981 and taken to the notorious Castlereagh Interrogation Centre. He has been kept in RUC custody ever since, denied access even to his mother and father. His wife and children were kidnapped by the RUC at the same time and have remained in isolation. The isolation was used to exert immense psychological pressure on Black.

The trial itself illustrates the sham which passes for a judicial system in the North of Ireland. The court sits without a jury. The judge accepted Black's evidence without any corroboration whatsoever. The judge knew he was prepared to lie because Black had already admitted perjury in front of the same judge at a previous court appearance. His initial statement bore little resemblance to the final one produced in court.

Where Black's statement clashed with that of the Army or RUC, his memory, which up until then had been remarkable, became suddenly hazy. And yet Judge Kelly described Black as 'one of the best witnesses I have heard'.

INTERMENT

Among those sentenced at the trial was Kevin Mulgrew. He has been hounded by the RUC since 1973 and by 1980 he had spent 3 years in jail on remand for five framed charges, all of which were either dropped or found not proven. He was arrested once again in November 1981 on the word of Black and has been in custody ever since. He now faces a life sentence.

Over two hundred people are now remanded in prison awaiting 'trials' based on supergrasses. There is no doubt that this has replaced earlier British policies of internment without trial and the beating of so-called confessions out of people. It is yet another method of intimidation of the Irish people.

The security surrounding the trial has been unprecedented, with armed guards inside and outside the court. Judge Kelly was even supplied with a bullet-proof vest during the trial. Crumlin Road jail, where the accused were kept on remand, also



received additional security. The authorities were mindful of how seven nationalists blasted their way out of the jail the day before they were due to be sentenced at a similar show trial in May 1981.

BRIBERY

This latest strategy by the RUC and judiciary rests on the availability of huge sums of money to bribe informers, the offer of immunity from prosecution or

reduced sentences, and the promise of a new life — in South Africa, for example.

But these pathetic figures remain pawns in the game of the British State in its continuing attempt to create mistrust and uncertainty among the people of N.Ireland. The only certainty following this trial is that Christopher Black will spend the rest of his life looking over his shoulder, forever running from any friend of Irish freedom.

Plastic Bullet Victim DHSS Benefit Stopped

Julie Livingstone, from Belfast, was killed by a plastic bullet, during street protests marking the death on hunger-strike of Francis Hughes in May 1981. Julie was running an errand at the time. The bullet was fired by the British Army and she was 14 years old.

Julie's family have fought a long legal battle since then to establish the fact that their daughter was an innocent victim of Army misrule. This involved them in applying to the High Court for a second inquest, with a jury and a different coroner. At this inquest, which cost the family nearly £2,000 in legal charges, Julie was found to be innocent.

After this finding the Ministry of Defence offered the family £1,500 as compensation for 'damages'. This insulting sum made the Livingstones decide to take the MoD to court. On the same day as the case was to be heard the compensation was raised to £18,500 and the family accepted an out-of-court settlement.

However the sordid dealings by state authorities did not end there. The Social Security promptly stopped benefit payments to Bernadette and Archie Livingstone, both in their sixties, and their daughter Bernadette (18). This callous decision, and callous disregard for life, means that the family have now to both continue living with the tragedy of their daughter's murder, and to live off the 'proceeds' of that murder. As Julie's mother says: "We have lost Julie to keep us, to keep the burden off the state, that's what it boils down to."

The Livingstones have two sons in the H Block who they regularly send food parcels and clothes. Since security benefits were stopped, the sons have asked for nothing.

Gerry Adams, Sinn Féin MP, has written to the DHSS to challenge their decision; at the time of writing there is no DHSS comment on their disgusting action.

A BORTION VOTE SETTLES NOTHING

On September 7th, people in the South of Ireland voted on an amendment to their constitution. It states that,

The State acknowledges the right to life of the unborn and, with due regard to the equal right to life of the mother, guarantees in its laws to respect, and as far as is practicable, by its laws to defend and vindicate that right.

The result of the referendum was a two to one vote in favour, but only 53.67% of the population actually voted. Over a million people stayed away from the polls. Thus, even though the amendment was passed, two thirds of the population were not positively in favour of it.

Even before the amendment became law, abortion was illegal in the South of Ireland. However, members of the Society for the Protection of the Unborn Child (SPUC), backed up and financed by the church and conservative forces campaigned to prevent what had happened in the United States, where the American constitution was used successfully to attack laws prohibiting abortion.

The Anti-abortion campaign in Ireland has been heavily financed by anti-abortion groups from other countries, mainly Australia and America. After defeats in their own countries, they were determined to win a victory somewhere in the world, and saw the South of Ireland as a likely

place for this to happen. These groups have a great deal of money at their disposal, and it has been estimated that the anti-abortion forces have spent over £¼ million on their campaign.

The passing of the amendment means that as well as abortion being illegal, a woman's life would not necessarily be saved in a medical emergency if she were pregnant. Also, certain forms of contraception may now be found to be illegal. Already, the new climate brought about by the amendment campaign is encouraging the forces of 'law, order and morality.' On the same day that the voting took place, the Well Woman Centre in Dublin was warned by gardai (police) that it faced prosecution for selling condoms without prescription.

Behind these things we can see the real contempt for women felt by these people with all their talk of morality.

At present abortion agencies in Britain estimate that ten women a day (3,650 a year) are so desperate that they travel to places like Liverpool and London for abortions.

The same number also come each day from the North. For all the talk of the six counties being part of the United Kingdom, the more liberal 1967 Abortion Act, allowing doctors to give abortions for social and psychological, as well as medical reasons, is not the law in the North. There, the idea of a more liberal Protestant attitude is just a myth. But Ian Paisley and his followers would like to have it both ways. On the one hand they have used the amendment campaign to claim that the South of Ireland is a sectarian Catholic State, whilst on the other



hand opposing abortion for women in the North.

This amendment then, is a victory for right wing forces both Catholic and Protestant, who believe women's lives should be spent in the home, bearing children and keeping the family together.

But there are some optimistic signs. The fact that one third of the population voted against the amendment, and one third were not certain enough to vote, shows that changes are beginning to occur and even in this predominantly Catholic country many people are beginning to feel that women should have some control over their own lives.

Even though the amendment campaign is over, small groups have formed throughout the South of Ireland who will go on working on the issues central to women's lives. The referendum has stirred up more than it has settled.

STRIP SEARCHES

A recent letter from the Northern Ireland Office gives us a very unusual view of the strip searches in Armagh Prison. The Secretary of State and the Home Secretary cannot accept that strip searching is a blatant form of intimidation and sexual harassment of prisoners and their visitors. They are 'satisfied, that the searches when necessary are carried out in as sensitive a manner as is possible by the staff concerned'.

Perhaps strip searching of a three year old girl and a pregnant woman; searches with male prison officers present; searches when the women are menstruating are their idea of sensitivity. It certainly wouldn't be most people's.

The Stop the Strip Searches in Armagh Jail Campaign reports that six months after the strip searching was introduced, there was a considerable drop in their frequency due to public pressure. But recently the numbers have increased again, particularly as a means of harassing particular women. We need to make sure that this issue is kept in the public eye, so that it becomes as difficult as possible for the authorities to deny what is happening.

Stop the Strip Searches in Armagh Jail Campaign
c/o A Woman's Place
Hungerford House
Victoria Embankment
London WC2

FLYING THE FLAG

EIGHTY workers in County Armagh are now out of work due to loyalist insistence on flying the Union Jack flag at the firm.

Management of the Moy Meats factory at Charlemont sacked the entire workforce (which is roughly half nationalist and half unionist) rather than confront loyalists who for several weeks refused to work if the Union Jack was taken down.

The dispute began on July 4th when the Union Jack was placed on the main pathway to the plant by loyalist workers, in contradiction to company rules agreed with the trade union ATGWU which state: "The company adopts no political or sectarian allegiances."

Nationalist workers complained through the trade union, and management removed the flag.

The Union Jack, especially in the marching month of July, symbolises

unionist dominance and violence in N. Ireland. While the flag was flying at Moy Meats, nationalists were coming under vicious attack in many areas of the north, and many were forced to evacuate their homes by flag-waving loyalist mobs.

But senior shop steward at Moy Meats, Tom Kerr, himself a former UDR man, led the loyalist workers out on strike in protest at the removal of the flag.

The flag was hoisted again that night, and the following day the nationalist workers refused to work under the symbol of their subjugation.

Management then postponed the issue by declaring a fortnight's holiday, but when the plant reopened on July 25th the flag was still flying and the nationalist workers again went home.

The following day management sacked the entire workforce. Nationalist workers have made strong criticism of Tom Kerr, who used his trade union position to put the loyalist case to the media.

Labour Leadership~ NEW FACES, OLD POLICIES

At its 1983 October Conference the Labour Party will be choosing a new leader. The new Labour leader's position on Northern Ireland will be an important influence on future Party policy on the Six Counties. However in their personal manifestos, in which each candidate for the leadership outlines his priorities for future Labour Party policy, the issue of Northern Ireland is not mentioned.

Whereas the possibility of a future nuclear war is discussed at some length, the war that is in progress at the moment on Westminster's doorstep is ignored. The unspoken consensus (which exists in the Parliamentary Labour Party generally) is that the conflict in Northern Ireland is virtually unresolvable and incomprehensible to the public, —and thus must be placed low on any future political agenda.

What positions are held on Northern Ireland then by the four aspiring leaders—Roy Hattersley, Eric Heffer, Neil Kinnock and Peter Shore?

Some idea can be gained by their public reactions to Ken Livingstone's recent statement that Britain's treatment of Ireland over the two centuries was as bad as Hitler's treatment of the Jews in World War Two. These reactions were mainly condemnatory, unconstructive, and confirmed the stereotypes of Northern Ireland held by the public. Thus Shore accused Livingstone of bringing shame onto the Labour Party while Hattersley stated that Livingstone's argument was one of 'ignorant extremism', which would give terrorists justification for murder. Kinnock gave a less emotive response calling Livingstone's remarks 'extraordinarily eccentric' and a 'misreading of...the current realities and problems of Ireland'.

SHAMEFUL POLICY

Only Heffer made a more constructive response. Although also critical of the comparison made by Livingstone, Heffer understands the historical background of Irish repression by the British that Livingstone was referring to. Thus Heffer states that Britain 'should be ashamed of our Irish policy over the last 800 years. I do not think we have anything to hold our heads up about'. This reflects Heffer's long-held concern with the Northern Irish question.

Indeed, in a recent interview with the Labour Party journal *New Socialist* Heffer cites James Connolly as the man he most admires. Heffer repeats this in a letter to this article's writer (all four candidates were written to, and asked for a statement of their position on Northern Ireland; only Heffer replied). Heffer states: 'My attitude to Ireland is much influenced by the great James Connolly who I feel was one of the greatest socialists and working class leaders who ever lived'.

It is also Eric Heffer who differs from the other candidates on how to achieve a united Ireland. The other three candidates support official Labour Party

policy as defined at the 1981 Party Conference and outlined in the recent election manifesto. This commits the Party to a united Ireland 'on a basis of consent'. Until such consent is achieved, though, Labour will 'respect and support . . . the right of the Northern Ireland people to remain within the United Kingdom, although this does not mean that Unionist members can have a veto on political development . . .' In effect this commits the Labour Party to confirming the Loyalist veto, and offering the much-tried and failed strategy of a devolved administration at Stormont (similar to the 1974 Sunningdale Assembly and the present ineffectual Prior Assembly) in order to bring Protestants and Catholics together. Labour recognises that Protestant agreement to devolved administration with Catholic power-sharing, and to discussions on a united Ireland, will be difficult to achieve, but rejects other alternatives including withdrawal of troops. Hattersley speaks for the Party when he says in an interview with the *Irish Post* about Irish union: 'I don't think you can precipitate that by bringing all the troops out, which in my view would produce murder and mayhem in the Six Counties'.



Eric Heffer holds the view that a phased withdrawal and an All-Ireland Council are necessary.

However, Heffer believes that phased withdrawal by an agreed date may be the only alternative. In an interview with the left Labour weekly *Socialist Organiser* he argues that the Labour Party lacks a realistic strategy for achieving a united Ireland. For Heffer, such a strategy must involve an all-Ireland Council which would start drawing up a constitutional blueprint for an united Ireland. However, in order that the Northern Irish Protestants take such a Council seriously there must be a clear statement that we are going to come out, phased over a period of time'.

AGAINST THE TERROR ACT

If Labour Party policy, and that of most of its leadership candidates, still



Merlyn Rees, Secretary for N. Ireland under the 1974 Labour Government, tried to introduce 'Ulsterisation' and 'criminalisation' (see page 9) and withdrew political status from the prisoners.

reflects the continuing inability to learn the lessons of the history of Ireland, the Labour Party has improved its record in Britain. Nine years after introducing the Prevention of Terrorism Act onto the statute books, the Party has belatedly recognised that it has been used widely to repress the resident Irish.

In March of this year Labour opposed the annual renewal of the Act. As Shadow Home Secretary, Hattersley represented Labour in the parliamentary debate. Arguing that the Act was anti-Irish rather than anti-terrorist, Hattersley spoke forcefully against renewal: 'Should the police, acting on no authority but their own, be given the power to arrest and detain? Should the Home Secretary, acting on no authority but his own, be allowed to extend the detention?'. In the vote on renewal Hattersley, Heffer and Kinnock followed the Party ruling to vote against. Shore, probably the most right-wing candidate and the most supportive of the Loyalist veto, abstained, thus demonstrating his support for the continuance of the PTA.

Neil Kinnock seems almost certain to be the next Labour leader. He has already declared his intention to adopt a pragmatic and realistic approach in order to win back lost electoral support. This will almost certainly involve adherence to official Party policy on Ireland, and when and if Labour attains power again, direct rule will continue. With the prospect of Hattersley as deputy-leader (the only other likely candidate, Michael Meacher, is closer to Heffer on Ireland) Ireland will continue to be low on Labour's list of political priorities.

BELFAST DELEGATION



A Long Week-end in Belfast

It isn't any wonder,
There isn't any change.
The town looks quite like my town,
Your town,
— Just the same.

There aren't really any soldiers,
Rifles cocked, in camouflage,
Hiding in the graveyard bushes,
Riding round in armoured cars.

You don't really feel that frightened,
after all, they're just our boys
On a 3 month tour of duty
In the good old British Isles.

(That's why I didn't take their photos,
Didn't look them in the eye
When they passed me on the main street
Battle-dressed, guns held high.)

After all, they are peace-keeping —
Keeping some hypocrites in style,
Keeping the Irish land in pieces,
Keeping peace away, awhile.

Patsy Davis

For the last four years the Troops Out movement has organised a visit to the North of Ireland in early August. This coincides with the anniversary of the introduction of internment without trial by the British government in 1971. This year's delegation was one of the largest ever with some 200 people participating.

The visit was over three days, and consisted of a series of visits, presentations and workshops, and a march around the British Army forts in West Belfast. The visit ended with a demonstration to mark the anniversary of internment. Most of the delegation made the exhausting journey overnight by coach, and were rewarded by a minute search of every delegate's baggage, both entering and leaving Ireland.

What follows is from a report by an ASTMS delegate.

RANDOM SHOOTINGS

Where possible delegates were accommodated in local homes. I was placed in the Markets area of South Belfast, with a protestant (but not a loyalist) household. It did mean going home late at night by taxi because we would otherwise have been automatic targets for random shootings from an adjacent loyalist area. One of our hosts showed us where he had been the target of such an attempt, and told us of the indifference of the RUC to the matter.

PERSONAL IMPRESSIONS

Housing conditions in West Belfast are among the worst in western Europe. There is an air of neglect worse than anything in Britain, and little sign of action to change this. Indeed the reaction of the state to protest against this by democratic means is at best indifference, at worst repression.

To give a flavour of this we were told of a delegation organised from one of the (catholic) West Belfast estates to lobby the Housing Executive about conditions on their estate. In England this might be met by a polite hearing and promises of future action. In Belfast the RUC set about the delegation and sent them back to their estate empty handed and battered.

What is extraordinary to English eyes is the highly visible politicisation of ordinary people. All over Belfast the graffiti and the murals demonstrate this. It was astonishing to see how people came out of their houses and applauded us, simply because we had come to see for ourselves and to oppose the British Army.

This picture is not the one which Fleet Street and the Broadcasters present. Much Fleet Street reporting is done from the comfort of the Europa Hotel, with friendly assistance from the British Army public relations machine — and the Army knows that it is fighting a war. The BBC apparently takes the view that its Irish coverage should form part of the war effort, and coverage is known to be treated with political kid gloves.

CULTURAL RESISTANCE

One of the most interesting and informative sessions during the TOM delegation to Belfast in August was the one on Cultural Resistance. A woman and a man from Sinn Fein's Cultural Affairs department introduced it.

They spoke of the 'Celtic communism' that existed in Ireland before the Norman invasion in the twelfth century, and described how the invaders had a deliberate policy of crushing the Irish language. Anyone who spoke Irish was prevented from trading or bartering.

The bards, pagan Celts who conducted education in Irish and kept alive the oral tradition of Irish history and poetry, were driven away by a combination of the Normans and the Catholic Church.

The Irish language was ruthlessly stamped out and English was forced on the people. But built into the English language is the whole imperialist attitude. There are different concepts in the two languages.

For example, in Celtic societies there were people called Ri's, who were elected chiefs who carried out basically administrative functions. The English language translation of Ri is King, however, which implies power and is a totally different concept.

Until very recently the Irish language has been at a very low ebb in the North of Ireland, and what classes there were were controlled by elitist and right-wing groups.

The main impetus for change has come from within the prisons. In jail, the Governor and warders hate the prisoners to talk Gaelic. The prisoners learnt that being able to speak the language solidified them, giving them a distinct culture and identity.

In H Block when the blanket protest got going there were only three Gaelic speakers out of 300 but by the end of the hunger strike there were 350 fluent Gaelic speakers out of 500. The main driving force behind this was Bobby Sands.

Prisoners shouted the words out of their cells and the others scratched them on the whitewashed cell walls with rosary beads!

The lessons learnt in prison are now being put into practice outside. The movement is trying to develop an alternative to the dominant Anglo-American culture. They've taken Gaelic out of the hands of the elitists and onto the streets, to build up a sense of unity, and to alienate the occupying British forces.

There were only 2 or 3 Gaelic classes in Belfast a couple of years ago but there are now 50, with around 1,000 currently attending. Many of these are people who have not previously been involved with the republican movement in any way.

Sinn Fein have initiated an Irish street-name campaign, whereby they conduct a survey of a street to see if people want an Irish street name up as well as the English one. When people agree, as most do, they erect the sign.

This is against the law, however, as the 1949 local government legislation classed Irish as an 'offensive language'. Although somebody has been arrested for erecting an Irish street name, no prosecution has yet resulted. Developments are awaited with interest, especially since Britain is one of the countries who have signed an EEC policy to promote minority languages!

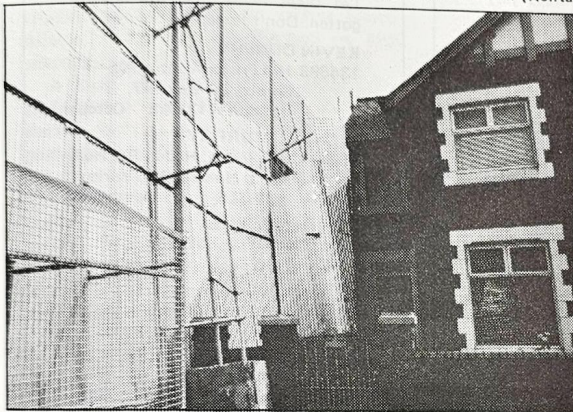
There is, incidentally, a very successful independent nursery and primary school on the Shaws Road in Belfast where everything is taught in Irish, and English is taught as a second language along with French and German. From starting off with three pupils 14 years ago there are now 180 with a three year waiting list. It is totally funded by donations from the financially hard-pressed people of West Belfast.

Another visual weapon to bind people together and alienate the Army is the painting of wall murals depicting the Irish people's resistance to British rule. This has developed at a great rate in the last three years, especially amongst the youth, despite the Army's constant campaign of vandalism against the murals.

Finally, the speakers stressed that the republican movement believes in secularism — with no church influence in education, culture or politics.



Photo: Mark Salmon (Rentasnap)



Unpleasant neighbours: the Army/police forts dominate nationalist areas (Photo: Patsy Davis).

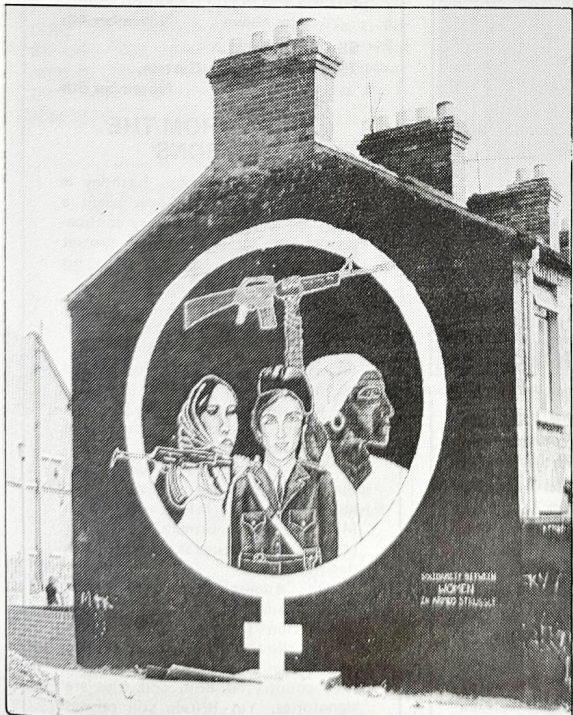


Photo: Helen Dady

MIDLANDS WITCH HUNT

Present on the TOM Delegation to Belfast were two delegates from Birmingham Trades Council, Paul Mackney (the President) and Mick Rice. On re-entering Britain at Liverpool they were questioned by the police about their visit.

They were not held for long — just long enough to miss all their bus and train connections. (Two members of the Scottish Republican Socialist Party were actually arrested under the Prevention of Terrorism Act as they were returning from N. Ireland after the Internment weekend.)

They have since been hounded by the local press: 'Trades Council Chief Defends IRA March' (*Birmingham Post* headlines); 'It leaves an unpleasant taste that a leading official of a city organisation should be associated with the IRA' etc etc. They also accused Mick Rice of remaining 'nameless because he was ashamed of his actions'!

Paul and Mick wrote a reply to the papers, part of which was printed in which they pointed out: 'A recent opinion poll shows that 68% of British people also supports the 'troops out' policy. Most people agree that it is only a matter of time before British troops are pulled out of Ire-

land just as they have been withdrawn from other parts of the world.

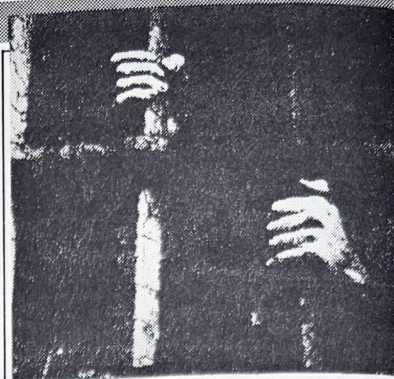
The Trades Council accepted an invitation from the Troops Out Movement to send two representatives on a delegation to Belfast to see what the situation was and to give a report on their return. We saw there poverty, unemployment and deplorable housing conditions. We saw one section of the population in West Belfast surrounded by five army or police forts.

Contrary to the suggestion in your headline, we did not take part in an IRA march. We did participate in a parade to commemorate the introduction of internment 12 years ago, to object to the continued use of courts without jury trial, and to call for British troop withdrawal.

We are not against the British people, as you suggest. Indeed, we spend most of our time trying to improve the living and working conditions of British people.'

The *Birmingham Post* has offered to arrange a visit for Mick and Paul to visit the army in Belfast, which they have agreed to do.

The episode shows the press trying to distract from the real issues of Britain's involvement in Ireland. Anyone questioning Britain's role is branded as a 'terrorist supporter'. It's much easier than discussing proper arguments such as those in the delegates' letter.



PRISONERS' BIRTHDAYS

Please send cards to these prisoners, who endure horrific conditions in English jails — often in isolation. Let them know they are not forgotten. Don't forget the number.

KEVIN DUNPHY

134893 HM Prison Wormwood Scrubs, PO Box 757, London W12 0AE October

MICHAEL MURRAY

509534 HM Prison, Hedon Rd, Hull, North Humberside, Yorks HU9 5LS October 5th

STEPHEN BLAKE

507953 HM Prison Walton, Liverpool October 31st

HARRY DUGGAN

338638 HM Prison Parkhurst, Newport, Isle of Wight, PO30 5NX October 31st

ROY WALSH

119083 HM Prison Gartree, Leicester Rd, Market Harborough, Leics LE16 7RP November 1st

MARTIN COUGHLAN

507955 HM Prison Hedon Rd, Hull, as above November 4th

SEAN KINSELLA

758661 HM Prison Gartree, as above November 5th

NEWS FROM THE PRISONS

Michael Murray, whose birthday is on October 5th, has now spent a horrific four years in solitary confinement. He is on a blanket protest demanding the right to serve his sentence in N. Ireland.

John McCluskey was refused parole to attend his father's funeral in Fermanagh, even though he is due for release and therefore would be most unlikely to abscond. In fact he was sentenced to ten years in 1973 and so has already served more than his time.

The Home Office has prohibited Sinn Féin MP Gerry Adams from visiting prisoners. Prison visits are an MP's privilege normally taken for granted, and Adams is appealing this decision.

On August 25th the British Government signed the European Convention for Sentenced Persons, which allows prisoners in foreign jails to finish the sentence in their own country, if both countries are signatories. Yet Britain still refuses to allow Irish prisoners to serve their sentences in the North of Ireland.

Photo: Mark Salmon (Rentanap)



Common Struggle

At a 700 strong march by young Asians against racist attacks in Dewsbury in West Yorkshire on July 30th, two speakers linked the struggle against racism to the Irish struggle.

Manjit Singh of the Asian Youth Movement in Bradford said: 'Remember Southall. Remember the Coventry murders. Remember the Bradford 12. And remember Ireland, where another oppressed minority has been fighting for centuries. They have shown the way.'

"People say we are a peaceful people. We are a peaceful people, but when fire comes you must fight fire with fire." The march was organised within a few days, after a series of violent attacks on Asians and the arrest of three Asians who had defended themselves.

A speaker from the Pakistani Workers Association referred to the unity of black people, Irish people and other progressives against "this disgusting thing—racism."

The Dewsbury Defence Committee can be contacted c/o 93 Little Horton Lane, Bradford, West Yorkshire.

YES AND NO TO GERRY ADAMS

Gerry Adams, the W. Belfast Sinn Fein MP did finally get to speak to people in London in July, at the invitation of Islington Labour Party. However, this opportunity was denied to people in Peckham (S. London) the week before by the actions of some councillors there.

Earlier this year, the Labour party executive in Peckham decided to take up Steve Bundred's (an Islington councillor) offer to speak to constituency Labour parties about his visit to Belfast and meeting with Gerry Adams and other Sinn Fein activists. This talk was postponed due to the General Election, but reorganised after, with the added invitation of Gerry Adams. (After Gerry Adams' election as MP the ban on him entering England was lifted.)

A local hall was booked, amid criticism from some labour wards. Rumours started buzzing that the hall was not properly booked. Wentworth (chair of Libraries and Amenities) confirmed this. The Labour Group then tabled an emergency motion to revoke Wentworth's decision but it failed by 26-15 votes. It needed a 2/3 majority (democracy!?) The chair of the Labour Group resigned in disgust.

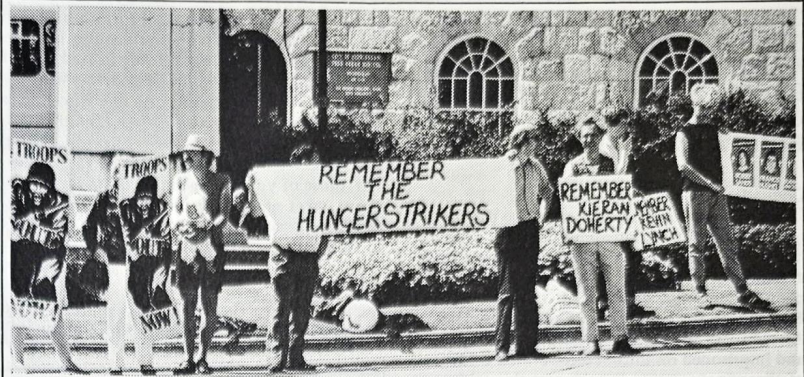
Furthermore the labour party member who wrote the invitation to Gerry Adams was told to write and inform Gerry that the congratulations on his election in the invitation were her 'personal view'. She argued that Gerry Adams is also a socialist and a previous motion had opposed the Tory ban on his entry into England, but to no effect. As she says *"this episode shows me we, who support Troops Out and self-determination, have not won the arguments by a long shot."*

MERSEY BEAT

One of the areas of highest incidence of arrests and questioning under the Prevention of Terrorism Act is, naturally enough, Liverpool with its ferry services to and from Ireland, and its large Irish communities.

This activity under the PTA cost the people of Liverpool £1.5 millions a year for 'man-power' expenses alone. Seventy-three officers from the Special Branch are on full-time port duties.

The Special Branch in Mersey-side (with a total of 108 officers) cost £2.2 millions. Labour Councillors are threatening to withhold police funds unless they are given more information about what the Special Branch actually do.



BIRMINGHAM TOM

Fifteen Birmingham people commemorated the 1981 deaths on hunger strike of Kevin Lynch and Kieran Doherty. Two car loads of police came on the scene to insist that they move from a very visible spot in Victoria Square to the relative obscurity of Chamberlain Square.

The police insisted that demonstrations were banned in Victoria Square under by-laws. 'Which ones, officer?' 'Don't you get clever with

me!' The demonstrators moved following a kind invitation to accompany the officers to the police station for further discussion.

Birmingham Troops Out also held its annual picket of the Birmingham Show. This is the biggest display of army paraphernalia held in the city. The demonstrators were greeted with yelled abuse, strange faces and gestures from the passing vehicles of the Parachute Regiment — the cream of the British Army (thick and full of clots!!).

The Labour Party And Ireland

This is the sixth article in a series outlining the history of the Labour Party's policy on Ireland. The previous article led up to the collapse of the Sunningdale Assembly in May 1974.

Despite the failure of Sunningdale the new Labour government still hoped initially to return power to N.Ireland through an elected Assembly with minority Catholic representation. To this end Merlyn Rees, Secretary for N. Ireland, established a Constitutional Convention in May 1975. This body consisted of elected representatives of the main six county parties, including the SDLP; its brief to consider what form a N.I. Assembly should take. But — as with Sunningdale — Loyalist intransigence to any Catholic participation in policy-making caused the collapse of the Convention eight months later.

The Wilson government, now abandoned further attempts at constitutional reform. This move from constitutional considerations had already been signalled by the passing of the Prevention of Terrorism Act in Nov. 1974. This Act which disregarded fundamental civil rights enshrined in law for hundreds of years — and indeed was described by Roy Jenkins, Home Secretary, as 'draconian' and 'unprecedented in peacetime' — was rushed through Parliament in one day in hysterical response to the Birmingham pub bombings.

In N.Ireland Roy Mason, the new N.I. Secretary introduced a strategy to weaken IRA support. Its central element was 'normalisation' — the fostering of the belief that the Republican struggle was declining, and that under Westminster rule the situation in N.Ireland was returning to normal. Two other elements,

'ulsterisation' and 'criminalisation', were vital to this ideological process. 'Ulsterisation' referred to the gradual withdrawal of British troops and their replacement by the 'normal' policing of the Royal Ulster Constabulary and Ulster Defence Regiment.

'Criminalisation' involved the withdrawal of Special Category Status (allowed to political prisoners since the 1972 internments) which gave Republicans certain privileges not allowed to ordinary criminals such as wearing their own clothes. Since 1973 Republicans had been tried and sentenced by single magistrates in no-jury Diplock courts — which implicitly recognised their different status. But from March 1976 Republicans were to be portrayed as criminals and murderers, rather than political freedom fighters.

'Criminalisation', and the overall strategy, had little success. The brutal treatment of Republican prisoners by army and police was condemned by the Amnesty Report, the government-commissioned Bennett Report, and the European Court of Human Rights during the Labour administration. In the H-Block Kieran Nugent, the first Republican prisoner to be 'criminalised' stated: *'If they want me to wear a convict's uniform they'll have to nail it on my back!'* Thus began the blanket protest which developed into the 'dirty protest' in 1978, and the hunger-strikes of 1980 and 1981. The total failure of the criminalisation policy was seen when hunger-striker Bobby Sands was elected to Westminster for Fermanagh and South Tyrone in April 1981, and two other Republican prisoners won seats in the Dail, the Irish Republic's parliament, in June 1981.

OPEN LETTER FROM JIMMY BROWN — CURRENTLY ON REMAND IN CRUMLIN RD. PRISON BELFAST, ON THE EVIDENCE OF 'SUPERGRASS' HARRY KIRKPATRICK

Comrades,

I am taking the opportunity to write to you to give certain information about the RUC's use of 'Supergrasses' in the non-jury Diplock Court system here. At present I am one of over 200 people currently being held in custody on Remand on the sole evidence of a 'Supergrass'. Already over 50 people here have been convicted and imprisoned on the uncorroborated evidence of these Supergrasses. In each case this evidence was heard by a judge sitting alone, without the benefit of a jury to assess the evidence presented. That such evidence alone should be accepted to convict anyone is beyond the belief of most people. However, the methods by which such evidence is obtained is even more incredible.

Under normal police methods a person in custody is invited to make a statement after caution. The taking of all statements must be in accordance with The Judges Rules ensuring that the statement is made voluntarily — of the person's own free will. Statements made following such inducements, the promise of favours or rewards, are not normally admissible as evidence before the courts and cannot be regarded as being voluntary — or so the law states. However, in the North of Ireland, the RUC, who already have greatly increased powers under emergency legislation, use inducements, bribes and threats in order to obtain statements as evidence.

In a recent case former 'Supergrass' Clifford McKeown, who had been given immunity for his part in a murder, retracted his evidence claiming it had been false. Following his retraction, McKeown stated to the local press that during his time with the RUC they had assured him that he would get the immunity promised as 'A DECISION TO ACCEPT "SUPERGRASS" EVIDENCE HAD BEEN TAKEN AT A MEETING REPRESENTING THE RUC, SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND THE JUDICIARY'. When McKeown did withdraw his evidence he was allowed to go free.

There have been a number of other such cases — Jackie Goodman and Sean Mallon. However, more notable and more recent is the case of Thomas McCrystal. This man, currently serving a Life sentence for murder in the Maze Prison, was taken from the prison to the Interrogation Centre at Castlereagh. Following his ordeal Mr. McCrystal made a detailed statement to his solicitor and the local press (*The Irish News*). He stated that the RUC placed a number of names in front of him and asked him to make incriminatory statements about them. In return the RUC promised him 'An early release, a new life and a comfortable standard of living for himself and his children in England or Wales'.

It is interesting to note that methods perfected here in the past have eventually been used in England. It is not surprising that I learn of a case in Birmingham where a 38 year old man, Harry Treadway, was sentenced to 15 years in jail following what he alleges was torture. In this case his own statement of admission was supported by a statement from an Informer. Whilst there appears to be evidence to support torture claims, Mr. Treadway was still convicted.

I would ask those of you who read this, not to treat it as Republican propaganda. Everything I have said can be verified. Nothing would please me more than that you should seek to

verify it, for in doing that you will have taken the first step towards uncovering this conspiracy for yourselves. I trust you will find what I have to say interesting and provide me with the courtesy of an early reply. As one who makes no secret of my opposition to English interference in Irish affairs, I believe that one Nation that enslaves another can never itself be free. For those of you in England that are concerned about what goes on in your name in Ireland, this is an issue you cannot ignore. To do this is to turn your back and say you cannot see.

Yours in Solidarity,

Jimmy Brown

Reply to James Gerard Brown, 1343, A Wing Remand, H.M. Prison, Crumlin Rd., Belfast.

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

A FREE COUNTRY

Co-directed by Anna Liebschner and Lin Solomon

Film (16mm) 40 mins, colour, 1983.

Here at long last is a film about the Prevention of Terrorism Act, a law which has dramatically affected the lives of Irish people in Britain since its introduction in 1974.

A Free Country explains the main terms of the law. It evokes an atmosphere of paranoia and surveillance through the use of surrealist lighting, music and repetition of scenes as if they were Army or police spying clips.

But the main part of the film, and the most compelling, is interviews with four women describing their experiences of the Prevention of Terrorism Act and the general suspicions against Irish people which the Act both exploits and generates. For example, being held for days in a cell with absolutely nothing to do, no distractions, no way even of telling the time. Or the long-term effect on your children after the neighbours have seen the police ostentatiously parked outside the house all day. Or the police contacting your employer following some involvement in trade union activity.

A Free Country also links the Act in with the New Police Bill due to be enacted by Parliament. Obviously a film 40 minutes long cannot cover every aspect, and it does not attempt to explain, the war in the North of Ireland, the legal system there or the historical relations between Ireland and Britain. We feel that its concentration of the effects in this country is quite justified given the suppression of truth by the media in Britain.

A final irony is that this film, which reveals how freedom of thought and speech is being whittled away in this democracy of ours, is itself in danger of being suppressed; as yet no cinema distributor has been prepared to handle it. Hopefully this will soon be resolved for it is an ideal film — short and clear — for showing at public meetings or with other films about Ireland. Meanwhile, contact the Troops Out Movement (PO Box 353, London NW5 4NH, or 01-250 1293) if you are interested in seeing or hiring *A Free Country*.

Also available from the TOM: *Open Those Gates*, a video film about Nicky Kelly. Contact Leeds TOM, Box 1969, 59 Cookridge, St, Leeds 2.

THE CAUSE OF IRELAND

Directed by Chris Reeves

Film (16mm), 104mins, colour 1983. Narration by Anne Lamont, written by Geoff Bell.

Just before he went out to fight in the 1916 Dublin Easter Rising, the Irish socialist James Connolly wrote, 'The cause of labour is the cause of Ireland, They cannot be disovered.'

This film examines the relevancy of these words to today's 'Northern Ireland problem'. It explores the relationship between Irish republicanism and socialism. It discusses the divisions within the working class in the North of Ireland. It asks whether socialists should regard the North of Ireland as just another, 'normal' part of Britain.

The Cause of Ireland poses these questions by telling the history of the last 15, troubled years in the North of Ireland through the eyes and voices of those who have lived through them. No section of the population is excluded — from Irish republicans to the Northern Ireland representative of the Confederation of British Industry: from loyalist paramilitaries to former workers at the John DeLorean car factory. Their opinions are often stated bluntly, but they are reported without any form of censorship.

The film asks questions about the British presence which are rarely posed in British-made films about the North of Ireland. Whether attempts by UK governments to outlaw discrimination have proved successful. Whether British governments have adopted a neutral role between the Catholic and Protestant communities. Whether British troops are peacemakers or are themselves part of the problem. And *The Cause of Ireland* also asks what do 'loyalism' and Irish republicanism really stand for.

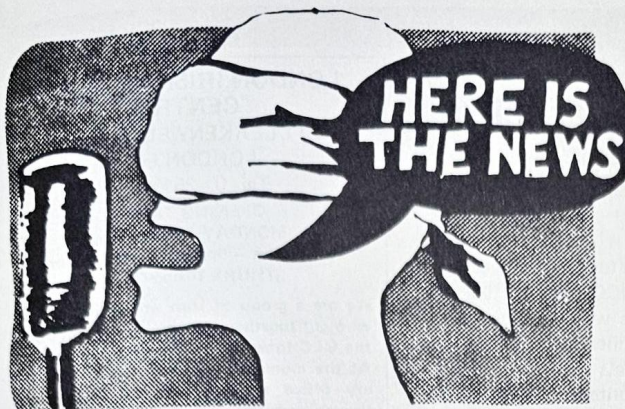
In exploring all these themes *The Cause of Ireland* makes use of film archive material, contemporary interviews, songs, a commentary and contrasting scenes of the squalor and, for some, the splendour of modern-day life in the North of Ireland. It is not a film without hope, but it does not allow the reality it presents to be compromised by romanticism or over-optimism.

Appearing in the film are Gerry Adams, MP, of Sinn Fein, John McMichael of the Ulster Defence Association, Danny Morrison a Sinn Fein member of the Northern Ireland Assembly, George Seawright of the Democratic Unionist Party and many others. There are revealing interviews with Protestant working class pensioners, women in Sinn Fein, a Protestant republican, and a former member of the Ulster Defence Association who now regrets that involvement. There is music from Moving Hearts, The Dubliners, the People of No Property and others.

The Cause of Ireland was made by British and Irish socialists. It is for socialists and all those who are willing to question the normal media treatment of Northern Ireland, and who asks themselves what the cause of Ireland really is.

by Geoff Bell

This film is due to be shown on Channel 4TV on October 3rd. It will also be available for hire after that date.



JULY

13th
Southern Ireland and USA sign an extradition treaty. As is usual, it excludes political offences.

19th
Treasury figures for 1982-3. *not* including the cost of army, £389.7 mill. was spent on law and order — RUC, prisons, compensation, probation service etc. This amounts to 10.2% of the total public spending in N. Ireland. At least 12 new RUC stations are being built.

20th
Annual figures from N. Ireland Police Complaints Board: there were 1,603 complaints, which resulted in 13 prosecutions! The Board's annual report recommends that RUC should be charged with disobeying orders about the use of plastic bullets; RUC respond that New instructions on their use are now in use.

21st
Ex-MP Gerry Fitt becomes Lord Fitt, after deserting his constituents during hunger strikes and plastic bullet assaults etc.

25th
Derry supergrass Raymond Gilmour gives evidence at preliminary hearing, his family are ejected from court when they try to speak to him. One accused comments, 'This is *internment with a legalised face*'.

Visit of Irish Foreign minister Peter Barry to Britain, coinciding with Gerry Adams' (West Belfast Sinn Féin MP) visit.

26th
Shoot-to-kill policy: Anthony O'Hare is shot dead by RUC in Co. Armagh, following a Post Office robbery.

In S. Ireland, James Shannon is ordered by district court to be extradited to North: he is charged with the killing of top Unionists Sir Norman Stronge and his son, and argues that this is a political case. Extradition delayed pending appeal.

Photo: Helen Dady



27th
Nicky Kelly (serving 12-year sentence in the South for robbery he didn't commit) brings case against Attorney General for assault by police and false imprisonment.

28th
Labour MP Kevin McNamara complains that Northern Ireland Office is withholding information about the Emergency Provisions Act, at present the subject of an official government inquiry.

30th
18-year old Martin Malone is next victim of shoot-to-kill policy: he is shot dead by UDR soldier in Armagh. The soldier involved is not even suspended from duty.

AUGUST

3rd
Christopher Black supergrass trial in Belfast ends (see article p.3).

In the case of supergrass Harry Kirkpatrick, INLA kidnap his stepfather and his daughter in an attempt to pressure him to retract his co-called 'evidence'. They are discovered by police in Donegal on August 18th. Kirkpatrick's wife also returns on August 25th, after being held by INLA for three months.

4th
Official Govt. unemployment figures for N. Ireland: 117,126 total, which is 21% (UK total is 12.7%). In Strabane and parts of West Belfast the male unemployment is over 50%.

5th-7th
TOM Delegation to Belfast (see pp6-7). Also Noraid Delegation from USA, and later in month a Young Liberals Delegation.

7th
Huge off-shore oil find on Waterford coast. of high-quality oil; also natural gas.
Shoot-out in Co. Wicklow by Gardai (police) Special Task Force against what appeared to be attempted IRA kidnapping of businessman Galen Weston.

9th
Shoot-to-kill: Thomas 'Kidso' Reilly shot dead by British soldier in Turf Lodge, Belfast. A soldier is actually charged with his murder. Earlier, soldiers and RUC fire many plastic bullets at Intern-

ment commemoration bonfires in Belfast, Derry etc, seriously wounding 17-year old Anthony Wisdom in Lenadoon.

13th
Two INLA volunteers shot dead by RUC in Dungannon, Co Tyrone: Brendan Convery and James Mallen.

19th
Unionist councillors in Lisburn, on outskirts of West Belfast, call for all building work to be halted on the Catholic Poleglass Estate: they claim there are rent arrears and that the Housing Executive had made a deal that work would stop if there were arrears.

20th
Loyalist march and rally calling for the segregation of loyalist from republican prisoners; this march unites UVF, UDA (both paramilitary) Official Unionists and Paisley's Democratic Unionists.

23rd
Irish Farmers Association suspend their President and 11 executive members because they expressed opposition to the Constitutional Amendment against abortion. (see article).

UDR soldier is shot dead by IRA in Strabane, Co. Tyrone.

24th
IRA shoot dead businessman William Young in Derry when he interrupts their search for an SAS observation post on his premises.

25th
Loyalist UDA leaders Andie Tyrie and John McMichael are arrested and charged with a possession of a gun on the evidence of a supergrass (who is serving a life sentence). They get bail a week later!

26th
In Geneva a United Nations Committee has a hearing about plastic bullets: the International League for Human Rights, and the Organisation of Concerned Teachers accuse British Govt. of violations of UN code of conduct for law enforcement officials.

27th
Several hundred march in Glasgow to commemorate hunger strikers.

to-kill victims in Armagh going back to last November, sharply criticises DPP for delays in producing reports and other obstructions. He takes unprecedented step of calling a 'preemptory proceeding' — i.e. going ahead regardless of DPP. And at a Belfast inquest into the shoot-to-kill death of Patrick Elliott, the family's solicitor withdraws in disgust when the soldiers responsible are not even called to give evidence.

5th
Following news that RUC constable is charged with murder of Seamus Grew, Unionist-controlled Craigavon Borough Council vote 8 to 1 that the charge be dropped. Unionist MP Harold McCusker adds, 'This must be the only country in the world where if a member of the security forces shoots a terrorist, he is charged with murder. One is left to wonder if the Attorney General, the DPP, the courts and the people are aware we are fighting a war where many innocent people are dying.'
EEC inquiry into N. Ireland arrives, led by Danish MEP Neils Haagerup. He meets Northern Ireland Office, SDLP, Alliance Party, businessmen, economists etc. is boycotted by Unionists and himself boycotts Sinn Féin.

6th
RUC constable shot dead by INLA in Armagh.

7th
Referendum to amend Constitution in S. Ireland results in 2 to 1 in support of the amendment, although with very low turn-out. It enshrines the right to life of the unborn foetus in the Constitution, along the lines of Catholic doctrine.

8th
Two British soldiers found not guilty of the murder of Eamonn Bradley in Derry, August 1982. He was an IRA volunteer, shot leaving a bar when he was unarmed. Soldiers' defence was merely that they had believed he was armed; judge concludes, 'it has not been shown that the use of force in the circumstances was not reasonable'.

12th
At SDP Conference, David Owen breaks



30th
Release of Eileen and Ann Gillespie after serving 9½ years in British prisons — still protesting their innocence: huge welcome in Dublin and Donegal.

SEPTEMBER

1st
RUC constable is charged with murder of Seamus Grew, a shoot-to-kill victim last December.

2nd
Armagh coroner, attempting to hold inquests into the deaths of 6 shoot-

their self-imposed silence about N. Ireland; 'On Northern Ireland the party has not, it must be admitted, developed a detailed policy. I am utterly convinced that peace will never be achieved until the Dublin-London axis is stronger and ready to underpin any settlement proposals'. End of policy.

New show trial starts in Belfast: ten men charged on word of supergrass Kevin McGrady. Also, 16 people are charged on the word of the RUC's new supergrass Robert Lean; their solicitors complain of pre-trial publicity prejudicial to their clients and which was clearly put about by the RUC to spread panic.

Forthcoming Events

BIRMINGHAM T.O.M. OPEN DISCUSSIONS

'Irish Frame-ups in English
Courts'

With speakers from
Birmingham Six Committee
and Troops Out Movement

**MONDAY 17th OCTOBER,
7.30 ALSO**

'History of Irish Support Work
In Britain'

With Speakers from Troops Out
Movement and earlier campaigns

**MONDAY 21st
NOVEMBER, 7.30**

Both at Labour Party Rooms, Bristol
St (opposite the 'Night Out')

EAST LONDON TOM's IRISH NIGHT

An evening of Irish music and dancing

At Chats Palace,
Brooksbys Walk, E.9, 8pm
£1.50 or £1 unwaged

FRIDAY 21st OCTOBER

LONDON PICKET OF NEWHAM EIGHT TRIAL

(See p.2) At Snarebrook Court
Nearest tube, Wanstead

**MONDAY 24th OCTOBER
From 10am**

For more information about the
Newham Eight, contact Newham
Eight Defence Campaign, PO Box
273, London E7 9JN

LONDON

Week of Action for Namibia
27th Oct-2nd Nov

**DEMONSTRATION
SATURDAY 29th OCTOBER**

Evening Benefit at Islington Town Hall

JONATHAN HAMMOND

We learned with deep regret of the
death of Jonathan Hammond this
summer, at the age of 41 from a
heart attack.

Jonathan was until recently the
President of the National Union of
Journalists. He joined the first TOM
Delegation to Ireland in 1976, and
consistently supported Ireland's right
to freedom.

Street paper sales

'The National Council for Civil Liberties, having received complaints about police interference with street level political activity, is trying to monitor the extent and nature of such action by the police. NCCL would like to hear from anyone who has been prevented by the police from selling or distributing leaflets or newspapers with a political content or from holding a street meeting. Please write to the Legal Officer, NCCL, 21 Tabard Street, London SE1 4LA giving the following details:

- 1) Name of organisation, individuals involved and witnesses.
- 2) Date and place of incident.
- 3) Details of the material being sold/distributed including general contents and who produced it.
- 4) Summary of what happened including arrest, detention at police station, bail conditions, prosecution, conviction, sentence.
- 5) Under which statutory or common law power or which local bye-law were the police acting - if known.'

Once we have a more complete picture of how and where groups are being prevented from distributing their papers and leaflets we will be better able to mount a campaign in this direction, including one or more test cases to challenge repressive police practice.

New Zealand motion

The national conference of the H Block/Armagh committee, New Zealand, passed the following resolution and branches and members intend raising it and arguing for it in organisations such as Trade Unions etc.

'This conference notes that the continuing war in Northern Ireland is the meritable result of the economic domination of Ireland by British rulers and its occupation by British Armies and that

- a) The Northern Ireland state is inherently repressive and structurally incapable of democratic reform.
- b) The division of the Irish people can only be overcome by the removal of British interests that have created and maintained that division, and by the end of the partition of Ireland.
- c) Repressive "security" legislation and the use of plastic and rubber bullets introduced in N. Ireland will increasingly be used in those countries such as New Zealand with close links to British security forces. This conference therefore supports the Irish peoples' struggles for self-determination and calls upon Britain to withdraw its forces and arms from Ireland.'

The anniversary of internment was remembered in New Zealand by H Block/Armagh branches who mounted pickets outside the offices of the British High Commission. Leaflets giving information on the forced strip searches of political prisoners in Armagh Jail were handed out and the signatures collected for a national petition.

LONDON IRISH WOMEN'S CENTRE

27 CLERKENWELL CLOSE

LONDON EC1

Tel. 01-251 4977

OPENING TIMES:

MONDAY 10am - 1pm

WED 2pm - 5pm and 8pm - 10pm

THURS 10am - 1pm

We are a group of Irish women in London who got together and obtained a grant from the GLC to set up an Irish Women's Centre. At the moment we have just got a temporary office and are still searching for proper premises.

We aim to give health and welfare advice, information and support and hold workshops and discussions on various aspects of health. We intend to provide classes on Irish dancing and singing or any other interests women may like to follow. We also want to give support in combating anti-Irish racism.

We would be very happy to keep in touch with you in future.

NEW BRANCHES

A new TOM branch has been formed in Southwark, South London, and other branches are in the process of forming in Basingstoke, Northampton and Plymouth. If you are interested in joining these, contact the central TOM Office, at PO Box 353, London NW5 4NH (01-250 1293).

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

Birmingham
Brighton
Bristol
Cambridge
Colchester
Coventry
Derby
Gravesend
Harlow
Hemel Hempstead
Hull
Lancaster
Leamington
Leeds
Leicester
Manchester
Merseyside
Northampton
Norwich
Nottingham
Oxford
Portsmouth
Preston
St. Albans
Sheffield
Slough

Swindon
Tyneside
York

LONDON AREA

Camden
East London
Enfield
Haringey
Islington
North-West London
South London
South-East London
West London
Tower Hamlets

SCOTLAND

Aberdeen
Central Scotland
Dundee
Edinburgh
Glasgow
Stirling

WALES

Cardiff
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*.