

# TROOPS OUT

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Troops Out Now!

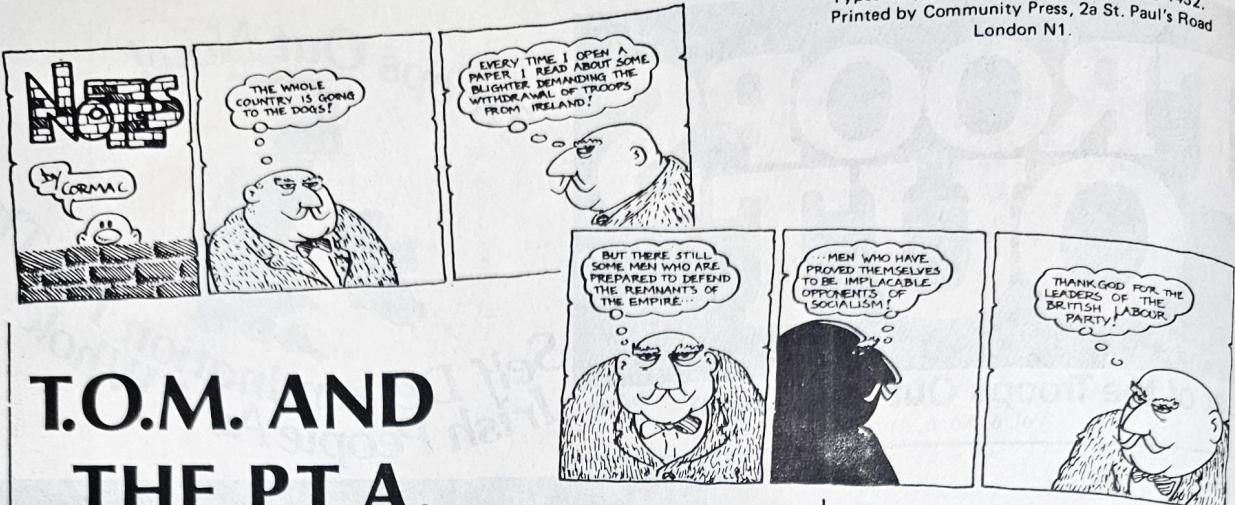


Self Determination  
Irish People As A Whole!

**MAY 7th**  
**two good**  
**reasons**  
**for marching**



Photo Network



## T.O.M. AND THE P.T.A.

On Monday 8th March, the Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA) was renewed for a further year by the House of Commons (217 votes for, 129 against). The PTA has been singularly unsuccessful in terms of its title, but instead has succeeded in terrorising members of the Irish community and their friends. It gives the police the power to arrest and detain people for up to seven days without charging them or allowing them to see anybody. Many people detained under the Act have complained that their interrogation included threats, sleep deprivation and the use of disorientation techniques (eg confusing the victim as to the time of day).

The Troops Out Movement campaigns for the repeal of the PTA, and as part of this campaign last month submitted an application for a grant from the Greater London Council (Police Committee) to monitor the workings of the Act in London, and to provide support for its victims. By the time the Committee met, the application had been given the full 'Red Ken' treatment by the media and the right wing of the Labour Party. A smear campaign had ignored the reasons behind the application, but instead had concentrated on transforming the TOM from a legitimate campaigning movement which calls for the withdrawal of British troops from Ireland, into the British wing of the IRA. A news item on BBC TV about the application was followed immediately (and not very subtly) by a report from Ireland of a 'terrorist' attack on a member of the 'security' forces. The *London Standard* told its readers that the TOM has 'wider ramifications than wanting the withdrawal of British troops' (and left them to draw their own conclusions). And to cap it all, Labour leader Michael Foot issued a statement claiming the TOM is "committed to policies which would cause immense suffering in Northern Ireland". And this from the leadership of a party which, when in government, sent the troops in (in 1969), introduced the PTA in the first place, and has been responsible for the torture of catholic/nationalist civilians and the murder and maiming of their children on the streets with plastic bullets!

The application for funding has still to be considered by the GLC. It has been claimed that the TOM would be 'biased' in its monitoring, but any report that the TOM produces on the PTA could not possibly be as 'biased' as the recently published 'Jellicoe' review, which specifically excluded from its brief any questioning of the need for the Act. Whatever happens, as a movement, we will continue to campaign for the repeal of the PTA, and for our wider demands which remain "Troops Out Now! Self-determination for the Irish people as a whole!".

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**



## Join the TOM

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).

Copy for the next issue must be sent to arrive not later than 20th April

Subscriptions: Britain and Ireland: £4 yearly (10 issues); Europe, £5; USA and Australia, £7.

Make cheques payable to Troops Out (Literature Committee). Send to Box 10, 2a St. Paul Rd, London N.1.

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.

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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 un-employed), payable through the branch. Individual membership is £7.50 which includes a subscription to *Troops Out*.

# SOLIDARITY on INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Over 85 women from Britain visited Belfast and picketed Armagh prison over the International Women's Day (March 7) weekend. It was a successful and well attended delegation organised by the Armagh Co-ordinating Committee of London, and Women in Ireland groups round the country.

All of the women, who were able to stay with families in the Nationalist areas, learnt at first hand something of their day-to-day lives under British occupation. A picket of Armagh prison took place on Sunday, attended by women from North and South Ireland, which has been the focus of the delegation since 1980. Various speakers at the picket, from Sinn Fein and the Republican movement, highlighted the plight of the 35 female Republican prisoners held in the prison.

At present, these women are being constantly harassed. Since the installment of a new Governor, the women have been confined one to a cell and some have been in periods of solitary confinement. The Governor's response to a request for shared cells was that it might "encourage lesbianism" and therefore could not be allowed. Strip-searching, which is a most degrading form of treatment, has become rife. One woman has been searched no less than 100 times, and another was deprived of her sanitary towel after a strip search on the way to court. This brutal regime is not confined to prisoners: remand prisoners and visitors are subject to the same.

The case of Mrs. Rita McKenna of Belfast has been taken up by the Association of Legal Justice, after she visited her cousin in Armagh, along with her three year old daughter Toni. Mrs. McKenna said: "There were two female officers. They gave me the usual search. When I turned around, the other officer was searching Toni... The officer had taken the coat off her... she proceeded to take down her little tight trousers. I said 'if you want to take them down, I'll pull them down'. The officer went on ahead and took the child's trousers down. She then took the child's panties down to her knees." James Prior and Lord Gowrie have denied these reports of strip searches, of course, and therefore The Association of Legal Justice is collecting such statements, as evidence.

Denials from the British Government have not prevented support growing. Statements of support from the Prisoners came from such groups as the Women's Council of SWAPO, Women in Palestine, Women's Commission, Canadian Party of Labour and Indian Workers Association (of G.B.). Those women who came from Britain, were members of the Black community, the Greenham Common campaign, Troops Out Movement and wageless women's groups to name a few.



ARMAGH PICKET - joy as they see prisoners' hands waving from the cell windows

(Photo Helen Dady)

## MORE EXECUTIONS LOOMING?



Alarming evidence of a systematic policy of assassinations by RUC recently came to light in Derry.

The RUC (police force) and British Army were responsible for nine assassinations between November 1982 and

February 1983. They were cold blooded executions of people they could easily have arrested if they had wished. But both the Army and RUC deny there is any "shoot-to-kill" policy.

Towards the end of February, eleven members of the Irish Republican Socialist Party (IRSP) in Derry were held by the police under the Prevention of Terrorism Act. All of them were threatened with assassination.

One of them, Jimmy Brown, explained at a press conference that he had had 22 interviews during his six days at the infamous Castlereagh Interrogation Centre. "On Thursday I was introduced to two men who said they were members of the RUC shoot-to-kill squad, trained by the SAS, and had been sent to assassinate me.

"On another occasion a detective produced two rounds from a .357 Magnum and said, 'you will have one of these in each ear'."

Others of the eleven gave the same evidence of excessive interviews (six per day for five days) and death threats. In addition one was offered police protection and £100,000 if he would act as a "supergrass". The value of supergrass evidence was made blatantly clear to another of the men, Mickey Kearney: "I was told I would be fingered out within the year by a supergrass if I hadn't been assassinated before then."

# PLEA FOR NICKY KELLY

Nicky Kelly is a young man serving a twelve-year prison sentence for a crime he didn't commit — the robbery of a mail train in 1976.

At his trial in Dublin there was no evidence, no witnesses and no jury. The Special Criminal Court in which this event took place is very similar to the Diplock Courts north of the border. The partition of Ireland affects both parts of Ireland and has led to the suspension of basic legal rights, which puts Nicky Kelly where he is today.

He was convicted solely on the basis of a statement signed in the police station after a lengthy detention. Doctors' reports testified to swelling, bruises and other injuries sustained by Kelly and his co-defendants. And yet the judge accepted the statements as true, and convicted three of them. Kelly meanwhile left Ireland for the USA suffering from severe stress symptoms.

The others appealed against the conviction, won the appeal and were released. Kelly returned, appealed and lost his appeal on a technicality — although the case against him was exactly the same as the others. Furthermore, the IRA claimed

responsibility for the robbery, but Kelly is a member of the quite unrelated Irish Republican Socialist Party. In 1976 this was a newly-formed party and it seems clear now that the police used the train robbery as an excuse to try to nip this new growth in the bud, for its mixture of socialism and republicanism was seen as a threat to the established order.

The human rights group Amnesty International has long been concerned about the case, sending observers to the trial and the appeal. Since Kelly lost his appeal last October, Amnesty wrote to the Irish Government in November and again to the new Government in December. It is still waiting for a reply.

Kelly himself has written a letter to the Irish newspapers after they had taken a high and mighty tone of righteous indignation about a scandal of telephone tapping by the previous Irish Government. He notes:

*"In my own case it is a bit sickening to see senior journalists who are well aware of the facts of my case and that I am innocent, moralising and pontificating in broadcasts, editorials etc. about political honesty and justice.*



*"These journalists, who have the audacity to preach in the press, are the same ones who, whether by remaining silent and avoiding the issue, or by actually glossing over my trial and detention, have collaborated with the State to keep the lid firmly on my case and make sure the truth does not come out."*

- Please send donations and/or messages of support to the Release Nicky Kelly Committee, 11 Grange Terrace, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland.
- Write to the Irish Embassy to question Nicky Kelly's imprisonment. Under the Irish Constitution the Minister of Justice does have the power to release him, 17, Grosvenor Place, London SW1; or phone 01-235 2171.
- Send cards and messages of support to Nicky Kelly, c/o Portlaoise Prison, Laois, Ireland.

On April 19th 1981, during protests about the hunger strike, two army landrovers travelling at high speed ploughed into a crowd of people on a Derry street junction. James Brown, 18, was thrown 160 feet through the air and died. Gary English, 19, was knocked down and one of the landrovers reversed over his body.

The following army communications were monitored at the time.

'are there many in the centre?'

'no'

'don't move until plenty of them are stretched across the centre'

later: 'the crowd is thick in the middle of the road'

'are you sure'

'yes, across to the Middlette stores'

to the landrovers:

'go, go, go!'

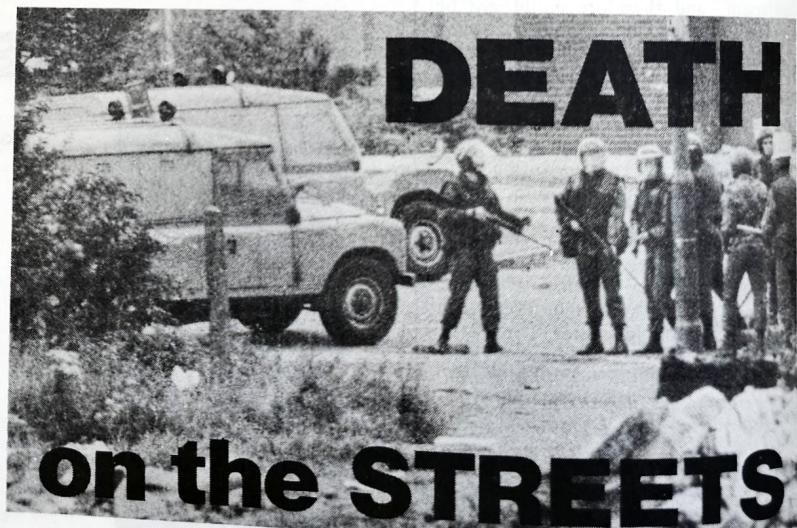
After some confusion:

'we have doggo, we have doggo'

'good, well done'

Subsequently the driver of the lead vehicle and the commanding officer were charged with 'reckless driving' and 'aiding and abetting'. The trial was a charade with the state prosecution and eyewitnesses doing everything possible to undermine the 10 eyewitnesses' reports. When the judge made a one-sided summing up in favour of the defendants the families were not surprised at the jury's 'not guilty' verdict.

Since then both families have been campaigning for an inquest (two years on and neither boy is legally dead). They have had no co-operation from the authorities and had to raise £850.00 for the transcript of the trial. Michael English, Gary's father, did two speaking tours of Britain and Tony Gifford QC did a



report 'Death on the Streets of Derry' for the National Council for Civil Liberties (NCCL).

Then in late January, the Anglian Reg. finished its two year tour of N.Ireland and left for Hong Kong. On February 24th the RUC were informed that an inquest was to be held on March 22nd. The RUC did not inform the English family until a fortnight later, and the Browns three weeks later — one week before the inquest. Despite requests from the English family's solicitor, the RUC refused to release the autopsy report to the family on the grounds that it was not necessary.

However, on March 22nd, the coroner adjourned the inquest until May 3rd at

the families' request. In a direct rebuke to the RUC he made the autopsy report available. He said nobody should prejudice the evidence and that he wanted as full a judicial inquiry as possible under N.Ireland law.

As a result of a Troops Out Movement speaking tour, Michael English has been put in contact with Dr. Dalgard (the Helen Smith inquest pathologist) and senior barristers in London who have agreed to represent the families at the trial. Both families want as much evidence as possible to be brought out at the inquest.

*Death on the Streets of Derry* is available from TOM at 75p + postage.

# All-Ireland and EEC Initiatives New Forum But Not For All

The last ten years are among the most dramatic and painful in Ireland's history, yet they are marked by a total political stalemate on the part of the parliamentary parties in Ireland and Britain. Between the lot of them they can only offer two ways of doing nothing.

The first way is the policy of upholding the partition of Ireland. This means that in the North the Unionists, who are in a majority, have the right to stay in the UK and the British have an 'obligation' to respect and enforce this. In this group belong the Conservative Party, and all the Unionist Parties that now sit in the new Assembly at Stormont. It also includes the small Workers Party in Ireland which used to be Official Sinn Fein, and the Liberal Party and the SDP when they admit to any policy on Ireland (which isn't often).

The second way is the policy of setting the reunification of Ireland as one's final goal, to be brought about only with the consent of the Northern Irish majority. In this camp belong the Labour Parties (Irish and British), the Social Democratic and Labour Party (SDLP, in the North) and Fine Gael in the South of Ireland. The fatal flaw in this policy is that the Unionists have no reason to "consent" while they are being supported by Britain and all its military might. So at present any steps towards reunification — even talking about it or mentioning the word — have the Unionists up in arms screaming about betrayal. So the policy is a contradiction in terms, and when it comes to actual practice this camp is indistinguishable from the first.

(The Fianna Fail party of Haughey has the stated policy of ending British rule in the North regardless of the Unionist veto, but in all its terms of office it too has done nothing but enforce the existing state of affairs. In fact the *only* party not totally disgraced is the Welsh Plaid Cymru.)

## PEACE AND STABILITY

On March 11th a brand new initiative was announced in Dublin. An agreement has been reached between Fine Gael, Labour (Ireland), Fianna Fail and the SDLP to set up an All Ireland Forum. Its aim will be to look at ways of achieving peace and stability in Ireland through the democratic process and it will be open to all parties with members elected to the Dublin parliament or the Northern Assembly. It hopes to produce an outline picture by the end of the year.

This initiative has at least the merit of being an all-Ireland set up which sees that any solution will have to be an *Irish* solution, not a British one.

It has one flaw, however, which is likely to destroy any chance of success it might have had. The Forum is open to all parties in Dublin and Stormont "which *reject violence*". This was expressly written into its constitution. It means that Sinn Fein is excluded. Sinn Fein won five seats to the Assembly last October, and it

also stands by the right of the Irish to oppose British rule, by force if necessary. It gives its support to the armed struggle now being waged in the North.

## FALSE LEADERS

Some readers will recall that in Zimbabwe the settler class tried to set up a puppet government under Bishop Muzorewa — a semblance of "black majority rule" behind which the whites could hold onto their privileges. The guerrilla forces who genuinely represented the majority were excluded from this deal. That settlement was not worth the paper it was written on and lasted hardly long enough to warm the seats in Parliament.

The Bishop Muzorewa's of Ireland, in the shape of the SDLP, have been touting the idea of this Forum — calling it a Council for a New Ireland — since last summer and they made it a major part of their manifesto for the Assembly election.

## ELECTION SHOCK

The results of that election were a shock for all the parliamentary parties: Sinn Fein standing for the first time emerged as representing a significant proportion of the Catholics in the North and thus became an electoral threat to the SDLP. In fact the threat arises from the SDLP's uselessness: it poses as a nationalist party and

yet has done nothing towards achieving Irish independence and reunification, it has done nothing to protect its constituents from the daily ravages of British Army occupation.

So the first challenge from genuine nationalism has sent the SDLP scurrying to Dublin to seek clothes to cover its nakedness, particularly with the likelihood of a Westminster general election looming. The Government in Dublin has duly obliged.

Let the last, quite forceful, word come from Irish Foreign Affairs Minister Peter Barry: "Current British policy is in effect determined by one million unionists. Is it unreasonable to ask that British policy should reflect the views of the majority of the people of the UK?"

## ANOTHER ELECTION WIN

The attempted rescue of the SDLP by the parties in the South of Ireland had its first test on March 23rd — and failed.

The occasion was a local council by-election in Carrickmore, Co. Tyrone, a seat previously held by the SDLP. The result of the election was that Sinn Fein swept to a clear victory, winning 56% of the votes over four other candidates, and beating the SDLP by 2,289 votes to 654! It was all the more remarkable in that it is the first local council seat Sinn Fein has contested in the North.

## EURO PROBE

A great furore has been sparked off by the decision of the EEC's Political Affairs Committee to investigate the situation in the North of Ireland.

Why all the fuss, one might well ask? After all, the EEC already has an informal committee which discusses the North of Ireland (chaired by Danish MEP Niels Haagerup), has provided £700 million in grants and aid since 1973, and intervened during the Hunger Strike. In addition, the proposed inquiry will not question the constitutional status of the North (according to its chair, the same Niels Haagerup), nor will it hold public hearings. Quite what it will do is a well kept mystery.

The British Government's reaction to the inquiry has been to disclaim it as illegal intervention in a member country's affairs. This will not be the first time that the British have refused to co-operate with EEC recommendations, as shown by its contravention of the EEC ban on plastic bullets. There are, of course, reasons not mentioned by Prior or Thatcher for this. The initiative for the inquiry came from Irish MEPs and the SDLP. It is possible that this is part of an attempt by them to restore some political credibility to the SDLP after their losses to Sinn Fein in the Assembly elections.

Andersonstown News



Thatcher's extreme hostility to the EEC proposal lies in her fear of showing support for, or backing of, any group which talks about a united Ireland. The British Government would prefer that its policy of shooting to kill, the further erosion of what remains in the legal system (through the use of supergrasses), the extreme harassment of Armagh prisoners, and so on, should not be up for show. British refusal to co-operate with the inquiry can surely give them the excuse to dismiss its findings as "ill-researched".

# DEMOCRATIC DEMONSTRATION

• Since the British Army was sent onto the streets of the North of Ireland in 1969, over 2,000 people have been killed and 25,000 injured.

• There have been no social benefits for the people of the North from British rule. Unemployment is far higher than in even the most deprived regions of Britain or the South of Ireland. And it is unequally distributed: in the nationalist/Catholic areas it reaches 50 or 70%. Discrimination against Catholics continues in private companies, state-owned companies and local authorities.

Housing conditions are among the worst in West Europe, and even modern estates are so badly built and maintained that they now need to be demolished. "Some residents have been bitten by rats and have had to go to hospital with the rats still clinging to them as they had lockjawed" (Moyard Estate, West Belfast). Ken Livingstone reported recently, "Having never visited Northern Ireland before, I was stunned by the social conditions which afflict the Catholic area of West Belfast . . . even the most neglected housing estate in London or Liverpool is better than the housing we saw in West Belfast."

• Since 1969 the prison population has soared from 750 to 3,000. During its 14-year 'peacekeeping' regime, the British State has resorted to internment (imprisonment without trial) and trials without jury.

While being held for interrogation, Brian Maguire was "found hanged in his cell" in Castlereagh and Eddie Rooney was seriously injured when he "fell from a second-floor window". (Sounds familiar? South Africa? El Salvador? Stoke Newington and Colin Roach – and, in March, Coventry and James Davey.)

• The 'peacekeepers' have shot dead people in demonstrations, like Bloody Sunday in Derry, 1972. The SAS have carried out assassinations. Between November 1982 and February 1983 nine men were shot dead by the army and police in what can only be described as cold-blooded executions. In addition 14 people have been killed by plastic bullets, seven of them children.

## BRITAIN CONDEMNED AROUND THE WORLD

**ITALY:** "One can only be impressed by the power of the passion, rage, love and suffering that expressed itself in this long, patient, meticulous exercise in slow death . . . The Northern Ireland problem is a decolonisation problem and must be solved at an international level." (*La Repubblica* newspaper)

**PORTUGAL:** Parliament observes a one-minute silence. "Hunger for Freedom Kills Bobby Sands" (newspaper headline).

**INDONESIA:** "Bobby Sands, a Modern Martyr" (newspaper headline).

**DENMARK:** Parliament stands for a minute's silence.

**IRAN:** The street on which the British Embassy stands in Teheran is renamed after Bobby Sands.

**INDIA:** Parliament stands for a minute's silence. "Mrs Thatcher allowed a member of the House of Commons, a colleague in fact, to die of starvation. Never had such an incident occurred in a civilised country." (*Hindustan Times*)



## ASSEMBLE HYDE PARK LONDON 1.00 PM

COACHES ARE ORGANISED FROM MANY CITIES.  
CONTACT THE TROOPS OUT MOVEMENT  
FOR DETAILS: PO Box 353, London NW5



# BRITAIN OUT OF IRELAND :: SELF DETERMINATION

# ATE MAY 7th

## COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS

When Britain first introduced internment in 1971, fourteen men were picked out for an experiment in sensory deprivation: they were kept with hoods over their heads, deprived of sleep and food, kept for hours spreadeagled against a wall and subjected to a disorientating buzzing noise from a machine. These men suffered permanent psychological damage. In addition there were 228 complaints of ill-treatment from that initial round-up alone.

The Irish Government charged Britain with these crimes, and the European Commission on Human Rights found Britain guilty of torture. In 1978 the European Court lessened the charge but still found Britain guilty of inhuman or degrading treatment.

## NO GUNS FOR THE R.U.C.

In the late '70s and '80s the Government attempted a policy called 'Ulsterisation, criminalisation and normalisation' which was mainly a propaganda exercise to disguise the fact of war. The role of the Army was played down and that of the RUC police was played up.

But in 1979 the US State Department slapped a ban on sales of weapons to the RUC. This was in recognition of the RUC's gross violations of civil rights.

## EURO BAN ON PLASTIC BULLETS

Fourteen people have been killed by plastic bullets in the North of Ireland, seven of them children. While the myth could be maintained that plastic bullets are 'harmless riot-control weapons', the British Army and RUC have literally been getting away with murder.



In May last year the European Parliament voted to ban the use of plastic bullets. All the Euro MPs voted for this motion except British Tories and Northern Irish Unionists. Nonetheless the British Government — with its great respect for democratic procedures! — has decided to ignore this ruling completely.

There has also been opposition to the use of plastic bullets in Britain. Following the riots of summer 1981, a number of police forces started to stock plastic bullets. But the exposure of the really lethal effect of plastic bullets in the North of Ireland, combined with the Euro Parliament vote, has led the police committees of West Yorkshire, Nottingham, Derbyshire and Merseyside to stop their police forces from using them. The South Yorkshire Police Committee has even refused to pay for the plastic bullets in stock and ordered them to be returned to the suppliers.

## AMNESTY ON TORTURE

In 1978 Amnesty International produced a report on the treatment of suspects in interrogation centres. It was based on 78 case histories and concluded, *"Maltreatment of suspected terrorists by the RUC has taken place with sufficient frequency to warrant establishment of a public inquiry to investigate it."*

This maltreatment was so violent that it resulted in broken bones and perforated eardrums — a fact proven by the Amnesty report, police doctors and finally even a Government report.

Over a three-year period 10,200 people were interrogated. Nearly half of these were charged with a 'scheduled' (war-related) offence, almost entirely on the basis of so-called confessions alone. In the new jury-less courts these 'confessions' were accepted as evidence and the trials had a staggering conviction rate of 94%.

It is this conviction rate which shows the purpose and extent of the torture. It was not due to a few police officers letting fly, but was a systematic drive to crush all opposition.

## PRISONERS ON HUNGER STRIKE

The victims of this system swelled the prisons of Armagh and the H Blocks of Long Kesh. In 1980 and 1981 they went

on hunger strikes to win the conditions of political prisoners (a right that the British Government had granted them until 1976) after years of suffering on the blanket and no-wash protests.

The support given to the hunger strikers, in Ireland and elsewhere, gave the lie to the Government propaganda that these prisoners were common criminals.

Ten men died on hunger strike, starting with Bobby Sands on May 5th 1981. In addition, the leadership of the broad campaign of support suffered a series of assassinations, by loyalists or SAS or a combination of the two: John Turnley, Miriam Daly, Noel Lyttle and Ronnie Bunting all died, and Bernadette McAliskey was seriously injured. But the murderers failed to halt the campaign.

## REMEMBER BOBBY SANDS!

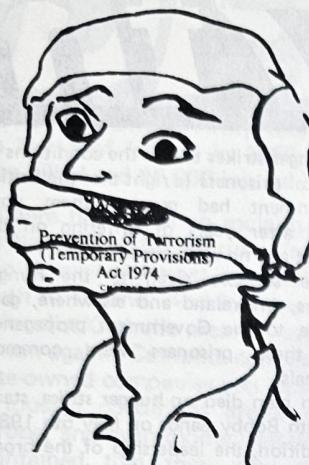
In the April by-election in Fermanagh-South Tyrone, 30,492 voted for Bobby Sands and elected him as their MP. It was as an MP that he died, and his fellow MPs in Parliament made it happen. At Bobby Sands' funeral an estimated 100,000 came to mourn (as a percentage of the population, this would be equal to two million people in England).

Two months later two prisoners, one on hunger strike, were elected in a general election in the South of Ireland. After Bobby Sands' death Owen Carron stood as an anti-H Block candidate in Fermanagh-South Tyrone and was elected. By then the British Government, not liking the results of democracy which expressed such clear support for the prisoners, changed the rules and stopped prisoners standing as candidates.

Since then Sinn Fein won five seats last October in the elections to Prior's Assembly, standing on a platform of British withdrawal and an end to the partition of Ireland. In Britain, we have never had the chance to vote on whether we want British rule to continue or Britain to withdraw from Ireland, since all the parliamentary parties have until recently been committed to continuing British rule. Opinion polls, however, have consistently shown a majority in favour of withdrawal. A *Sun* opinion poll in February 1981 showed 57% support for getting out, and a more recent Channel Four poll showed 68%.

# TERMINATION FOR THE IRISH PEOPLE

# ANTI-IRISH LAW CONTINUES



Lord Jellicoe's enquiry into the operation of the Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA) was published in February, not long before the Commons debate around the yearly renewal of its 'temporary' provisions. The enquiry was probably intended to restore public confidence in this racist 'terror Act'.

Jellicoe ignored the submissions of six Irish community groups in this country to the enquiry. The Connolly Association, the Irish in Britain Representation Group, the Irish Civil Rights Association, the Irish National Council, and the Federation of Irish Societies pointed out that the Act is an attack on the civil liberties and sense of security of all Irish people living here. They detailed its infringement on human rights — no access to a solicitor, being 'forced' to prove your innocence after being detained for no concrete offence other than your nationality; the possibility of exclusion from Britain.

The Irish Embassy also made representations to the enquiry through diplomatic

channels. Their main areas of concern are the pattern of detention and exclusion, the lack of access to solicitors, no provision of information to families concerned, and the conditions of detention. The Irish National Council still intends to request consular access from Jellicoe for the Act's detainees and ask him why this aspect was ignored in the report.

Jellicoe merely tinkered with the Act's draconian powers. He suggested extending the Act's scope to 'international terrorists'. He thought solicitors could be allowed access to detainees after 48 hours, and that exclusion orders could be initially only for 3 years! Needless to say his report was condemned by all the Irish groups who made submissions.

However, on March 7th the PTA was again renewed by 217-129 votes. Labour Party policy since their last year's conference is against the PTA, so a two-line whip was called. This means Labour MPs had to vote against the renewal unless

their opposite member was not present, when they too could fail to attend, or vote. Many took advantage of this and failed to vote, or abstained, including half the Shadow Cabinet (9 MPs) and the spokesperson on Ireland, Don Concannon.

Roy Jenkins, the ex-Labour Home Secretary who introduced the PTA in 1974, said that the Liberals and SDP would be voting for renewal. 'Silly' Willie Whitelaw, the current Home Secretary, had the nerve or obtuseness to declare that Jellicoe's proposal to extend the Act's powers could allay fears in the Irish community that the Act is anti-Irish in operation! Roy Hattersley asked Roy Jenkins '*has your liberality so deserted you that you can make a speech on this subject without a single word of the 85% of suspects arrested and detained without trial, and then released because they are innocent?*'

The PTA in its 'Temporary' form, or as a permanent Act, thanks to Jellicoe, must go.

## TERROR ACT IN THE NORTH

Since Ireland was partitioned in 1921, the North has never actually been a democracy. First with the Special Powers Act and then since 1973 with the Emergency Provisions Act, the police have had sweeping powers of detention. The Prevention of Terrorism Act is an extra in their well stocked armoury of legal devices.

In 1980 the PTA was used only 222 times. But in 1981 this doubled to 492. In 1982 it doubled again to a new peak of 828.

The Emergency Provisions Act gives the police power to detain people without charge for three days. Most 'confessions' come, if they come at all, within these three days as a result of intimidation, violence, threats and exhaustion. (The truthfulness of confessions obtained in this way is highly doubtful.)

The PTA gives the police power to detain for an extra four days, seven in all.

What do the police gain in this time? Not more 'evidence' or 'confessions' certainly; for curiously enough, while arrests under the PTA have jumped so dramatically, the percentage of those actually charged under the PTA has dropped — from about a half between 1974 and 1980, to about one third last year.

What they do gain has emerged from the statements of the battered victims of this judicial process. Most of them were interrogated not about specific offences, but about their general attitudes and political beliefs and political organisations.

The new Police Bill at present going through Parliament has, rightly, come under criticism for the powers it gives the police to go on 'fishing expeditions'. Under the Terror Act they already have this power, and where they need to use it — as in the North of Ireland — they do not hesitate.

## PRISONERS' BIRTHDAYS

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

GERARD McLAUGHLIN 13th April  
D77395 HM Prison Maidstone, County Road, Maidstone, Kent.

EDDIE BUTLER 17 April  
338637 HM Prison Leicester, Welford Rd, Leicester LE2 7AJ.

PATRICK HACKETT 28 April  
3342603 HM Prison Parkhurst, Newport, Isle of Wight.

EDDIE BYRNE 2 May  
873453 HM Prison Parkhurst, Newport, Isle of Wight.

JOE O'CONNELL 15 May  
338635 HM Prison Parkhurst, Newport, Isle of Wight.

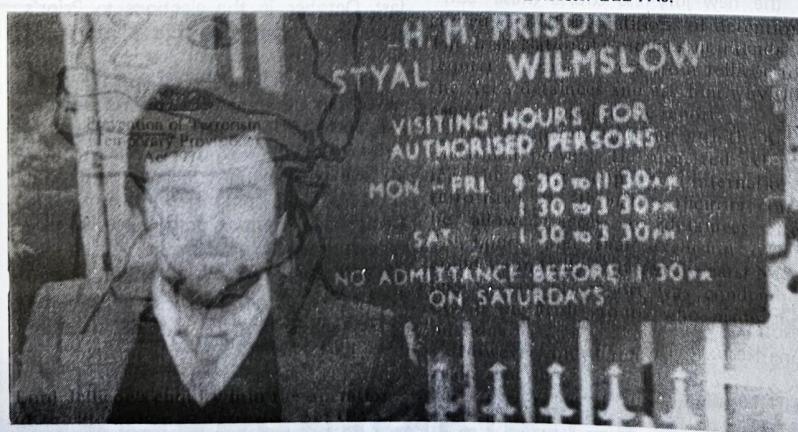
When a television crew appealed (via the governors), for prisoners who would partake in a film they were making, the positive response of the following four prisoners, led to them being moved to different prisons and kept in solitary confinement for periods of up to 28 days. Please send them greetings cards.

MICHAEL MURRAY  
509534 HM Prison Hull, Hull Road, Hull, Yorkshire HU9 5LS.

STEPHEN NORDONNE  
758663 HM Prison Hull, Hull Road, Hull, Yorkshire HU9 5LS.

JOE DUFFY  
507952 HM Prison Wakefield, Love Lane, Wakefield, Yorkshire WF2 9AG.

BOBBY CAMPBELL  
B32954 HM Prison Winchester, Hampshire.



The prisoners' MP Owen Carron regularly visits the prisoners in England.

# The Labour Party And Ireland

This article is the second in a series outlining the history of the Labour Party's policy on Ireland. The first article led up to the introduction of the Home Rule Bill in 1912.

Although the Liberal Government's Irish Home Rule Bill, due to become law in 1914, offered only limited independence to Ireland, it had the support of both Irish Nationalist MPs and the Labour Party. However, even limited Home Rule threatened the economic and political supremacy of the protestants in some north-eastern Counties. In response, the Unionist Party (which wished to remain in the United Kingdom) set up the Ulster Volunteer Force in 1913. This illegal military force was led by former British army officers, had the backing of other serving army officers stationed in Ireland (who threatened to resign rather than fight the UVF) and was supported by the Conservative Party. The Liberal Government gave way. An amendment was added which allowed some Ulster Counties to opt out of an Irish Parliament's jurisdiction for up to six years. The principle of partition had thus been introduced. The Labour Party's response was one of mild rebuke. Emerging briefly from the shadows of the Liberals and Nationalists, it criticised the amendment before sinking back again and supporting the Bill as a whole.

## EASTER RISING

The amended Bill was passed in 1914, but implementation was postponed with the onset of the First World War. It was during this period that the Labour Party first achieved real Parliamentary respectability. Several Labour leaders held Cabinet posts in the wartime coalition government, which was dependent on Labour to ensure that trades unions accepted the



JAMES CONNOLLY: 'The cause of labour is the cause of Ireland, the cause of Ireland is the cause of labour. They cannot be disengaged.' The British Labour Party did not heed his words.

*Time drags. The whole camp is praying for a contact – for an opportunity to shoot at anything on the street, pump lead into any living thing and watch the blood flow.*" Another day's 'peace-keeping' by the British army in Ireland is coming to an end, as described by a former officer in the Parachute Regiment in a series of articles published last month by the *Daily Mirror*.

The *Mirror* has called for the withdrawal of British troops from Ireland, and further weight was added to that call with the publication of adapted extracts from *Contact* by A.F. Clarke. The author did two tours of duty (1973 & 1976) with a regiment he describes rather painfully, in a style typical of the rest of the book, as 'both famous and infamous, praised and hated, but never ignored'. The 14 unarmed civil rights marchers murdered by the 'Paras' in Derry City in 1972 indeed had great difficulty ignoring them – to mention just one of the atrocities they have committed in Ireland.

Any illusions the reader might have about the army's role as 'peacekeepers' are quickly dispelled by Clarke, whose account makes it quite clear that the army is at war, not just with a handful of 'terrorists' but with whole communities. At the time of his tours, the situation confronting the British

resultant severe industrial discipline. This respectability was to show itself in the Party's attitude to the Easter Rising of 1916 in Dublin, which it deplored despite it being based on: "... the right of the people of Ireland to the ownership of Ireland". Many Labour Party members applauded the executions of Irish socialist James Connolly and others of his comrades after the Rising had failed.

However, although the Rising had been crushed, the beliefs and spirit it embodied had not. For the Irish people, the Westminster road to independence had failed. Thus, in the December 1918 general election Sinn Fein won 73 out of 105 seats allotted to Ireland. In line with their manifesto, the 37 Sinn Fein MPs not in prison for their Republican activities boycotted Westminster and established an independent Irish Parliament – Dail Eireann – and declared 'foreign government in Ireland to be an invasion of our national right which we shall never tolerate'.

## PARTITION

In February 1920, the increasing success of the Irish Republican Army against the British army forced the Conservative-dominated coalition government to pre-

government meant 'peacekeeping' in some Loyalist, as well as nationalist, areas. (This has now changed, and the army's presence is based solely in the Catholic/Nationalist ghettos.)

Clarke adequately sums up the methods used by the army when he says: 'we don't seem to have hang-ups about using force of the most vicious kind'. He describes soldiers sitting around in their barracks, pushing broken razor blades into rubber bullets, or filing them down, to spread the effect when they hit. A street search of a man includes 'the dull thud of an idly-swung baton between his legs', while 'hungry-eyed soldiers, with open crudeness visually undress' a woman companion.

Clarke's primary concern is not to relate the brutality his regiment inflicted on Irish people, but with how it feels to be part of an army of occupation in a foreign country. In this respect, *Contact* is a powerful anti-recruitment statement. He describes being out on patrol at midnight, his mind "on a missed telephone call home... just to have someone to talk to, before suppressing all emotion once more". All emotion? Well, all except an intense hatred of Irish people – and for Clarke this includes Loyalists – with an enjoyment of inflicting pain. Just the right qualities for a 'peacekeeper' in Ireland.

sent a revised Home Rule Bill. There were now to be two Parliaments: one for six of the nine Counties of Ulster, in which Loyalists would be dominant, and another for the rest of Ireland. Both assemblies would have the limited powers of the previous Act. Partition had now become accepted in practice – against the democratically expressed wishes of the Irish people. As the only party in Parliament to oppose Partition, it was up to the Labour Party to make a stand. With the support of a Labour Movement radicalised by disillusionment with the war (and the success of the Russian Revolution) it was in a better position to do so than ever before. But, as before, its response was muted. The Labour Party opposed the clause on Partition, proposing instead self-determination "limited by the requirement of imperial unity and defence", but abstained on the rest of the Bill.

Partition became law in late 1920, but was not recognised by Dail Eireann and the IRA, who escalated the war of independence. It was to be another year before the Irish government – under the threat of "immediate and terrible war within three days" from Lloyd George – was to formally agree to a truce which included Partition.

## Reviews

### Britain's Military Strategy in Ireland: The Kitson Experiment

By Roger Faligot, Zed Press £6.50.

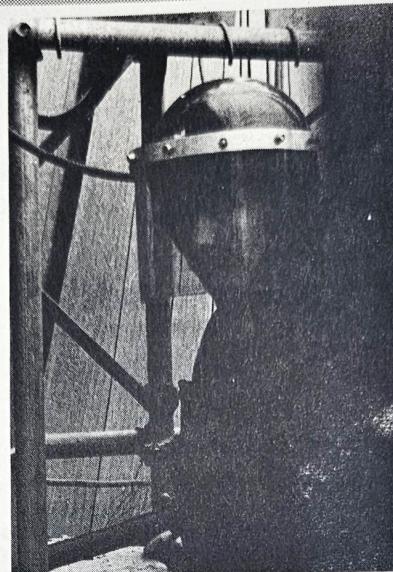
This book was originally published in French in 1980, and is now translated and brought up to date. It is extremely well researched and is a valuable corrective to myths like the Government propaganda that there is no war in the North of Ireland but just some lawlessness which in time the police will be able to handle; or the myth expressed for example in *Combat*, the new book by a Paratroops captain (see p.9) that Britain bumbles along in a makeshift way and that the politicians hold back and dictate to the military and generally get in the way; or the myth that "our boys" fight clean and their's fight dirty.

Brigadier Frank Kitson is now Commander-in Chief of UK Land Forces. He served, mainly in the Royal Greenjackets, in many of Britain's colonial wars, first Kenya and then Malaya, Cyprus and finally Ireland 1970-72. Just before this last tour of duty he wrote *Low Intensity Operations* which rapidly became the army manual of counter-insurgency and made Kitson's name as the theoretician of this brand of warfare.

Roger Faligot takes us through just about every aspect of the British Army's operations in Ireland and shows that it has been putting into practice many of Kitson's theories. For example, undercover surveillance by the SAS, famed for its exploits at the Iranian Embassy siege; the acting through of the war on many different levels – armed military, computer technology, propaganda, sociology, "intelligence" etc – under a single command structure.

The willing complicity of the press is described. Most of the facts here have been known about for some time but perhaps they will be more readily believed now in the aftermath of the Falklands/Malvinas war and the exposure of the army misinformation machine. Faligot reports on the "sophistication" of the Army and the Northern Ireland Office Public Relations officers, and journalists to their shame have often taken the Army "information" and presented it as fact, without proper investigations. There are far too many instances of stories in the papers or TV being exposed as total fabrications – yet no denial or correction is ever printed or broadcast. This aspect of military strategy has been quite successful in its role of preventing foreign criticism of Britain, but – as Faligot points out – it has been a total failure in the job of "winning the hearts and mind" of the local population.

Torture, internment and imprisonment have all been exploited to the full by the



British State. Kitson cynically described the law as "just another weapon in the Government's arsenal" – the practical application has been equally cynical.

The British way of war is also illustrated in the use of agent provocateurs like the Littlejohn brothers. They were used by the British State to carry out bank robberies in the South of Ireland, the aim of which was not so much to get rich, as to make it look like republican illegal activities in order to push the Government in the South to act against the Republican organisations.

One interesting section deals with the work of counter-gangs or pseudo-gangs which were also used in Kenya and Cyprus to discredit the resistance. To take one example: in 1972 125 civilians were murdered in the North of Ireland, more than 90% of them Catholics. Who were the murderers? In some cases Faligot gives irrefutable evidence that the murderers were special units of the Army operating in unmarked cars – in one case from Kitson's own regiment the Royal Green Jackets – sometimes with local men blackmailed or bribed to co-operate. In other cases they were actual loyalist groups, trained and fed with information by the Army or RUC. Thirdly there were groups infiltrated by the British or entirely set up by them: "A notorious case was that of the Irish Freedom Fighters, who simply vanished following accusations by Republicans that it was a totally inspired British gang." The aims of the pseudo-gang strategy were;

"to lead the population into rejecting the resistance movement and expressing a desire for normalisation, including army and police screening of the ghettos ... these operations constituted an effective distortion of the situation, especially for foreign consumption, projecting the irrational image of a war of religion, and concealing the real causes and consequences of the Anglo-Irish conflict."

The final chapter is a very good account of the rise and fall of the Peace Movement. It explains how the Army manipulated an incident in 1976 to spark off the Peace Movement and how it fitted the rest of their Ulsterisation and criminalisation policy of that period. The Army quietly fostered its growth by, for example, waiting quietly in the background to protect its demonstrations if necessary, and US Intelligence also played its part. However, the growing openness of the Peace Movement's support for Britain was the cause of its rapid collapse.

It is one of the strengths of the book that Faligot does not leave the reader with a sense of despair by making the Army and State seem all-powerful and all-knowing, a fault too often found in books dealing with Intelligence agencies and secret services etc. An area where paranoia rules!

It is in the nature of the subject that evidence is hard to come by and occasionally Faligot lays claim to more than he can prove. But this weakness is outweighed by the sheer volume of what is proven in the way of dirty tricks, assassinations, false propaganda and other forms of terror. They are all pieces of a jigsaw which are here put together to make a complete picture: that counter-insurgency techniques have been developed to deal with liberation movements in the colonies; that the time is fast approaching when "the chicken comes home to roost" and the army will be used for suppressing revolutionary uprisings in the imperialist powers (of West Europe); and that Ireland is ideally placed to serve as a military laboratory:

*"Because they speak English, are white and an integral part of Europe, the Irish people provide a model internal enemy. Their history and culture distinguishes them from mainland Britain and Europe, and it is because of this that they are allowed to die in silence: they are both a distant, terrorist enemy – strangers – and yet our own shadows."*

One final point – in the last analysis, all the counter-insurgency techniques used by the British (and other) Army in the colonies were failures. They failed to stop the impetus of liberation. Whatever our views of the inevitability and nearness of revolution in West Europe, the Irish results of the "Kitson experiment" should be seen in that light.

Available from the TOM,  
PO Box 353,  
London NW5 4NH



**PAMPHLETS: An Irish Tragedy:** Poster pamphlet on plastic bullets, focusing on the killing of 11-year-old Stephen McEconomy. 30p each plus p&p.

#### Voices for Withdrawal:

Contains articles from people with a wide range of political belief, arguing the case for British withdrawal from Ireland. 90p each plus p&p.

**British Media and Ireland:** journalists describe the sophisticated techniques and pressures used by the Army and broadcasting companies to prevent accurate reporting on Ireland. 70p + p&p

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

#### APPEAL FOR PHOTOGRAPHS!

The Troops Out Movement is at present building up a photo-library to be used by the paper, exhibitions and publicity in general. Anyone who has any photographs, negatives etc, which could be used for this purpose, should send copies, or if possible, the originals, to Box 353, NW5 4NH.



## FEBRUARY

**16th**  
Mayor of Lisburn, William Belshaw, resigns from DUP after being accused of "fraternising with the head of a foreign state which claims jurisdiction over N. Ireland". He had attended EEC dinner in Belfast where Garrett Fitzgerald was main speaker. This is followed by further resignations from DUP (Paisley's party).

**17th**  
John Hume (SDLP) presents plan for 'New Ireland Council' to Fitzgerald, having already approached Haughey.

Kevin Burns (38) who was abducted from a scrapyard in Co. Louth and subsequently detained in barracks in N. by undercover British soldiers, receives out-of-court compensation (5 fgs.). He says: "At least I was alive, not shot dead like Peter Cleary only a year before. I suppose I was in the wrong place at the wrong time, like many other innocent people."

**20th**  
A commando, killed trying to sabotage vital railway in Mozambique, identified as Alan Gingles from Larne. His 'military record' includes membership of UDR when still in 6th form at school, Sandhurst, service in Rhodesia, and in S. African Army.

Response from N. Ireland Minister of State John Patten to question from Kevin Macnamara MP, as to how many days people spend on remand in custody in N. before trial. In '79 the average time was 370 days, in '80, 301 days, in '81 306 days.

**20/24th**  
IRA shoot a RUC reservist outside his barracks in Warrenpoint, attack a RUC Mobile Support Unit in Armagh, killing one policeman, shoot a UDR soldier and RUC reservist in Tyrone.

**22nd**  
Application by TOM for GLC grant to monitor PTA fails. "The hysteria generated bears no relation to the actual application for the grant . . . It would appear, bearing in mind the proposed visit of Danny Morrison and Gerry Adams last year, that there are only two positions possible: total support of the British government or total support for the IRA, with no room for any middle of the road attitude." - TOM statement.

In New York, Norajd's Martin Flannery selected as grand marshall for St. Patrick's Day parade. Michael O'Rourke, in prison in US awaiting extradition trial, chosen as Honorary Grand Marshall in Philadelphia and Kansas. Francis Hughes, one of 10 dead hungerstrikers, to be Honorary Grand Marshall in San Francisco.

Labour MPs denounce the visit to Manchester of Owen Carron, invited to speak at Labour Committee on Ireland plastic bullets conference.

**24th**  
Prior tells Commons that European parliament has no business discussing the internal affairs of a member state, in response to move by European Committee to report on N. Ireland.  
British Labour Party group arrive in Dublin to explore attitudes of political leaders in 26 Cos. to N. Ireland. They include Foot and Concannon.



## 26/27th

Fianna Fail conference in Dublin sticks by right of Ireland to national self-determination and declares that Britain is unable to govern North effectively, directly or indirectly.

GLC councillors Ken Livingstone, Steve Bundred and Islington councillor Kathy Bundred visit Belfast to find out about Sinn Fein's policies, given that they have no voice here. They are impressed with people's support for Sinn Fein, and by the poverty: "I have never seen anything as bad in London as what I have seen here. I have never seen such a record of neglect on housing estates in all my life." Michael Foot disassociates from visit while Ken Livingstone reiterates his belief in British withdrawal and a United Ireland.

## 27th

In Strabane young Charles McGowan shot at by RUC/UDR after being waved through road-block. Bullet shatters loudspeaker in back of his car. Another intended 'shoot-to-kill' victim, he is not even arrested after.

## MARCH

### 1st

Second anniversary of start of the H Block hungerstrike which led to 10 deaths. Belfast City Council decided to withdraw adverts from *Andersonstown News* nationalist community paper by 18-16 votes. One councillor calls it a "Republican rag".

Gerard Tuite charged with acts of conspiracy in England, remanded in custody in Dublin Court. He is appealing current sentence of 10 years.

### 2nd

RUC constable, a 'community policeman', shot by IRA in N. Belfast.  
Special Criminal Court in Dublin sentences Anthony Duffy to 4 years for involvement in gun-running from New York.

### 3rd

In San Francisco 8 out of 11 city aldermen boycott reception for the Queen.  
The European Court of Human Rights, investigating the case of Brian Stewart, killed by plastic bullet in Belfast in '76 at age of 13, give Britain 10 weeks to reply to charges that "the Army used excessive force" leading to child's death. His mother has spent years having her claims blocked at every turn. The NCCL finally took it to the European Court on her behalf.  
Paisley and John Taylor (DUP) ask European parliament to investigate political unrest in Corsica, N. Italy, W. Greece, S. Belgium and Sicily! They also want an inquiry into the reduction of 50% over 60 years of the Protestant population in 26 Counties. This is in reaction to proposals for Euro-enquiry on N. Ireland.

### 4th

Demonstrations continue in San Francisco against Queen's visit. Boycott now includes against Queen's visit. Boycott now includes Tom Hayden and Pat Nolan from legislature, 12 State Assembly reps, and 8 State senators. 10,000-15,000 people demonstrate. Annual report by RUC Chief Hermon describes use of 'supergrass' witnesses in North as a healthy 'supergrass' trend! "due to combination of public recognition of true nature and futility of terrorism and growing disillusion within the ranks of

paramilitary organisations". The RUC wants to retain plastic bullets — they only fired 500 rounds in '82 compared to 30,000 rounds during hungerstrike in '81. A total of 3,168 complaints were made against RUC in the year, 622 concerned assault charges. Prior denies that women prisoners in Armagh jail are physically probed and abused by prison officers during strip searches introduced last November.

### 5th

2 youths threatened with shooting by drunken UDR soldier in Strabane. Soldier concerned not charged, didn't lose arms licence, not suspended from duty.

### 5/6th

International Women's Day international events include delegation to Armagh Jail to support women interned there.

### 6th

Ken Livingstone calls for Labour Party to declare that they would effect complete British withdrawal from Ireland within 2 years of coming to power. At this stage all Irish parties should decide on Ireland's future. He also says discrimination against Catholics is as bad today as under Stormont.

Six prisoners serving life sentences in English jails for Birmingham bombings pledge that they are planning a hungerstrike. They claim they were scapegoated by Birmingham police, and (as evidence shows) clearly framed up. The IRA has said that none of them were involved.

### 7th

Labour Party produce new draft document on Irish unity "by consent" and call for early discussion on it.

### 8th

Official Unionist Party, Alliance and DUP consult on attitudes to devolution of power to N. Ireland Assembly before a general election. Rev. Ian Foster (DUP) states that UDR soldiers fail to get promotion in Army due to biased English officers. In S. Derry 8 men are resigning and morale is lower than ever, men are "treated like dirt".

Mallon (SDLP) takes crusade for Council for a New Ireland to US.

### 9th

Kevin Trainor (33) shot by machinegun in Armagh. He is active republican and Sinn Fein worker. Protestant Action Force thought responsible.

### 10th

2 Belfast UVF members acquitted by court of attempted murder in the 'informer' trial. Apparently a car bomb explosion in W. Belfast did not prove intent to kill.

### 11th

Eamon Kerr, from old 'official IRA' shot in bed in Belfast home. Neither the IRA nor INLA implicated.

County Council Police Committee for S. Yorkshire decide to return store of plastic bullets to Metropolitan police depot and not pay for them (£1,750). They have banned them from area on account of their lethal use in N. Ireland.

### 15th

IRA shoot RUC reservist in Newry, Co. Down. Farraud Ltd, building company, fined £250 for failing to cover sewer by Divis Flats in Belfast, where 4-year-old Jimmy McGovern drowned on Feb. 3rd.

Paisley again refused entry to US, his visit being deemed prejudicial to public interest.

### 11th

26 Co. government issue statement over forum for New Ireland. Molynieux (Official Unionist) says "Foreign Office strategy is to keep Dublin's hand well-hidden, to get the N. Ireland Assembly elected and then reveal Dublin's hand in this new forum". Paisley (DUP) says it is "an international conspiracy against the protestant people".

# MAY 7TH. Demonstration

ASSEMBLE AT HYDE PARK 1.00pm.  
LONDON  
BRITAIN OUT OF IRELAND  
SELF DETERMINATION FOR THE IRISH PEOPLE

## The Felons Book Resource

Irish prisoners need books, records, magazines and pamphlets. If you have any to spare, please pass them on and see them put to good use.

A letter recently from Long Kesh:

... Thanks for all the material that you and your friends have sent over, it's been a great help to us. We have just embarked on a new political education course in here which will need a vast amount of material to back it up...

Also if anyone could send us regular (not necessarily up-to-date) publications like *Spare Rib*, *Africa*, *Latin America Review* etc. These cannot be got here at all.

I know I must sound like a bit of a parasite as whenever I'm writing to anyone it's usually to ask for something, so never hold back in letting me know if I become a burden. Reading is my prime occupation in here. I literally eat books etc. Time is so short for the amount I wish to cover before release. Anyway will have to go. Once again thanks for everything...

Send your books etc. (or write asking for arrangements to collect) to:

THE FELONS BOOK RESOURCE

15 Cable St.,  
Derry, Ireland

OR:

Box 13, 136 Kingsland High St.,  
London E8, England



### Sponsors so far include:

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Andy Harris and Steve Bundred GLC Councillors,  
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The Armagh Co-ordinating Committee, Veterans against the War,  
Labour Committee on Ireland, Newham Women's Group,  
Maureen Colquhoun Hackney Councillor, IRSP (England and Ireland)  
Leicester Branch Indian Workers Association,  
Indian Workers Association (Great Britain),  
Hackney Trades Council, London Area Liberation,  
Committee to Support Irish Political Prisoners (Detroit),  
Race Today Collective, Hampstead Labour Party,  
Labour Movement Campaign for Palestine (Brighton),  
Ireland Committee Nijmegen, Ken Livingston GLC Leader,  
Accrington Labour Party Young Socialists,  
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J. McAnulty (Councillor Belfast), F. O'Hare (Councillor Belfast)  
LSE Irish Society, The Connolly Association  
Ron Brown M.P. Leith

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to  
commemorate  
the  
hunger  
strikers  
CALLED BY SIND FEIN  
Sunday May 1st

## LONDON CAMDEN TOM BENEFIT

In aid of May 7th Demonstration  
with THE REPUBLIC  
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FRIDAY APRIL 22nd, 8.00pm

## LONDON CAMDEN TOM PUBLIC MEETING

Why Britain Should Withdraw  
From Ireland

Speakers from TOM and IBRG  
Camden Councillor Graham Shurety  
At Brabant Rd Community Centre

MONDAY 25th APRIL, 7.30



## MANCHESTER CONFERENCE: THE MEDIA AND IRELAND PROGRAMME:

"The problem of media coverage of Northern Ireland" by Liz Curtis

"Representation of terrorism" by Philip Schlesinger

"Attitudes to the Irish" by John Kirkaldy

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University of Manchester

At Architecture Building, Manchester  
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SATURDAY 14th MAY  
10am-4pm

We wish to sponsor the May 7th Demonstration for Britain Out of Ireland and Self-determination for the Irish People.

Name of organisation or individual .....

Address .....

We wish to donate £.....

Telephone number .....

Please return to: May 7th Committee, Box 353, London NW5 4NH.