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TORTURE CONTINUES AS BRITISH GOVERNMENT LIES TO COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS

On Tuesday the British Government, in a written "memorial" to the European Court of Human Rights at Strasbourg, admitted torturing Republican prisoners after the initial internment swoops in August 1971. The Commission has already found Britain guilty of using "inhuman treatment" and torture.

On Wednesday a young Derry man, Raymond McCartney, was helped into the dock at Belfast Magistrate's Court where he was charged with "murdering Jeffrey Agate and Detective Liam McNulty." McCartney had been arrested in the early hours of Wednesday the 2nd February when British occupation forces swooped on the Nationalist areas of Derry. Dozens of men were lifted from their homes and taken to Strand Road RUC fortress, where four were selected for interrogation in the notorious Castlereagh Barracks in Belfast. One of the four was Raymond McCartney.

During the next six days he was to endure the barbaric forms of torture which were being discussed in Strasbourg. A statement from the Association of Legal Justice, released on Wednesday, confirmed that the Derry four had been brutally beaten.

Prisoner one: Beaten in Derry, then taken to Ulster Hospital in Dundonald for X-rays. Fingers swollen; bruising to stomach; bruising to right kidney and both ears; upper arms bruised and swollen and extensive body injuries. **Prisoner two - Repeatedly beaten on the head, abrasions on forehead and cuts on cheekbone.**

Prisoner three - Kicked in groin and punched; hand held against hot pipes causing burns; extensive other bruising.

Prisoner four - Kneed in back, kicked about legs; finger pressed behind ears; punched and spreadeagled against a wall for lengthy periods of time; again, extensive bruising.

The ALJ report lists only the 'traditional' form of

torture, but it is clear that "Sensory Deprivation" techniques were used against the Derrymen. Continuous wall standing, lack of sleep, restricted diet etc. Bells in Castlereagh, special 'silence wings', with no windows, painted white and soundproof are in constant use.

It is in fact Castlereagh Torture Compound which provides most of the monotonous statistics quoted by British 'Viceroy', Roy Mason at his weekly "security review", designed to obscure the continuing successes of the Irish Republican Army.

In a statement supplied to Republican News the Derry Brigade, Oglaithe na h-Eireann, have warned that the R.U.C. tortures "will not be allowed a free hand" in Derry. They have warned that Special Branch members in particular should not "underestimate the ability and vigilance of the I.R.A.," and that when considered appropriate action will be taken against them.

....AND SPECIAL BRANCH THREATEN EYE-WITNESS

In the early hours of (Wed. 29th Sept. 1976) a platoon of the King's Own Royal Borderers embarked on an orgy of destruction and intimidation which culminated in the shooting of a young girl Kathleen Doherty, as she was about to drive off in her car. These incidents were witnessed by local residents, each of whom stated that the soldiers were 'blind drunk'. Foremost among these witnesses was Mr Noel Owens, who lives in Horn Drive, just beside the scene of the shooting and who had been wakened about fifteen minutes beforehand by a drunken Brit demanding a light for his cigarette.

In the presence of Fr. Faul, Mr Owen's made a

statement to two Special Branch men who visited his house to investigate the Brit's behaviour. In the statement Mr Owens declared that the Brits were drunk and that the shooting of Miss Doherty was carried out by a soldier who had broken away from two others as they were carrying him 'home'.

Within a short time Owens was arrested under the Emergency Provisions Act and taken into police custody as a "suspected terrorist," and held for two days in Crumlin Road jail. During this time he was not interrogated, but the Special Branch men told him to re-word his complaint against the Brits if he wanted out. He refused and was held in solitary

confinement until his release.

This episode heralded the beginning of a sustained campaign of intimidation against Mr Owens. Day after day his house was raided and vandalised, and every time he met a Brit patrol on the street he was arrested for "screening". In one particular case he was held for eight hours, during which he was threatened and abused.

Seeing the harassment failed two plain-clothes policemen arrived at Mr Owens house to inform him that the Director of Public Prosecutions had decided not to proceed with the case against the Brits, and that, as far as they were concerned, the case was closed.



Some of the relatives of the Derry men tortured by the RUC Secret Police. (Left to right) Sheila McCool, Helen Anderson, John Donnelly, Marie Gilmore, Mrs. Anderson, Isabella Anderson, Mrs. Brady & Geraldine McDaid.

THE TORCH OF FREEDOM

A young girl pictured during a recent torchlight march in defence of political status. The flames represent the spirit of the Irish Nation and the will of the risen people. The Torch of Freedom bright in the hearts of all free men and women.



BROWNIE
SAYS . . .MUCH ADO
ABOUT NOTHING

ON THURSDAY, 27th JANUARY, CONOR CRUISE O'BRIEN DECLARED THAT, IF THE ANTI-NATIONAL COALITION WERE RE-ELECTED, HE AND THE OTHERS WOULD URGE THE HOLDING OF A REFERENDUM ON A NEW CONSTITUTION, WHICH WOULD EXCLUDE ARTICLES TWO AND THREE OF THE PRESENT FREE STATE CONSTITUTION.

On Thursday last (January 27th) Conor Cruise O'Brien declared that, if the Anti-National Coalition were re-elected, he and the others would urge the holding of a referendum on a new Constitution, which would exclude Articles 2 and 3 of the present Free State Constitution.

O'Brien argued that the stance of Fianna Fail in the 'All-Party Committee on Irish Relations' was "the main block in the way of a new Constitution," and that the people of the State would adopt a new Constitution, "once they are shown that such a Constitution can serve the cause of peace and reconciliation in this island."

Fianna Fail spokesman, Mr. Colley, immediately attacked Doctor Cruise and suggested that if the government did not intend to use its majority to pass the legislation required to hold a referendum, then Doctor O'Brien's "statement sounds suspiciously like hypocrisy."

Harry West, just back from sorting out Jim Molyneaux's vocabulary, stated that the deletion of Articles 2 and 3 while welcome, "would make no practical difference."

Yours truly marooned, without a visit, on the desert island of Long Kesh, wondered what it was all about. I scolded forth in search of Donal's copy of Bunreacht Na hEireann, (mar dhea) and came upon Article 2, which states that: "The national territory consists of the whole island of Ireland, its islands and territorial seas."

I then blimped on down to Article 3, and lo and behold, through a glass darkly, I saw that:

"Pending the re-integration of the National territory, and without prejudice to the right of the Parliament and Government established by this constitution to exercise jurisdiction over the whole

of that territory, the laws enacted by that Parliament shall have the like area and extent of application as the laws of Saorstát Eireann and the like extra-territorial effect."

Aha, says I to myself, its the old double-think at work again, because, dear readers, in the language of any plain person (English or Gaelic) the whole thing's a cod. One article declares that all Ireland owes allegiance to the Leinster House Parliament and the other article declares that the Leinster House Parliament will... ahem, hum, ho, ha...refrain from implementing it.

Thus we see Articles 2 and 3 for what they are, merely part of a propaganda exercise, formulated by the late Mr. deValera, a man much given to double meaning phrases and... on you don't believe me? Well let's go back to where it began. Back to 1937. Sound?

The constitution which Cruise O'Brien wants to change, which Fianna Fail wants to keep, and about which no Republican gives a damn, took shape in 1936 and early 1937. De Valera consulted a number of interests, notably Catholic and other churchmen, and came up with the new constitution.

It begins with a dramatic preamble which invoked, "the Name of the Most Holy Trinity from whom is all authority," after which the first Article proceeds to make a ringing declaration of popular sovereignty: "the Irish Nation hereby affirms its own inalienable, indefeasible, and sovereign right to choose its own form of Government, to determine its relations with other nations, and to develop its life, political, economic and cultural, in accordance with its own genius and traditions."

The term Republic appeared nowhere. The name of the state was to be, 'Eire, or in the English language,

Ireland.' The national territory, as we have seen, was defined as "the whole island of Ireland, its islands

be guarded "with special care" and "no law shall be enacted providing for the grant of a dissolution of marriage."

The right "to the private ownership of external goods" was acknowledged and a sub-section of Article

Eireann (the original 32 county Parliament), vested its authority in the IRA. Army Council. De Valera, in retaliation at increasing Republican activity, introduced the Offences against the State Act, the Treason Act and the Emergency Powers Act.

FOR LET NO PEOPLE DECEIVE THEMSELVES, OR BE DECEIVED BY THE WORDS, AND DOLOURS, AND PHRASES, AND FORM OF A MOCK FREEDOM, BY CONSTITUTIONS, AND CHARTERS, AND ARTICLES AND FRANCHISES. THESE THINGS ARE PAPER AND PARCHMENT, WASTE AND WORTHLESS. LET LAWS AND INSTITUTIONS SAY WHAT THEY WILL, THIS FACT WILL BE STRONGER THAN ALL LAWS, AND PREVAIL AGAINST THEM - THE FACT THAT THOSE WHO OWN YOUR LANDS WILL MAKE YOUR LAWS, AND COMMAND YOUR LIBERTIES AND YOUR LIVES. BUT THIS IS TYRANNY AND SLAVERY: TYRANNY IN ITS WIDEST SCOPE AND WORST SHAPE: SLAVERY OF BODY AND SOUL, FROM THE CRADLE TO THE COFFIN - SLAVERY WITH ALL ITS HORRORS, AND WITH NONE OF ITS PHYSICAL COMFORTS AND SECURITY; EVEN AS IT IS IN IRELAND, WHERE THE WHOLE COMMUNITY IS MADE UP OF TYRANTS, SLAVES AND SLAVE DRIVERS.

James Fintan Lalor



and the territorial seas" (Article 3) but "pending the re-integration of the national territory...." the laws of the state would apply only to the Irish Free State area (Article 3).

The head of the State was to be a President whose duties would be mainly formal, and this new office was accepted as designed merely to give de Valera more scope to his ambition as an increase to his power. (The recent well-planned 'thundering disgrace' ploy by Fine Gael is an illustration of how the government can effectively subvert that power, and slide legislation through, without constitutional niceties).

Anyway back to 1937, the government was to be headed by Taoiseach and Prime Minister and the two tier system of Oireachtas and Seanad was restored. The Seanad (Senate) was restricted effectively to delaying legislation for a stated period and it became an apolitical nursing home for defeated political veterans and a nursery school for hopeful young politicians-to-be.

The machinery of law and justice remained as before. That is, based largely on English legislation and on the English judicial system. Citizens were permitted freedom of expression, assembly and association "subject to public order and morality" and the State declared that it would ensure, in true chauvinist fashion "that mothers should not be obliged by economic necessity to engage in labour to the neglect of their duties in the home" (Article 41). In the same article, the institution of marriage was to

44 afforded recognition by the State "of the special position" of Roman Catholicism as the religion of "the great majority of citizens."

The clause which made Irish the first official language of the State, taken in conjunction with government in-action on the problems of the Gaeltachts, and its inertia in language policy generally, made a large contribution to the double-think and hypocrisy which always characterise Free State policy on language restoration.

In total the Constitution allowed de Valera to cul-de-sac Irish nationalist thinking. Article 2 expressed the historic aspirations of Irish nationalists to unity, and Article 3 put these aspirations into cold storage. It expressed the values of a Catholic Twenty Six county society, was part of the 'constitutional revolution' and left the North where it was - and is - today.

Against this background a year later, in 1938, the Executive Council of Dail

From 1940 to 1944 Republican activists were shot, executed or killed on hunger-strike. The Curragh Camp was filled, Military Tribunals were in full swing and repression increased. Gerry Boland, Minister of Justice (mar dhea) was later to declare that the IRA was dead and that he had killed it.

All this then, in the wake of the new Constitution, a Constitution which has done nothing to bring about Irish unity. If Conor Cruise O'Brien gets the changes he desires we can be sure that nothing will have changed.

So, dear readers, while Fianna Fail and Fine Fail shadow box, while the 'Labour' Party disgraces its calling, we will watch the proceedings with our tongues firmly in cheek.

Only when national sovereignty is established by the people and a 32 County people's constitution is implemented, will we take interest. Until then the whole business is merely...much ado about nothing.

GHETTO REPRESENTATIVE



Mrs. Harriet Kelly from the Ballymurphy area of Belfast left Betty Williams in no doubt as to who she represented during a recent BBC programme about the "peace people."

Mrs. Kelly claimed to represent the real working-class people of the ghetto. Mrs. Williams said she was a representative of the middle classes.

Budgie
Winners

Ould Jack and P.O.W., had to be excluded because of four of the budgies died.

By the way Paul Loughran and his mob are all back from the cells. Only John Kavanagh remains, and he will have returned by the time you read this.

As soon as the visits start again, a budgie will wing its way to Mrs. Edith Simpson, and Miss T. Butler, 6 Johnstown Park, Finglas East Dublin 11. The winning name was 'Bump'. Other names, including 'Jungle Bunny', Armlite, Fran, Roy Mason, Ian, Billy,

WHY THE STICKS BACK THE BRITS

Most republicans and socialists regard the Sticks with utter contempt. The recent 'Stickie Ard-Fheis' confirms that this view is correct. A year ago we said: 'They are no longer serious anti-imperialists. Hand in glove with the British their organisation is as pathetic a creature as has ever ended up in the dustbin of history.'

The lid is now on. The Sticks are no longer anti-imperialists of any description. The decaying remnants are forever doomed to the dustbin of history.

Their support for the 'Better Life For All' Campaign was a heavy flirtation with British imperialism and its local allies of Loyalist reaction. Their active support for the pro-

Brit 'Peace-at-any-Price' Movement marked their complete conversion to the camp of reaction. They are now siding openly with the Brit war-effort.

The Sticks continuing right-wing drift is turning into a spectacle akin to the mad rush of the Gadarene swine. In his New Year message, Mr. Malachy McCurran, was visibly distressed. For his Queen had failed to recognise the services of the 'Republican' Clubs during her Xmas message. She had not supported the Stickie 'Bill of Rights.'

All the signs are that 1977 will bring even greater Stickie grovelling at the feet of British imperialism. Mr. Thomas Mac Giolla was quickly on his knees. At their 'Ard Fheis' he

By Peter Dowling

spoke the language of a slave. His master was well pleased! The slave's performance was widely acclaimed by all the master's media on both sides of the Irish Sea.

Yet such pathetic antics are not to be explained merely in terms of deformed personalities. The political root must be dug out and examined.

This root is a disastrous strategy, best described as the 'Crazy Stages Theory'. This maps out three completely separate stages along the Sticks 'peaceful' road to socialism. The stages are:

Democratic reform of the present Northern six-county statelet;

2 National unification and independence from Britain;

3 The struggle for socialism.

They fail to understand the impossibility of reforming the Orange statelet. They fail to understand that the struggle for a united Ireland and for socialism are one and the same struggle.

Their 'Crazy Stages Theory' has led them to reject republicanism and

socialism. They have accepted partition; they are now limited to reforms within both parts of Ireland. Thus in the North they hide their faded nationalist colours in order to promote only local reforms. Such reforms are intended as a bait to attract Protestant workers. But such policies are self-defeating.

They fail to grasp that it is only through the struggle to smash the Northern statelet that the possibility exists of getting through to the mass of the Protestants. It is not the case that the core of the Loyalist demands is just for the preservation of any Northern state. They want the maintenance of a sectarian state in which their privileges would be guaranteed through the oppression of Catholics.

STRASBOURG WHO IS GUILTY?



by VINDICATOR

The systematic torture of political prisoners during the British government's internment operation of August 1971 was first made public by the "Sunday Times" of October 17, 1971. In September of 1976, almost five years later, the European Human Rights Commission confirmed that there did in fact exist a "prima facie" case against the British Government which had contravened specific articles of the European Convention of Human Rights. On the 7th of this month the European Court of Human Rights started hearings to decide if it can try the British Government on the charges of torturing political prisoners. The irony of this apparent 'conclusion' to the case against Britain is that the other main protagonist, the Free State government, now has pending against it almost identical charges to those which it has pressed with such "enthusiasm" at Strasbourg.

The Free State government's decision to "champion" the cause of political prisoners in the occupied north was precipitated by a call from Amnesty International in early November of 1971 for an independent international commission of enquiry into the torture of prisoners during August. On the 30th of November 1971 the Free State government announced that it was referring the cases of certain political prisoners to the European

Court of Human Rights at Strasbourg. The fact is that the Free State government's decision to pursue the issue was prompted not by any concern for the prisoners, but because of anticipated political advantage resulting from an adverse decision against the British government, and international embarrassment over the torturing of Irish Political Prisoners. In the intervening years since 1971 there has been a subtle eroding of the civil rights of the ordinary individual, the full implications of which the occupants of the 26 counties appear totally ignorant. This was first illustrated by their casual acceptance of the "Offences against the State (Amendment) Act" of December 1972 which introduced among other things the system of non-jury trials. (Originally intended for use against "terrorists" (SIC), it slowly found its way into the everyday machinery of the 'Legal' system of the Free State). This was the 'Act' which was conveniently prefaced by a double bombing in Dublin city centre, which left two dead, and 83 injured, thus insuring compliance from "reluctant opponents" of the bill and a comfortable majority of 70 to 25 in favour. Since then there has been a steady progression of repressive legislation, (effectively implemented by an increasingly brutal secret police force of Special Branchmen whose scope of activity

seems practically unlimited), culminating in last September's declared "state of Emergency." (This was a reaction to the execution of the British Ambassador in July). Supplementing the repressive legislation has been an undisguised repression of both political prisoners and political opponents of the state. The atrocious conditions at Portlaoise concentration camp have been acknowledged by academics, clerics, intellectuals and journalists both nationally and internationally, and insult has been added to injury by the selective restriction of the legal representatives of certain prisoners. The systematic torturing of prisoners by the Secret Police has been repeatedly documented. In April of 1976, 17 members of the I.R.S.P. were arrested following a train "robbery" at Kildare. During the time they were held in Bridewell R.I.C. station they were continually beaten and harassed in a fashion not dissimilar to that applied to the Internees of August 1971. In January 1977 five men were taken to the R.I.C. station at Cashel and Caher and beaten to such a degree that one man, Thomas Connors, threw himself through an upstairs window to escape his Special Branch tortures. Many such instances have occurred in the intervening period but have been ignored by an apathetic public.

As if this massive internal political contradiction were not enough, the Free State government in December 1975 introduced the "Criminal Law (Jurisdiction) Bill" which allowed for the implementation of the British Legal system in the 26 counties by trying political opponents of the British government for revolutionary actions carried out inside the occupied 6 counties, (over which the Irish 'constitutional' claims jurisdiction), with the possibility of 'convictions' based on the evidence of the R.U.C. and the British Army who had accused at Strasbourg of torturing political prisoners.

CONDITIONING PROCESS

This gradual undermining of basic civil rights by the Free State government is an attempt to "condition" the people of the 26 counties for the repression



Liam 'Patton' Cosgrave on the search for a military victory over the Irish people

which that government would deem necessary to suppress the revolutionary success of the Republican Movement following the withdrawal of the British war machine from the occupied North. To date that "conditioning process" would seem to have been "successful", but in the wake of the revolutionary success of the Republican Movement and the advanced sections of the working class in the North that "success" would prove to be as superficial as the Free State government's concern for Irish Political prisoners. Awaiting the failure of the revolutionary struggle are the fascists in Leinster House. World history has dictated that much has always been the case.

VENCEREMOS!

DERRY NEWS ★ DERRY NEWS

Bloody Sunday Commemoration

"YOUR POPPIES WILL BE SPLASHED WITH BLOOD"

Andreas O'Callaghan

On Sunday, January 30th about ten thousand people attended the fifth anniversary of Bloody Sunday organised by Sinn Fein. Cumain attended from all over Ireland and there were bands from Belfast, Derry and one from as far away as Scotland—the James Connolly Flute Band from Glasgow. They marched from the O'Gorman shops to Free Derry Corner in the Bogside where wreaths were laid at the memorial to the fourteen people who died after British troops opened fire on innocent demonstrators in Derry on January 30th 1972.

The organizers were delighted by the high turnout despite the bitterly cold weather. The march and meeting passed off without incident except for the burning of a Union Jack by some youths and some minor stone throwing. There were appeals from the platform for no confrontation with the army and the crowd responded favourably to these.

Barney McFadden, of Derry Sinn Fein, chaired the meeting which was addressed by: John Johnson, vice-chairman of Derry Sinn Fein, George Stagg, a brother of Frank Stagg, Andreas O'Callaghan and the joint secretary of Provisional Sinn Fein. A statement was read from the Derry Brigade, Oglaih na hEireann in which they reaffirmed their determination to continue the fight on behalf of the Republican people until every vestige of British Imperialism was removed from Ireland.

The message from the rest of the speakers was similarly militant and the response of the crowd echoed the militancy of Republican Derry. John Johnson referred to the cold weather and reminded all present that there were men lying naked in empty cells while he spoke. He praised the courage of the political prisoners and urged everyone to be as equally determined in the struggle against the British. He stated that Ireland belonged to the Irish people and that all that was required was the courage to take it.

George Stagg spoke of the traitors and spies in power in Dublin. He said that the attentions of the Republican Movement would turn to these gombeen men as soon as

the British left. He accused both the British and Leinster House regimes of torturing men in jail and plundering the country and warned that they would pay for their crimes.

Andreas O'Callaghan referred to recent statements from Enoch Powell and Airey Neave calling for an offensive by the British army against the I.R.A. He said that recent events showed that British soldiers in the six-counties would not be able to conduct their reign of terror and count on the fact that their wives and families would be safe in England. He continued, "It would fit them better to withdraw their terrorists from Ireland to guard their own life, limb and property back on the English mainland." He went on to say that Harold Wilson once stated that financial support from the U.S. splashed the shamrock with blood. He said, "I say to, the Wilsons and Callaghans if you do not leave Ireland and give a date for withdrawal, then your poppies will be further splashed with blood next November."

The joint secretary of Sinn Fein said he deeply regretted the absence of Maire Drumm from the platform. He added that if we all had half the courage, determination, hope and energy of the late Mrs. Drumm, the struggle would

be much nearer success. There was a tremendous response from the crowd at this point as Maire had always been a great favourite of the Derry people. A minute's silence was then conducted in memory of this great Irishwoman.

All the speakers pointed to the fact that in spite of British bullets the Derry people would never yield to foreign domination. The fourteen people who had lost their lives were part of a peaceful protest against British Imperialism. Their deliberate murder was part of an army plan to beat the Irish people into the ground. This had failed and the big turn-out on Sunday proved the point. The Republican Movement were now in a position to fight "fire with fire" and this we are determined to do with every means at our disposal until our demands are met. The march on Sunday was a slap in the teeth to those who say we have no support—the Irish people were on the streets again in Derry five years after the British army tried to beat them off. This time they were even more determined to show that they will never accept British Imperialism, but more important it should that they supported the Republican Movement in the fight for Irish unity.

DERRY BRIGADE WARNING TO RUC SECRET POLICE

The following supplied statement was released by the Derry Brigade, Oglaih na hEireann, following the execution of imperialist agent, Det. McNulty of the RUC Secret Police.

The role of the R.U.C. as an auxiliary of the British Army has for long been widely accepted. Recent developments have shown that this role is to be greatly strengthened. Meanwhile it is the rucis job to get as many Republicans behind bars as possible. These are the men who give the 'legal' facade to the violence and brutality of the British Army. Notorious in all police

forces is the 'Special Branch'. These are the men given the job of suppressing all political opposition to the State. In Ireland, as we all know, they will go to any lengths to obtain 'confessions'. They are never in the limelight, preferring to stay in the background. They venture out sometimes to observe marches etc. when it is safe of course. When they get a name usually through touts, they have the victim picked up and brought to them where they can torture him or her in the safety of an 'interrogation centre.'

However they under-



This amazing photograph of the late Special Branch man, Det. McNulty, was taken in the centre of Derry City by an Intelligence Unit from the Derry Brigade, the centre of the city has long been regarded as a 'safe haven' for the RUC Secret Police.

estimate the ability and vigilance of the I.R.A. They are constantly under the surveillance of Active Service Units who know well their behaviour and habits. The gentleman marked in the photograph is the late Det. Constable McNulty of Derry Special Branch. He has been under surveillance for the past few months and when the opportunity arose as it did last week, he was executed by an A.S.U. Let this be a warning to those in the 'Branch' that they are not as safe as they seem to think and they will not be allowed a free hand in the treatment of Derry Republicans.



BROAD LEFT NARROW MINDS

By Provo Student

THE BROAD LEFT IS AN ALLIANCE OF LEFT LABOUR, COMMUNIST AND INDEPENDANT SOCIALISTS ON THE UNIVERSITY CAMPUSES ALL OVER THE BRITISH ISLANDS.

At Strathclyde University in Glasgow the Broad Left has always been insular, introverted and scared to death of anything which might detract from their self supposed 'respectable' image among the students. In fact they are afraid of the students, afraid to confront some of their mistaken views and ideas, and afraid actually to defend any but the most simplistic notions of socialism.

Events of late have taken this alliance directly into the camp of social chauvinism and social pacifism.

The process began with the campaign of victimisation of ex-mineworker David Douglas, a revolutionary socialist and seller of Republican News. His constant struggle to take the Broad Left onto a higher political footing and more principled position toward the world revolution annoyed the mild pink 'Tribune' supporters and of course outraged the British Communist Party members. Proceedings were started to get rid of the 'con-Trot'.

Dave was a passage of all organisations struggling against imperialism and all anti-imperialist struggle. The pinko's went mad and tried to expell him there and then. They failed to get the support. As it did after he tried to move support for a Leninist post on towards revolutionary of Parliament, an institution which could never bring around socialism.

The crunch came around an internal discussion on the nature of the war in Ireland and of course the nature of the Provisional I.R.A. As always happens at such functions the Provo supporter tried to outline the whole spectrum, the historical developments, the role of imperialism, the nature of the class war in Ireland, and thus fit the emergence of the Provo's

FORMER BRIT PRO AIDS SMITH

As the guerrilla war against the racist Smith regime in Zimbabwe hots up the apartheid bosses have enlisted a Brit P.R.O. to spearhead their losing propaganda campaign.

Major Richard Stannard, late of the Theipval Barracks Publicity Bureau, has been given the job of handling 'Rhodesian' publicity. In the early stages of the present struggle in Ireland Stannard was well known to the

into this historical context. Not so the traitors and capitulators of the C.P.G.B. the Tribune, the so called 'Militant'. To a person they stormed and raved wildly about the Provo fascists 'Terrorists' and 'Murders' falling back on such Marxist classics as the News of the World and the Sun for their 'facts'. Never once did they talk of the role of imperialism and the British army, nor did they talk of the Orange Ultra right except to decry the I.R.A. for fighting them. Teh Provos were branded as 'non socialist' forgetting that the previous week they had branded Provo supporters in the Broad Left as too revolutionary, too left, too socialist!

It was decided that a big meeting would be called at which national speakers from the Communist Party, the L.P.Y.S. the S.D.L.P. the Peace People and yes after a struggle a Provisional would attend. However the off heard rumour in 'the party' was that no Provisional would dare Republican speakers, they were wrong and he was wrong. Dave immediately contacted Sinn Fein H.Q. in Britain and they agreed right away to send up a British based Belfast Republican, Jim Reilly.

This fact Dave kept up his sleeve and only confirmed that a Sinn Fein speaker would be coming. What was the response of the others...in the main they were interested in the opinions of the Strathclyde supporters and had no interest of making any effort to put across what one would have supposed were their firmly held opinions. So much for dedication.

Finally, when the speaker was announced and the apples had been swallowed and the ash faces fear set in mortal fear of even listening to the revolutionary side the Provo side. Behind

the scenes speakers cried off for fear of standing on the same platform as Sinn Fein. Two days before the meeting was due to go ahead and after all the confirmations had been made the Executive of the Broad Left secretly decided to cancel the meeting, despite the fact it had been unanimously agreed to by the general body. No attempt was made to call an emergency general meeting to discuss it. 24 hours before the meeting was supposed to begin Dave was officially informed.

The following general meeting heard an outcry of disapproval at the clearing

ly rigged and bureaucratic action of the E.C. who were responding to nothing more than sheer class cowardice in the face of the state and sheer class hypocrisy in the failure to be able to defend their impoverished ideological positions. A motion of censure in the executive was defeated. They countered by moving for the expulsion of David Douglass because 'Our association with this man could get us arrested.' Others said 'It might get us a bad name'. The motion was defeated however as other people came forward.

said they too supported the Provo's.

There the matter rests - for now, but the struggle of the revolutionary left represented squarely by the Provisional supporters, and the centre represented by the sticks and their fellow travellers, continues. Republican News is regularly sold to the general body of students and it is popularly received, even by those students not convinced of the Sinn Fein case. It seems they at least are willing to give a platform even if the Broad Left is not.

COONEY YING SAY PRISONERS COMMITTEE

Cooney, wants it to be understood that he is completely satisfied that the Governor and staff of Portlaoise Prison are acting reasonably and to his explicit instructions. He must therefore be satisfied with the situation where:

[a] Visitors and their children are kept waiting on the roadside outside the prison for up to five hours before being admitted to a cold waiting room.

[b] Relatives are accepted or rejected for visits on a completely unexplainable basis.

[c] Prisoners are unable to write to their relatives informing them of prison conditions.

[d] Many prominent people have been refused admittance to the prison including Siobhan McKenna, a member of the Council of State; Mr. Frank McGuire, M.P.; Fr. Denis Faul and a delegation from Louth County Council.

There are the conditions as seen from outside, the prison released prisoners have detailed the conditions within the prison and there is a grave conflict between their accounts and that of Paddy Cooney. Is Miss Michael Mac Conmara P.R.O. Prisoners Committee.

IN MEMORIAM

In proud and loving memory of Vol. Proinsias Stagg, died on Hunger Strike Wakefield Jail 12 Feb 1976 Remembered with pride and gratitude by An Cumann Proinsias Stagg Manchester

THANK YOU

Maire UI Dhroma Memorial Fund Committee
Thank all who sent donations especially the late Hugh Cooney's family. The Fox/Williams Cumann Newington.

In Memoriam

CUNNINGHAM (Fifth Anniversary)

In proud and loving memory of 1st Lieutenant Joseph Cunningham, 'E' Company, 3rd Batt. Belfast Brigade, killed in action, 10th February, 1972. 'The dust of some is Irish earth among their won they rest, and the same land that gave them birth has called them to her breast, and we will pray that from their clay, full many a race may start of true men like you Joe, to act as brave a part.'

Inserted by his Family.

FITZSIMMONS (4th Anniversary)

In proud and loving memory of my darling daughter and our beloved sister, Volunteer Vivienne Fitzsimmons, Cumann na Ban, killed on active service in defence of her beloved country, February 10th, 1973.

"Mary Queen of the Gael, Pray for Her."

Always remembered by her loving mother and brothers, Drumcloon Walk, Downpatrick.

O'HANLON/FITZSIMMONS (4th Anniversary)

In proud and loving memory of Staff Officer, Leo O'Hanlon, I.R.A. and Volunteer, Vivienne Fitzsimmons, Cumann na Ban, killed on active service, February 10th, 1973.

"Ireland divided shall never be free."

Always remembered by the Fitzsimmons Family, Downpatrick.

BAILEY (1st Anniversary)

In proud and loving memory of Lieutenant Sean Bailey, 'A' Company, 2nd Batt. Belfast Brigade Oglalaigh na hEireann. Killed on active service, 13th February, 1976.

Always remembered by the Staff Officers and Volunteers - Belfast Brigade, Oglalaigh na hEireann, 2nd Batt., Belfast Brigade, 'A' Company, 2nd Batt., Belfast Brigade.

BAILEY (1st Anniversary)

In proud and loving memory of Lieutenant Sean Bailey, 'A' Company, 2nd Batt., Belfast Brigade, Oglalaigh na hEireann. Killed on active service, 13th February, 1976.

Always remembered by the Members of the Gerard O'Callaghan/Albert Kavanagh Sinn Fein Cumann.

Visiting arrangements

The PRO, Republican prisoners-of-war in Long Kesh, informs us that visits will be resumed as usual from Monday the 14th February. If the Prison Warders resume their role in harassing visitors or/and POW's the visits will be called off immediately.

Balcombe Street 4

WE HAVE FOUGHT TO FREE OUR OPPRESSED NATION

The following is a statement read from the Dock at the show-trial of the Balcombe Street Four, by Martin O'Connell, on behalf of all four Republican soldiers.

Members of the Jury:

There has been an attempt by this court to isolate certain incidents which have been called "crimes". These incidents have been put completely outside the context in which they occurred in a way that is neither just nor consistent with the truth. The true context is that of the relationship between this country and our country-Ireland. That relationship is one of a state of war against the occupation of Ireland by Britain. No mention has been made in this court of the violence suffered by the Irish people; of the use of internment without charge or trial in the Six Counties; of the conviction before the European Court of Human Rights of the British government for the torture of Irish people; nor of the many brutalities of British colonial rule. The judge has attempted to restrict the reference to bombings and shootings to "terrorist" offences. We would like to ask the judge whether the bombing of Hiroshima and Dresden were terrorist offences? whether the torture carried out by "British soldiers in Aden and Cyprus" and Nola Camp Kenya were acts of terrorism? whether the British were guilty of terrorism when they forced thousands of civilians into concentration camps in South Africa where thousands of them died?

We say that no representative of British imperialism is fit to pass judgement on us, for this government has been guilty of the very things for which we now stand accused. This government carries out acts of terrorism in order to defend British imperialism and continues to do so in Ireland. We have struggled to free our country from British rule. We are patriots. British soldiers in Northern Ireland are mercenaries of British imperialism. Yet none of them has ever been convicted for the murders of unarmed civilians which they have committed in Ireland. We ask the members of the jury to consider this paradox.

We are all four Irish Republicans. We have recognised this court to the extent that we have instructed our lawyers to draw the attention of the court to the fact that four totally innocent people—Carole Richardson, Gerry

Conlon, Paul Hill and Paddy Armstrong—are serving massive sentences for three bombings, two in Guildford and one in Woolwich, which three of us and another man now imprisoned, have admitted that we did. The Director of Public Prosecution was made aware of these admissions in December 1975 and has chosen to do nothing. We wonder if he will still do nothing when he is made aware of the new and important evidence which has come to light through the cross of certain our Counsel witnesses in this trial. The evidence of Niggs and Lidstone played a vital part in the conviction of innocent people. Niggs admitted in this trial that the Woolwich bomb formed part of a correlated series with other bombings with which we are charged. Yet when he gave evidence at the earlier Guildford and Woolwich trial he deliberately concealed that the Woolwich bomb was definitely part of a series carried out between October and December 1974 and that the people on trial were in custody at the time of some of these bombings. Lidstone in his evidence at this trial tried to make little of the suggestion that the Guildford bombs could have been part of the "Phase One" bombings with which we are accused with the excuse, and this appeared to be his only reason, that the bombings in Guildford had occurred a long time before the rest. When it was pointed out to him that there were many clear links between Caterham and Guildford and that the time between Guildford and the Brooks Club bomb with which we were originally charged was 17 days and that Woolwich occurred 16 days later, and that equal time gaps occurred between many of the incidents with which we are charged, Lidstone backtracked and admitted that there was a likely connection.

This shifty manoeuvring typifies what we, as Irish Republicans, have come to understand by the words "British justice". Time and again in Irish political trials in this country innocent people have been convicted on the flimsiest evidence—often no more than extorted statements or even verbal

from the police. Despite the often repeated claim that there is no such thing as a Political Prisoner in England, we would like to point out the stress laid in Irish trials on the political beliefs of the prisoners and the fact that over the last few years convicted Republicans have been subjected to extreme brutality in English prisons. This brutality has led to prisoners being severely injured like six Republicans in Albany in September last year and to the almost constant use of



WE ADMITTED TO NO 'CRIMES' AND TO NO 'GUILT' FOR THE REAL CRIMES AND GUILT ARE THOSE OF BRITISH IMPERIALISM COMMITTED AGAINST OUR PEOPLE. THE WAR AGAINST IMPERIALISM IS A JUST WAR AND IT WILL GO ON, FOR TRUE PEACE CAN ONLY COME WHEN A NATION IS FREE FROM OPPRESSION AND INJUSTICE. WHOLE NATION ARE IMPRISONED OR NOT IS IRRELEVANT FOR OUR PRISONER OF BRITISH IMPERIALISM.

BALCOMBE STREET FOUR FROM THE DOCK

IN MEMORIAM

solitary confinement for such prisoners. It has also resulted in the deaths of three of our comrades—Michael Gaughan, Frank Stagg, and Noel Jenkinson. We do not wish to insult the members of the jury when we say that they are not our peers. An English jury can never be the peers of Irish men and women. We will be judged only by our countrymen. Any verdict or sentence from this court is nothing more than the continuation of the hypocrisy of British rule in Ireland and the injustice it has inflicted on our country and its people.

We admitted to no "crimes" and to no "guilt" for the real crimes and guilt are those of British imperialism committed against our people. The war against imperialism is a just war and it will go on, for true peace can only come about when a nation is free from oppression and injustice. Whether we are imprisoned or not is irrelevant for our whole nation is the prisoner of British imperialism. The British people who choose to ignore this or to swallow the lies of the British gutter press are responsible for the actions of their government unless they stand out against them.

As volunteers in the Irish Republican Army we have fought to free our oppressed nation from its bondage to British imperialism of which this chauvinistic integral part, Joe O'Connell Eddie Butler, Harry Duggan Hugh Doherty,

in some small way in the great and gallant struggle for the freedom of our country", Proinias Stagg, who died on hunger strike in Wakefield jail on 12th February 1976. Prisoners Aid Committee, c/o 142 Drummond Street, London NW1.

"I sincerely hope that I may be able to help

More than 40 Republican demand prisoners appeared in the dock of Belfast Magistrate's Court on Tuesday stripped to the waist. The protest was part of the continuing struggle both inside and outside the prisons for the retention of political status. The strip protests have ruffled the right-wing judiciary who have always dominated the Orange courtrooms with an iron fist. The Struggle of the Prisons has always been a part of life in Ireland, both under the British rule and later the Free State regime.

STRIP PROTESTS CONTINUE IN COURTS

Many of the prisoners bore marks of their beatings by Prison screws.

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A large selection of records and tapes available on request, CHIEFTANS, WOLFE TONES, DUBLINERS, FREEMEN etc.

COME IN AND BROWSE AROUND, EVERYONE WELCOME.

"THE PEACE PEOPLE" have been noticeably quiet about the recent spate of sectarian murders and escalated British Army activity. It seems they are more concerned with their internal disintegration as illustrated by the recent split with Tom Conaty. Such a split was forecast by Republican News in August last year, following the formation of the "Peace Movement."



ALL RAPE IS SERIOUS BUT SOME LESS

Two weeks ago REPUBLICAN NEWS carried a report of a rape case involving British soldiers. Four soldiers charged, and convicted, at Downpatrick Winter Assizes were allowed to rejoin their regiment in England. Their victim was a young Strabane woman.

Recently another four Brits, members of the 2nd Royal Anglian Regiment, appeared in court at Lincoln (England) charged with raping a 17 year old local girl. The soldiers, Corporal David Gill, Private Frederick O'Rourke and Private Peter Norris, admitted kidnapping and raping

the girl. They were each jailed for four years because their regiment deserted in on the run'. During the trial of the Brits charged with raping the Strabane girl an officer described the chief rapist as 'a fine fellow'. The Downpatrick court cases ended with one Brit receiving a desirous one year suspended sentence. His fellow rapists were fined £50 each. All are now back with their regiment, the Kings. It seems that it is less serious to rape an Irish girl than it is to degrade an English girl in this way.

H.M. FORCES ROLL OF HONOUR

BY THE BRIGADIER



Evenin' all, it's the Evenin' soldier here again. My little columns about my gallant lads in the UDR have aroused a bit of inter-service rivalry I'm glad to say. And so, in response to numerous requests from the boys in Khaki, with a smile on their faces, I'm going to include them from time to time in the roll of honour. Who says we've only got one apple? Wise up Mason, here's to start with:- 1. Robert Earles of the Glorious Glosers. Indecent assault on young boy. 25.8.76. Fined £75. CORRECTION. Some keen khaki fans have written to ask me to confirm that the regimental motto of the Glosers is 'Retreat! Retreat!' This is a vile slander and completely untrue. Their motto is 'Run away! Run away!' 2. William Porter (regiment unknown). Murdered a Scottish Highlander in Munster (Germany). Bit of a boo-boo this one. 19.9.76. 3. Stephen Walker (Royal Anglian). Murder of girl friend. Life. 19.10.76. 4. Pte Chris Williams. 18 months for assault and GBH. Kicked a civilian senseless. Said it would be good practise for Belfast. Praised by Judge Jupp who deeply regretted having to interrupt a promising career. 5. Robert Mone (ex Gordon

Highlander). Escaped from mental home and killed three before being recaptured. 30.11.76. 6. Alan O'Brien, on leave, attacked a coloured girl because 'he wanted to kill a black before he died.' Remanded in custody. 7. Stephen Ellerton and Anthony Williamson (Coldstream Guards). Kicked an elderly doorman to death in Reading 'because he couldn't give them a light for their cigarettes.' Got life. Bit rough that, the doorman might have been Irish. 8. And following on the successful escape of the six Strabane rapists, comes news of Corporal Gill and Privates O'Rourke and Norris of 2nd Royal Anglian. While on a goodwill mission on behalf of Army recruiting they raped a 17 year old girl in Lincoln. A fourth member of their team is on the run. Platoon commander Lieut. John Pierce said, yes, you've guessed it, they all have exemplary records especially while in N.Ireland. 9. Another bit of a mess, I'm afraid, Soldier A who shot an off duty RUC Reservist at a checkpoint in Bessbrook. Turns out that not only was the chappie in the RUC but he wasn't a Taig! Bad show, soldier A!

And finally, one of our own lads in the UDR, Willie John Johnston, of Finnermore, Clogher, got caught doing the double-well, who doesn't? Some reactionary old twit of a judge fined him £100. What's the bloody country coming to!

