

# republican NEWS

VOLUME 7. NUMBER 21 SATURDAY, May 28, 1977 England/Scotland/Wales 12p

PRICE 10p



## BIG INCREASE IN HARASSMENT AND TORTURE

Since the abortive loyalist strike was called-off there has been a massive increase in harassment and torture throughout Republican areas.

Last Sunday and Monday night British soldiers carried out raids and swoops in parts of West Belfast taking away scores of young men for interrogation and torture. In the previous week the Brits had concentrated on Omagh and Dungannon. Victims brought to a packed Fort Monagh in Andersonstown have been forced to double-up in the cubicles. And as our reports show, cases of recent RUC torture are now well established.

### TO SATISFY LOYALISTS

Harry West and a delegation of Official Unionists met Roy Mason on Monday night 23.5.77 and Mason told them of the most recent security moves. Austin Ardill after the meeting said that they were now encouraged about the prospects of making political progress:

"Many Unionist proposals for improving sec-

urity have already been implemented and I understand that there are plans for putting others into practice."

So the big pay-off for supporting the Paisley/Baird strike is, as we expected, increased repression against the minority. And increased repression is what the strike was for anyhow! For the time being extreme loyalism (as a pressure on the Official Unionists and as an obstacle to Mason's political strategy of a long haul against the IRA with eventual re-appraisal between the Official Unionists and the SDLP) has been discredited and hopefully rendered ineffectual.

### HAIR PULLED OUT.

Two Coalisland men released from Cookstown RUC barracks on the 18th May described how they were tortured and abused in custody. Thirty-year-old Mr Owen Roe O'Neill stated that he and Mr Eugene McStravick (24) were extremely badly treated whilst in detention and undergoing a gruelling interrogation.

Tufts of hair were pulled

from his head, moustache and chest and he had extensive swelling of the genitals. On one occasion, when he had vomited after being forced to do press-ups for a lengthy period to exhaust himself, an RUC Detective wiped up the vomit on a tissue and forced it back into Mr O'Neill's mouth.

Seventeen-year-old Damien O'Hagan who was held by the RUC in Dungannon on May 10th reports that he was beaten on the head, dug on the ribs, lifted by the hair and swung around and knocked to the ground. RUC interrogators also threatened to throw him down a flight of stairs.

While these people were being interrogated and tortured the Loyalists had virtually sealed off the town of Dungannon in support of the strike.

Fergus Harte (18) of Coalisland was immediately punched in the stomach as soon as he walked into the interrogation cell and before any questions were asked! His hair was pulled and his neck twisted. He was made to stand for two hours on the tips of his toes. In three interrogation sessions he was beaten by plain-clothes RUC men.

A 60-year-old Carrickmore woman was taken from her home at 4 p.m. on Saturday, 29 April to Omagh RUC barracks. She was shown photos of mutilated victims; these were pushed into her face; A high ranking officer threatened to beat her; she was put in a cell to sleep on a board all night. The next day her family came to the barracks and amid the laughter of the RUC the old woman had to go to hospital.

### GHETTOES ATTACKED

On top of this British soldiers inside the ghettos have increased harassment to breaking-point level. Some workers at Strathearn Audio in Belfast were arrested and taken to an interrogation



cell in Andersonstown barracks. The women of Turf Lodge have again warned that the high troop-level in the area is a recipe for a major confrontation. Derry Sinn Fein have reported to REPUBLICAN NEWS that an increase in repression has also taken place there.

Combined with this assault on the population we have the continuing advertisement by Mason, and Gerry Fitt, of the RUC Thugs as 'gentlemen'. Their recent 'successes' against the loyalists (particularly the capture of the alleged 'Mad Butcher') is meant to impress upon the nationalist people that they are now reformed and truly 'impartial'.

Also their readiness which confuses many people to investigate the

case against the Brits responsible for the murder of Danny McCoey (see inside) is meaningless since (1) if the case ever reached court the Brits would be easily acquitted and (11) their RUC colleagues in Castlereagh, Omagh and Dungannon Barracks are inflicting equally cruel beatings.

### POPULAR RESISTANCE

The popular resistance on the streets against the Brits is continuing in all areas, as are the increasing weekly number of military operations by the Irish Republican Army.

The RUC are hated by the Irish People and will never be accepted back into republican areas. The fierce resistance of the People is testimony to this.

### Inside This Issue

THE MURDER OF DANNY McCOEY  
(PAGE 3)

THE BRIT STRATEGY - by SOLON  
(PAGE 2)

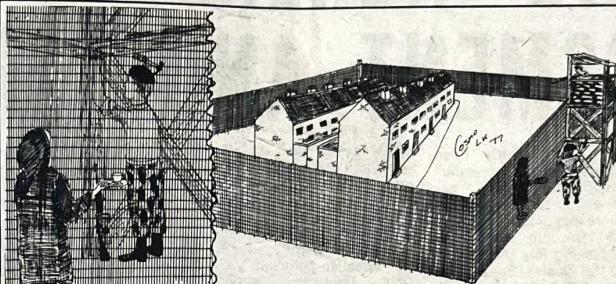
ZIMBABWE - The Creation of a Neo-colony  
(PAGES 6+7)



Every decade since 1920 saw spasmodic IRA campaigning against the unjust, undemocratic, sectarian partition of the 6 counties. Its very nature, being artificially set-up to consolidate one party rule for the maintenance of the link with Britain, was, they said, testimony to the fact that it could never sustain any kind of just peaceful, democratic, free society. They have been the only truly consistent opponents of the statelet since its birth. For 51 years they were at odds with Stormont enduring many hardships, surviving much repression but always as resurgent as the seasons. Often they found themselves alone knocking at Stormont's door. The 60s were different, however, and naturally that begs the question why?

In the 60s the natural inborn opposition to partition of the Republican tradition became allied with others outside that tradition. The alliance proved to be near-sighted stretching only as far as recognition of some of the more unjust practices of the statelet. The true Republicans remained the only ones to diagnose these as symptoms of the real cancer, the existence of the statelet. The others sought reforms and failed to see, that the statelet to exist must always be sectarian and unjust therefore, reforms could only have any worth as a means of papering over some of the more blatant injustices, easing tensions in the community from time to time. Nevertheless the Republicans ended up taking a back seat to the naive liberalism prevalent

# THE BRIT STRATEGY



orous and outspoken of the callers for change.

Some, at the prompting of Republicans in their ranks, called for an end to partition but the reformers were playing in the centre ring. However well-intentioned and enthusiastic their sincerity was never to be matched by the merits of the naive calls for reform. Reforms neglected the roots of the problem. The movement also gave the opportunity to the less sincere to walow in the guise of moderate liberalism, to appear champions over injustice

was to stabilise the situation and maintain the Status Quo. The police were stretched to the limit and the six-counties was on the brink of Civil War. The troops did indeed stabilise the immediate situation and gave the British (more subtle than their Stormont counterparts) the opportunity to have reforms introduced. Accordingly they saw the creation of a strong opposition party as a means of ensuring this in Stormont and channelling minority opposition into a political party away from the streets. However, it became increasingly obvious to the minority population that the troops were deployed around their areas to keep them in rather than someone else out. As each month past some new incident indicated to the minority that the troops were there to protect only the interests of their masters.

Halfway through 1970 the proposed reforms had misfired, in that they proved not to be satiating enough for the minority. Agitation was growing and reforms were no longer important. This was partly due to the hostility of the loyalist and Orange block in the face of them and partly because they were hollow from the beginning, effectively changing nothing on the streets. The Brits began to gently persuade.

In July 1970 the Lower Falls Curfew and the events that led to it firmly nailed the British colours to the mast for everyone to see. The change in emphasis was inevitable but took a sharp-er turn when the Tories came to power in June 1970. House searching, harassment, increased legal powers, and more

wide-spread use of force greater use of rubber-bullets, gas and violence repression, became the order of the day.

Inside the Republican Movement reorganisation to suit the developments was taking place. The Brits with an eye on the revival of the IRA, began to realise that the situation was spreading into a classical colonial struggle, where their reforms (an effort to halt this slide) would be impotent. They realised they would now have to employ a strategy which followed more classical anti-insurgency lines. This strategy was well tried and highly developed in other colonial wars and had been well documented in Kitson's "Low Intensity Operations".

At this stage the Brits had decided that they were now at war with a section of the population in revolt. The Kitson doctrine was now adopted as a progressive strategy for the defeat of this threat. Many people failed to recognise the initiation of this as an overall strategy and accepted the measures as a haphazard day to day attempt to restore stability. The doctrine involves basically, the identification of active opponents, and vigilance in respect of everyone else. It requires, partial control or complete control of political institutions, security agencies, courts, media, prisons, social services and society in general. It organises society and conditions it to suit the strategy. It allies all establishment pillars whether in business or the military into a vast network of intrigue united in their opposition to

the insurgent population. It transcends party politics and politicians. It employs the technical know-how of the 70s for example computerisation in its control of society for the specific purpose of eliminating opponents, placing everyone firmly in the grip of Orwell's Big Brother

It is most important that we recognise that when the Brits accepted that reforms were no longer enough they embarked on a massive counter-insurgency operation. It started over 7 years ago. It has not been haphazard. It is a formula a strategy that was employed elsewhere in the world pre-conceived and formulated by Kitson and others, learning all the time and reaching unthought of proportions.

9 years ago the C.R.A. took to the streets shouting "One man one vote" An end to Gerry mandering. Today people are being tortured everyday in the week, the Brits have murdered hundreds either directly or indirectly, they have blackmailed and extorted, there are special courts, more special laws than ever existed, prisons are bursting and more are being built, men go to jail on the evidence of forced "confessions" we are all filed in the memory banks of a computer; SAS squads roam the streets of Belfast trafficking in death, and everyone on the side of the 'security forces' operate with immunity, above their own laws. Nine years ago people complained vehemently about injustices that pale into insignificance compared with today's. Why is no-one other than the Republican Movement actively opposing this? It is testimony to the effectiveness of the British strategy. Many do not see the overall plan but merely react every now and again to certain stimuli as reflex actions.

In coming articles we hope to outline the basics of this strategy and try and trace its developments over the last 7 years. The important key to understanding the development is in thinking of it as a progressive overall plan to organise and condition society for instant identification and elimination of unsuitable elements. If it reaches a high enough stage of conditioning, and organising, isolation of these elements becomes unnecessary as they become immediately evident and even more quickly removed.

## BY SOLON

### Long Kesh

in the Civil Rights Movement.

The 60s saw a tremendous social upheaval throughout the world particularly in the West. It questioned every aspect of society and challenged the existing values of the day. Inevitably it had its roots among the young, particularly the student element. Their education gave them the confidence to ask the questions, but always the answers received fell short of the mark. In France in 68 the students were the corner-stone of the society's backlash. The wave of upheaval swept across the West and in the 6 counties the young academics in the ranks of the P.D. and the C.R.A. were among the most vigi-

and staunch defenders of democracy, freedom and equality. In reality they were knowingly polishing an illusion and mixing plaster to cement cracks in the 6 counties. The young and sincere were manipulated and the Republicans were upstaged. In the process everybody sprinted head-long into violent repression and reactionary pogroms with only the statelet's force being organised and directed.

When the inevitable violence came it surprised not the Republicans and its intensity shocked London, Dublin and Stormont. It reached such a pitch that London had to send in the troops. Their task

DASSVADANJA.  
SOLON.  
LONG KESH PRISON  
CAMP.

# THE MURDER OF DANNY Mc COOHEY

In the early hours of last Friday morning (20th May) Danny McCooley died, after being in the intensive care unit of the Royal Victoria Hospital for 20 days. And, as Belfast Sinn Fein pointed out, Danny died "because he was beaten to death—though death took three long weeks by British soldiers stationed in the Grand Central Hotel."

It was four weeks ago that REPUBLICAN NEWS first carried the reports of the beating, and though the details were released through the Belfast Republican Press Centre and were made freely available to the media, they either ignored or made little use of the story.

Similarly the politicians of the SDLP and the Sticks, concerned more with their local government elections ignored the plight of Danny McCooley, and we can now expect a hypocritical outcry from these opportunist and demands for "Impartial inquiries". Such calls are meant to quell the anger of the people, and channel that anger into controllable forms. The SDLP and the Sticks cannot handle the spontaneous, genuine anger of the People which takes the form of street protests and physical resistance to the Brits. SDLP "inquiries" never brought the killers of Leo Norrey, Brian Stewart or Majella O'Hare to justice.

#### SATURDAY NIGHT OUT.

Twenty year old Danny McCooley and his friend Michael Masterson were out for a usual Saturday night's social on the 30th April. They spent the later part of the evening in the 3 C's Social Club and left shortly after midnight. After leaving the club Danny and Mickey made their way round to Castle Street to get a taxi home.

Unfortunately, people can't walk the streets in Belfast without being abused, insulted or harassed by British thugs in uniforms. On their way round to the taxi stand they were stopped by British soldiers, who started to abuse Danny's friend. It was then that Danny intervened to help his friend and cool down the situation. The Brits then hit him in the stomach with a rifle butt, giving him severe bruising and knocking him almost unconscious.



In a statement covering up for the beating the Brits said that Danny was injured "Violently resisting arrest". This is a blatant lie. The Brits took him and his friend to the army base at Grand Central Hotel and there they further abused and interrogated him. The Brits have denied that Danny was ever in the 'Hotel'. They can be pinned on this lie too, as the sworn testimony of Michael Masterson plus Army and Medical records state otherwise.

During questioning his companion heard him complain and cry throughout that he was in great pain with his stomach. At this stage he was haemorrhaging internally. The Brits nevertheless held him until sometime after half two and then rushed him to the RVH

DANNY Mc COOHEY - DIED  
20/5/77 AS A RESULT OF AN  
ATTACK BY THE BRITISH ARMY

## DANNY'S COMPANION TELLS HOW IT HAPPENED

"Danny and I came out of the 3 C's social club at about a quarter past twelve and were heading towards the taxi stand in King Street on the night of the 30th April/1st May.

Soldiers standing outside Lavery's shop said to us as we passed, 'Go on you Irish bastards' or something like that. I stopped and said 'Pardon, I can't understand what you were saying?' He kept calling me an 'Irish bastard' and after a few moments the Brit took a swing at me with his fist and I threw a punch back.

"Danny grabbed me by the shoulder and said 'Na don't get involved with them'. I seen another rifle butt getting swung but it missed me and must have hit Danny about the stomach because he fell to the ground screaming 'My stomach, my stomach!'

"I then went to Danny's aid he was complaining about the pains in his stomach. I asked the Brits to get a doctor or an

ambulance but they didn't answer. The cops arrived on the scene and a Brit arrested me by putting his hand on my shoulder and saying something. Danny was still on the ground and I said to get him a doctor.

"The Brits stuck me in the back of a jeep and two of them went over to where Danny was lying and picked him up. They half-dragged him to the jeep and physically threw him into the back next to me. He was crying about his stomach.

"We were brought round to the Grand Central Hotel and taken in the back way I think. This was about 25 past 12. When we stopped, the Brits dragged half carried Danny into the downstairs part of the GCH and separated us. About ten minutes later I heard Danny screaming in agony. The Brits took me for a medical but the doctor wasn't there. The Brit said he was seeing to Danny. I never saw Danny again.

"At about 3 in the morning I was brought round to Queen Street RUC barracks and was put in the cells. Later I was interviewed by the CID who asked me to make a statement about Danny. They asked me to tell them what happened but I said I wasn't making a statement until I had a solicitor.

"They said that 'You'll be doing your friend a good turn' as there was a possible murder charge here against the Brits. About five o'clock the RUC told me that Danny wasn't as bad as first thought. They still asked me to make a statement. I said No, not until I get a solicitor.

"They said that 'You'll be doing your friend a good turn' as there was a possible murder charge here against the Brits. About five o'clock the RUC told me that Danny wasn't as bad as first thought. They still asked me to make a statement. I said No, not until I get a solicitor.

"At about half six Sunday morning they released me. At no time at all did we resist arrest as the Brits have alleged, and at no time at all were we questioned over any breach of the law so what were we supposedly being arrested for?"

SIGNED MICHAEL  
MASTERTON,  
20th May 1977.

to prevent Danny from dying in their custody.

He immediately went under an emergency operation and the doctors expressed little hope of recovery due to the severity of the beating. On Tuesday the 10th May he had another emergency operation. His stomach had collapsed and there was a hole in the base of his lungs. Poison had set in and he was again heavily bleeding internally.

The Brits in their lying version of events have said that the incident occurred around 1 a.m. They have also said that when Danny was injured they "rushed" him to the City Hospital but there he was refused admission because of the severity of his injuries. The Brits say they then took him to the RVH and that this was around 2 a.m. This is one of the biggest lies since Hospital Records show that Danny McCooley wasn't admitted until 2.40 a.m.

#### PUBLIC REACTION.

As news of Danny's death spread through the Falls Road area people became very angry. Workers at the factory where he was employed—Charrington printers—walked out in protest at the murder of their young colleague and picketed Springfield Road RUC/British Army barracks for a time.

In Beechmount Avenue on Friday night many friends, neighbours and sympathisers attended a public meeting which was addressed by one of Danny's sisters, Mrs Norrey (mother of murdered Leo Norrey and by Maire Moore of Sinn Fein).

Maire Moore addressing the crowd sympathised with the McCooley family and went on to say that so long as British soldiers occupied Ireland we could expect nothing but terror and murder from them. She drew attention to the fact that the SDLP, Sticks and so-called Peace People who were all out for themselves, were absent from the meeting.

From his home in Beechmount Pass Danny was led to rest in Milltown cemetery last Monday. Many local people and sympathisers from all over Belfast attended the funeral and paid their last respects to an innocent lad murdered by the British Army in Ireland.

# THE CHANGING FACE OF CAPITAL

PART 11.

Last week, in Part 1, a brief historical sketch presented the needs of capital from the latter years of the 19th. Century until the mid-1960's, which witnessed the 'historic' meetings between Sean Lemass and Terence O'Neill. Was such a meeting the work of the supernatural, or a Papist Plot as Paisley screamed from his platforms throughout the north, or was it based on the economic realities of life which had changed southern capital's attitude towards the north, and Britain capital's attitude towards Ireland as a whole?

After partition, tariffs were applied by the Cumann na nGael government, which were marginal and applied with extreme caution. A Tariff Commission was appointed in 1926 to examine applications for protection by tariff and as the southern ruling party was pro-British capital, it discharged its duties meticulous. By the time Fianna Fail had assumed power (Feb. 1932) the Great Depression had deprived the south of free markets for agricultural produce—the protectionist policy became the order of the day. Virtually overnight Fianna Fail imposed tariffs on a wide range of goods, and the Economic War with Gt. Britain had begun.

In the years that followed, the protection policy was strengthened, and behind the tariff walls new industries were established which included the Sugar Company, Aer Lingus, Irish Shipping (after Britain had broken an agreement for chartered ships), and others including Bord na Mona. As early as 1930-36, this policy was paying off with industrial employment rising from 111,000 to 154,000, chiefly in the manufacturing industry. This policy was virtually canonised in 1933 when in a lecture at U.C.D. attended by all the party notables and Big Business, the brilliant left-wing economist, J.M. Keynes, said "If I were an Irishman, I should find

much to attract me in the current economic outlook of your government towards greater self-sufficiency".

There is little doubt that these early policies by successive southern governments, particularly Fianna Fail, where being successful in building up an independent Irish economy, which required a rapid industrial growth. It is to be noted however with regret, that many prominent figures, including De Valera, had little interest in economics, and considered such mundane. Men



Eamon de Valera.

like Sean Lemass, John Leydon and later Ken Whitaker were left to their own devices, and on repeated occasions Senator Joe Connolly, Mac Entee, Boland and others warned 'the chief' that Lemass was selling out the country to Big Business.

In the IRISH PRESS in 1955 and at public meetings Lemass began to spell out his economic policies, and was encouraged by Gerard Sweetman (Fine Gael), then Minister of Finance. With Whitaker in the number one position in the Civil Service, and others with Lemass ideas in key positions, together with internal ineptness within the higher political ranks, the stage was set for a sell out to foreign capital. By the mid 1960's Lemass as Taoiseach had dismantled the protective walls, and the flood of capital began.

It was against this background that the O'Neill Lemass meetings took place, with an invitation going from the former to the latter in January 1965. It was indicative of the stature of Ken Whitaker at the time, that it was through his agency that the meeting was arranged. Whitaker had become a close friend of O'Neill and his private secretary Jim Malley—having met them on numerous occasions at World Bank meetings when O'Neill was the 6 Cos. Minister for Finance. They kept up their friendship after O'Neill became Premier. All of them were in the pockets of Big Business, including those on the Continent, and were anxious to serve their masters by introducing an element of rationality into North/

On December 14, 1965 the Anglo-Irish Free Trade Area Agreement was signed, and came into effect on July 1, 1966, which was a device towards future application for Common Market membership. In an economic sense, the border had been removed with the stroke of a pen, and capital from this point in time had no further need of partition.

South relations" In November 1964, O'Neill sent Jim Malley to Dublin to discuss the idea with Whitaker—who suggested it to Lemass, and the latter without the least hesitation agreed immediately. Cosgrave and Sweetman, were extremely delighted, as both had never denied the fact that in Lemass they had found one "Fianna Fail" at least who was totally in step with their own economic thinking. On many an occasion, Lemass accompanied both men at race meetings, regardless of any difference in party affiliation.

During this period the foreign exploiters moved in. Land was bought by European interests, which went at dirt cheap prices compared with E.E.C. standards. The Canadian mining company, Northgate, was able to grab licences after certain Fianna Fail representatives passed legislation, reducing the tax payable on minerals from over 25% to 7%, thereby making a fatter profit for share-holders and directors and less going into the public purse. In addition massive incentives were being given to foreign

industrialists, who were being attracted to Ireland as a cheap labour market by European standards. Much of our other national resources are under threat (for example off-shore oil, gas, and fisheries) due to these disastrous policies. What is being wreaked before our eyes is an economy which is totally DEPENDENT rather than INDEPENDENT, and in the event of another world slump, as in 1929, we will find that foreign investment will pull out, lock, stock and barrel. The changing face of capital has left us with a hollow economy, which no doubt will collapse as the world economic crisis deepens.

It would be better by far if the mineral wealth of Ireland were to lie in the ground untouched, and that the gas and oil deposits remained untapped, so that a future generation of Irishmen and women could reap the full economic benefits of such, in a democratic socialist republic. LET US SPEED THE DAY!!!!



by Scopoli

Derry

## Bloody Sunday in Istanbul

This is a photograph or Bloody Sunday in Istanbul when a May Day demonstration was bombed in a carbon-copy of the Beechmount bombing. Thirty five people were killed and more than two hundred injured. (See Republican News, 14th May).



# LONG KESH



## NOTE BOOK

Two weeks ago a Belfast City Commission Judge found Private Michael Williams of the 3rd Parachute Regiment not guilty of the manslaughter of 12 year old Majella O'Hare. The Judge Mr. Justice Gibson accepted the soldiers evidence that he had been firing at a gunman, despite the testimony from eye witnesses that there was no gunmen in the area at the time of the shooting.

Understandably the parents of young Majella were distraught by the whole affair saying that there was no such thing as British Justice and "that military witnesses had repeatedly told lies in court".

Mr and Mrs O'Hare need only have examined the credentials of Mr. Justice Gibson to see that their chances of seeing justice done was nil. Mr Gibson over the years has ably shown his bias in favour of Loyalists and members of the occupation forces. For example in 1975 he sentenced a 64 year old Republican to 15 years for the alleged possession of explosives, (despite the man's son stating that his father knew nothing about the material). This sentence was in marked contrast to the one which he gave to a 64 year old Desertermartin Loyalist up on similar charges around the same time, or to that which he gave a 67 year old former B Special who received a suspended sentence for possessing a considerable amount of explosives.

Earlier this year Mr Gibson gave a British soldier who admitted raping a Strabane woman a 2 year suspended sentence thus allowing Pte Surch to rejoin his Regiment. On another occasion Gibson passed a 1 year sentence on a Loyalist found guilty of possessing a rifle, four hand guns a quantity of "humane killer" sharpened bolts and over 300 rounds of ammunition. Mr. Gibson is not alone amongst his colleagues in showing bias to Brits or Loyalist par-

amilitaries. Over the years cases such as Leo Norrey, Paddy McIlhone etc etc have laid bare for all to see the sectarian and imperialistic nature of the 6 counties judicial system.

Only when British imperialism and the quislings who support its presence is evicted from our country can we hope to end the biased rule of individuals like Mr Gibson.

It is a great pity that the Churches in Ireland do not have men of the stature of Brazilian Archbishop Heider Carrara. He declared openly at the recent Peace conference in Derry that the Church should risk being labelled "subversive" or "communist."

The church wants to be supportive of justice and of human rights. In Latin America today the church wants to serve not to be served". To this end for example in Brazil the church has opened dialogue with Marxists because it recognised that Marxism had "important insights to offer in relation to the structural defects and injustices of modern society."

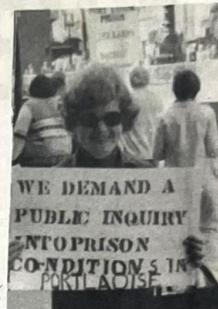
He went on to attack the "passive Christianity" of the church which supported the establishment even when "behind the facade of this so-called social order it was discovered that there were some terrible injustices."

In the 7 years of war in the 6 counties not one member of the Catholic Hierarchy or any of the Protestant Churches has ever attempted to condemn establishment violence. In keeping with their subservience to the establishment dictates they have restricted their condemnations to those who are forced by a corrupt political system and an exploitative economic system to take up arms to improve the conditions of the Irish people.

Perhaps if the Churches had lived up to their Christian principles this war might not have been necessary?

# BETTY

## IN AMERICA



From April 30th to May 2nd the 'Peace People' Betty Williams and Mrs MacDonald were at a seminar on non-violence in Santa Cruz 50 miles south of San Francisco, California, sponsored by the Resources Centre for Non-Violence.

Information packets were handed out to all in attendance by the Oakland Irish Northern Aid Committee. Betty Williams and Mrs MacDonald were taken by surprise by the hostile attitudes of the crowd during the public sessions.

From the beginning of the meeting Betty Williams lost her cool and

said shocking things about her own people in Belfast. During the question and answer period she refused to answer numerous questions put to her, some of which were "For the benefit of the audience please explain the origin of Northern Ireland": "Are you in favour of a British withdrawal?": "Are you in favour of the UDR and RUC policing?".

Mrs MacDonald told the audience of her pride at having received a medal from the English Queen. However, her lack of knowledge of Irish history and the cause of the war in Ireland, showed up

in her inability to answer the questions.

Betty Williams said that when she gets her medal from the Queen she would take a picture of it and mail it to the people in California. When she was asked about American investments in the North of Ireland she said, "There were none." However, she said, "I hope the Americans come and take us all over."

Pandemonium broke out in the audience when a man with an English accent accused Betty Williams of being a British Agent!!

PICTURED ABOVE AND  
RIGHT, SOME OF THE  
PICKETS OUTSIDE THE  
IRISH CONSULATE AND  
IRISH TOURIST BOARD  
SANFRANCISCO.



## R. U. C. NOT ACCEPTABLE

Both the media and the politicians have showered great praise on the R.U.C. during the past week for their handling of the law breakers during the Loyalist strike.

S.D.L.P. politicians in particular have even hinted that their behaviour could well make them more acceptable to the minority here.

On what evidence they base their surmise on completely baffles us as the R.U.C. have shown that they are not in any way changed since pre 1969 days. We are referring in particular to their behaviour towards suspects arrested recently in the Tyrone area and severely beaten and maltreated in both Omagh and Dungannon R.U.C. Stations.

Although found guilty by the European Court

of Human Rights of torture etc of suspects, the same treatment of suspects continues.

One must therefore conclude that either Britain cannot or will not act to stop the forces of so called law and order themselves breaking the law.

The most recent episode, the taking of Kevin Doherty from Crumlin Road Prison to Cookstown R.U.C. Station for further interrogation is the most blatant display of disregard for the law that they purport to uphold to have happened in recent times.

This unlawful act together with the many outrages committed in R.U.C. Stations and publicised by Fr. Denis Faul no doubt will endear the R.U.C. to the min-

ority population here. The S.D.L.P. by their silence in regard to this basic question of human rights contrasts strangely with their praise of the perpetrators of the torture inflicted in many instances on helpless suspects.

No: Gerry and Austin your bodyguards who in the eyes of all unbiased observers treated their lawbreaking Loyalist bed fellows with Red Gloves are no more acceptable to the minority today than they were seven years ago. A Leopard does not change its spots.

John Haughey  
Sinn Fein  
Cumann  
Coalsland.

# ZIMBABWE

## The Creation of a Neo-colony

All the parties concerned were gathered in Geneva in a fruitless effort so far to try to unravel yet another confused and tangled mess that is part of the tragic legacy of European colonial policy in many parts of the Third World: Although the conference was concerned specifically with Rhodesia, the participants represented the classic antagonists in this type of situation: the colonisers (the British in this case) no longer in control nor able to exploit through subjection; the manipulated tools of British imperialism in the persons of the representatives of Smith's white settler regime; and the colonised people of Zimbabwe represented by the leaders of their national liberation movements. The first session of the conference ended in failure. Fresh attempts to re-open the talks are being made, notably by Britain.

In 1921, the representatives of the Irish nation, the first colonial people to rebel against British interests, travelled to London and came home with their Treaty. Ever since, the people of Ireland have endured the ugly manifestations of British duplicity-civil war, partition, continued classical colonialism in the 6 Counties and demoralising neo-colonialism in the 26 Counties. Because of our unfortunate experiences under neo-colonialism we urge our Zimbabwean comrades to guard against the possibility, however, remote, of any parties in the rest

of the Western world, opting for the adoption of some form of neo-colonial structure as the basis for the future development of the former colony. The creation of a neo-colonial situation in Zimbabwe, despite its facade of freedom and independence, would only prolong the present subjugation of the people of the area to foreign powers and must be guarded against at all costs.

The present struggle and upheaval in Zimbabwe was inevitable. The very fact that Zimbabwe is a country ruled by a white minority of 278,000 against the wishes and without the democratic participation of its 6.5 million African citizens clearly indicates the existence of an explosive situation that was bound to erupt sooner or later. In recent years, the native African population has become increasingly aware of the injustice and burden of its minority situation vis-à-vis the white settlers and increasingly influenced by the black African leaders of the Zimbabwean national liberation movement who are determined to gain freedom for their people and country.

### BRIEF HISTORY.

Zimbabwe is a rich and fertile land about one and one-half times the size of Britain. Its mineral wealth includes extensive deposits of chrome, gold, iron ore, and silver. Discovery of gold in this part of Africa in 1867 soon aroused the keen interest of the British. Until then missionary activities fol-

owing on the establishment of the first white settlement in 1859 by a Scottish missionary, were the only indications that Europe was aware of the existence of this part of the world. But, the attraction of gold gave the area new importance and, by 1887, as a result of "negotiations" with the tribal kings, Britain had "won" the rights to all the area's mineral resources. In 1889, the whole region became the domain of the British South Africa Company which was founded by Cecil Rhodes, whose principle concern was to keep the hinterland of South Africa British. Six years later, the area was christened Rhodesia in honour of this worthy pioneer of British imperialism.

The British South African Company Charter lasted 33 years during which tension between the settlers and the odd "restless" native inhabitants was dealt with in the traditional manner. In 1922, the Rhodesians, i.e. the white settlers, voted for Rhodesia's trans-

formation into a "self-governing British colony", a high sounding euphemism for a more sophisticated colonial structure that would ensure the continued priority of British interests in the area.

But all too soon the deterioration of the British imperialist ideal and the disintegration of the British Empire itself were to disrupt this comfortable arrangement.

The outmoded principles of classical colonialism

were replaced by a new colonialism or neo-colonialism involving as it does the charade of appearing to hand over power to democratically chosen representatives of the people of the former colony but, in actual fact, retaining political, economic, and social control of and influence over the new-neo-colony.

The Rhodesian white settler regime, created and nurtured by British colonialism, had ceased to play a useful role in Britain's programme for the further exploitation of Africa. The loyalty of the white settlers was not strong enough to swallow British plans for a constitutional arrangement that envisaged political power for the black majority. They refused to accept this betrayal and their Unilateral Declaration of Independence in 1965 was a pathetic answer to their former sponsors.

### RESISTANCE.

In the meantime, opposition within Rhodesia to the white settler regime grew. "Benevolent" imperialism was replaced by the increasingly desperate traits of white racism and fascism and the yoke of oppression imprisoning the native peoples of the country became unbearable. As in other colonies, a national liberation movement was born. Recently, George Silundika, a spokesman for ZAPU, expressed the inherent similarity and cohesion of the national liberation movements of all colonised peoples

when he said: "Colonialism and imperialism have forced the exploited peoples to rise and struggle for their freedom. The Zimbabwe people's struggle is a contribution to the global anti-imperialist, anti-colonialist struggle". Zambian independence in 1964 brought with it



### Statement from

## TURF LODGE MOTHERS

In the past three weeks, the British army run amok in the Turf Lodge area. In an unprecedented show of strength they have saturated our streets most days, at least seven sarsacens and anything up to 100 foot soldiers come into the area and harass the general populace. On wednesday 18th May they excelled themselves, they attacked women and children on the streets with plastic baton rounds fired at point blank range, at women standing at their own front doors. Children playing in their own front

gardens were beaten with batons, front doors were kicked in, young girls physically searched "illegally" in the absence of female searchers (This action constitutes technical rape), youths arrested regardless of age and badly beaten, men returning from work arrested, abused, and in most cases held for four hours in fort monagh. All because they are Catholic and come from Turf Lodge.

We, the Turf Lodge mothers have reached breaking point and will not tolerate this physical and

mental torture inflicted on us by these uniformed thugs and from today we will form human barricades to block the entrances to the estate in an effort to protect the lives of our children and we repeat again "You killed Leo Norney, you killed Brian Stewart—you are destroying our homes—you are destroying our children". The British Army and the thugs in it have killed and wounded their last person in Turf Lodge! We the women will ensure you stay out of the area.

## INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY

Berne, 19th May 1977.

On Monday 16th May over 80 people attended a meeting in Berne where two comrades of the Republican Movement and the IRSP informed about the Irish struggle. The speeches of the two Irish comrades comprised a very clear analysis of the development of capitalism and British imperialism in Ireland, an assessment of the current situation in the South (repressive legislation, move towards fascism) and in the North (failure of the loyalist strike, campaign against the abolition of political status for P.O.W.'s) and

also an account of every day life in the Catholic ghettos (harassment by the Brits, struggle against the British occupation forces, co-op system).

During the meeting the following resolution was passed unanimously and sent to the press:

We fully support the demands of the Irish people that fights for their social and national liberation. These demands as they are put up by the Republican Movement and the IRSP as condition for the ending of the war and the solution of the conflict are: Withdrawal of the British

an opportunity for Zimbabwean nationalists to find refuge in the safety of Zambian territory and to operate from across the Zambezi River, although the necessity to get across the river often accounted for many of the successes of the Rhodesian state forces in their efforts to detect guerrilla

movement.

The turning-point for the forces of Zimbabwean nationalism came in April of 1974. The overthrow of the Portuguese government and the independence of Mozambique immeasurably improved and the position of the guerrillas. Effective use of the long Mozambique-Rhodesian border, marked only by a wire fence in farm areas and by a peg in the ground every mile in jungle areas, became an important ingredient of successful guerrilla activity within the Rhodesian state.

The operation of a "free borders" policy with the neighbouring states has been of immense help to the Zimbabwean forces. This involves the co-operation of the people of the three bordering states of Zambia, Mozambique, and Botswana, all three of which support and harbour the soldiers of the liberation movement.

In general, the support and determination of fellow African nationalists has been an encouraging aspect of the struggle of the people of Zimbabwe. At a recent summit in Dar es Salaam, the leaders of the five front line black African states (Zambia, Tanzania, Mozambique, Angola and Botswana) declared that war was the only way to achieve black rule in Zimbabwe. In their joint statement they asserted "their total commitment to support the armed struggle for the liberation of Zimbabwe as the only means by which independence of that colony can be attained and the

permanent source of aggression-colonialism can be removed". They added that they would consider "aggression against any one of them as an aggression against all".

#### REPRESSION.

Meanwhile, the white settler regime holds tenaciously to that power bestowed on it by the repressive imperial power. Smith's theory that government for the benefit of whites and blacks must remain in "responsible hands" is the justification for refusing to implement a one-man one-vote system. The regime has granted itself emergency powers and internment without trial is a favourite weapon against the black nationalists. Many of the black leaders who attended the Geneva conference have spent long years in detention because of their political ideals. Intimidation and encouragement of informers are only some of the more insidious aspects of the struggle. One of the most celebrated cases is that of Bishop Lamont of Umtali, who was put on trial for refusing to report the presence of subversives.

In a recent open letter to the racist Smith regime, Bishop Lamont courageously answered these charges by stating that "...the institutional violence sanctioned by your administration and made respectable by acts of Parliament, is itself the root cause of most of the Rhodesia has experienced

during the past ten years".

The British, who are, in fact, responsible for the turmoil in this part of Africa, hope to salvage some opportunities for further economic gains and influence in Zimbabwe. The representatives of the Smith regime desperately clutch at the straws of Kissinger's inferred promises. But it is too late for Ian Smith and Co. if they had come to terms earlier, there might still have been some chance for their survival.

For, now, the black Africans are adamant that they will gain control of Zimbabwe. We can only hope that, unlike the Irish in 1921, they are aware of the dangers involved in any conference. The Zimbabwean nationalists must take the greatest care to avoid internal dissension within their own ranks which would allow the other participants to play off one nationalist spokesman against the others. The comments of one of the more realistic nationalist aides promised an attitude of friendliness and agreement among the various black leaders for the duration of the last conference, but boded ill for future co-operation back home in Zimbabwe. He said: "It would be playing into the hands of the white minority in Zimbabwe if differences stood in the way of our attendance at Geneva. We will sort out our differences afterwards in Zawwe, the fight goes on. The Smith regime

is using every means within its power in an attempt to halt the forces of the black Africans. This year the allocations to the Rhodesian armed forces were 40% higher than those of last year and those to the police were 23% higher.

And yet, the national liberation movement gains in strength. In a recent interview, Bislop Lamont commented "I did not know at the time but I was told later that guerrillas were in the gallery during my trial. They are everywhere in Rhodesia, you know".

Although prepared to consult with other interested parties, the Zimbabwean nationalists believe that only a military victory will force the Smith regime to fold up. One of the nationalist leaders, Mugabe, said in Geneva that the fight would go on and if the conference failed, he was ready to go "back to the bush". He also said that "arms and not Geneva conferences would decide the future of Rhodesia".

The Irish Republican Movement extends its solidarity with the Zimbabwean People in their struggle for National Liberation and Peace with Justice.

SINN FEIN FOREIGN AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT.



Presidents Kaunda, Neto, Nyerere, Khama and Machel meeting in Dar es Salaam: Intensifying the armed struggle.

THE PEOPLE OF  
A  
BABWE

## SOLIDARITY

occupation forces. Disarming and disbanding of the sectarian RUC and UDR.

Amnesty for all political prisoners in Irish and English jails.

Abolition of the state of emergency and the repressive legislation in the North and South.

The right of the Irish people for self-determination. At the end of the meeting over £100 was raised for the benefit of the families of political prisoners.

Ireland Committee

## WALK FOR PRISONERS

A sponsored walk to raise money for Irish Political Prisoners and their dependents took place in Hemel Hempstead on Sunday morning last. The walk was organised by the Connolly/Keegan Cumann, St. Albans (Hertfordshire) and those taking part were several nurses from the Watford and Hemel Hempstead Hospitals, as well as members of Sinn Fein from London, high Wycombe and Slough.

The Walkers assembled in Hemel Hempstead Town Centre, and set off on the 30 miles route through Redbourn, St. Albans, Ab

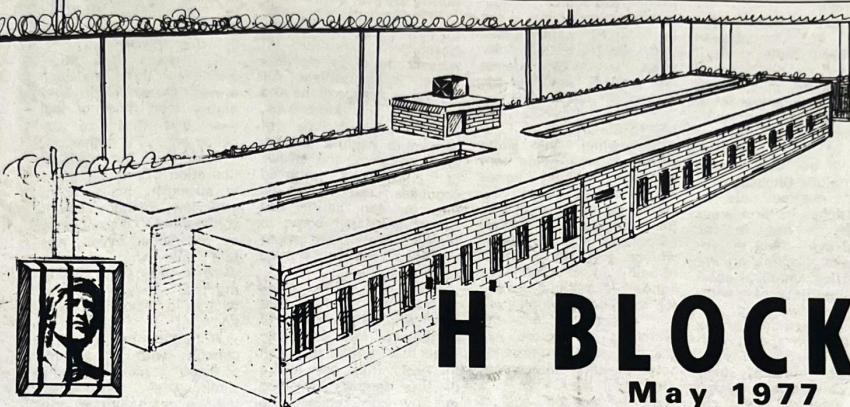
bots Langley, Leverstock Green, and arrived back in Hemel Hempstead at 5 p.m. (7 hrs).

A reception was laid on that evening at the Nurses Home in Watford for the sponsored walkers, and music was provided for the occasion. The Connolly/Keegan Cumann wish to thank all those who took part in the walk, particularly those who travelled out from Kilburn, and to the Nursing Staff who provided food and accommodation at the end of the evening.



Members of the Connolly/Keegan Cumann St. Albans prepare for their walk.

So far £130.00 has been collected.



# H BLOCK

May 1977

I would like to bring to the attention of your readers the absolutely deplorable conditions under which Republican P.O.W.'s are forced to live in the 'H' blocks in Long Kesh. As a prisoner in 'H2' I have witnessed the humiliating, degrading and wholly demoralising treatment being meted out to those Republican prisoners both 'on' and 'off' the blanket.

Until a few weeks ago, the pow's who are not conforming to prison regulations, ie refusing to wear prison clothing and to do prison work, were housed in the same wings as those who are wearing ~~uniforms~~ thus ~~en~~siderable contact. Now they have been completely isolated in 'H5' and one can imagine what a glorious opportunity this is for the "loyalist bully boys" in screws uniforms to really put the boot in. Whereas the regular beatings had been confined to kicks and punches, while the other prisoners were locked up, the screws now have a free hand and several of our boys have suffered very severe beatings at the hands of "particular" screws, and hospital treatment has been refused.

A certain initiation procedure has been put into operation against newly sentenced prisoners who refuse to co-operate, and it usually takes the following pattern: Taken to reception area and put into small wooden cubicle where he is told to

put on the prison uniform. If the prisoner refuses, he is dragged bodily out of the reception and literally thrown into the back of a prison van, and he is then taken to the block where he has first to run the gauntlet of screws. At this stage he is still wearing his own gear, and after the first beating he is told to stand to attention and address the screw as 'SIR', when he refuses another, more severe beating. The prisoner is then ordered to remove his clothing in the presence not only of screws but civilian employees including a female welfare worker and civilian taken into the "intendom" and questioned about his particular 'offence', various verbal threats about family; U.V.F. etc very evident at this stage, and if the prisoner still refuses to co-operate, a 3rd and usually very severe beating will automatically follow. As is often the case the prisoner is beaten unconscious and has to be dragged bodily into cell.

MEALS ARE  
USUALLY FREEZING  
AND  
UNEATABLE.

Mealtimes are a farce as the food is now prepared by so-called "loyalist" prisoners and is

usually freezing and uneatable. Medical help is virtually non-existent, and all ailments are diagnosed as muscular pains. Often the prisoners are not allowed to slop out or use the shower or washing facilities and are usually made to go three or four days like this. Even during Sunday Mass no contact is allowed with other prisoners, and can result in the prisoner being refused permission to attend Mass.

Special attention is being paid to those prisoners who, for various reasons have come off the blanket protest. In the case of Joe Gibson it could be said

that he is being forced 'onto' it. In this case appendicitis was induced by a particularly severe beating.

The prisoners must sit on a hard chair and are not allowed to make up their beds until 8.30 pm and during the night they are continually awakened by the screws. Their only reading material is the Bible and religious magazines.

At fortnightly intervals the POW is charged with "refusing to co-operate" and automatically loses 2 weeks remission and all privileges. For this 'hearing' the prisoner is forcibly brought to his

feet by several screws and made to stand up in front of the Governor. Again, refusal to address him as Sir results in blows to the face and body.

On entry into the block, Republican pow's are held to a chair and their hair is cut by another prisoner, in the case of H2: a member of the Red Hand commandos and former Brit (deserter), Joe Gibson, Andersonstown, was badly beaten for shaving off his moustache.

Republican prisoners who came off the blanket over the last few months, have suffered such intolerable petty harassment that it is only a matter of time before they register their protest again.

At the beginning of May, loyalist prisoners in C wing of H2 attempted a form of protest by going on the blanket. This lasted 2 and a half hours after which the authorities gave in to their demands for segregation. Trouble is brewing at the minute in B wing between loyalists and Republicans and could erupt at any time.

Each day the class officers of the 4 wings in H 2 are bringing in more petty rules in their attempts to break the morale of those prisoners who are wearing the gear. It could only be a matter of time before all are forced to take to the blanket.

At one stage some prisoners were talked off the blanket with promises of gaining their lost remission. Such attempts to "win over" the prisoners are no longer listened to.

CIARAN NUGENT  
PRESENTLY IN  
HIS NINETH MONTH  
ON THE BLANKET.



The "Highlight" of the week for the blanket men is Sunday Mass, and Ciaran Nugent is a rallying point for them. Ciaran has been a tower of strength to his comrades, although his legs give him considerable discomfort at times, he never fails to bolster the lads spirits for the coming week. Although depressed of late his unbreakable spirit shines through and inspires his comrades to keep their heads high and carry on.

## Points to remember

NO.2

The English ruling class have always used Ireland as a base of reaction by making laws to be used against the Irish but, in effect set up to defend ruling class privileges and wealth in the many battles with their own working class. One can point to the formation of the English special branch

at the time of the Fenians, the formation of the Tory party using the Home rule bill. Indeed this process has continued to this day with the introduction of the Prevention of Terrorism Act which has already been used against the English Trade union movement.



# OURS NOT TO REASON

A black teacher in South West London told me that out of every ten youngsters that signed up to join the British Army in his school, four were black. This, even though only about three out of ten of the pupils in the school were black.

A social worker in South East London told me of the case of two black youths who had to join the Army to escape from going to borstal.

This is the situation that now faces the black communities of this country.... more and more of our youth are joining up to become the cannon fodder for the same people who are beating on our heads every day everywhere. These people are the British government, the police and the bosses who own them all.

#### BOY SOLDIER

More and more youths are joining up because there are fewer and fewer jobs for them, and even fewer good jobs for them to do.

Well, how do blacks in the army get on. Unfortunately but predictably they don't get on any better than they do in civvy street.

So as an ex-soldier myself, I would like to take this opportunity to give a brief outline of my own experience in the army.

I joined up as a boy soldier at the age of 16. I joined because my father had been unemployed for 18 months and really he could no longer afford to support me. I wanted to learn a profession, to learn music. So in April 1968 I joined the Queen's Junior Soldiers Regiment, as a drummer.

The first thing I noticed was that there were so few other black soldiers, about six or seven out of the company of three hundred.

We were always on show, on camp open days and when civilian and military personnel from Black African countries visited.

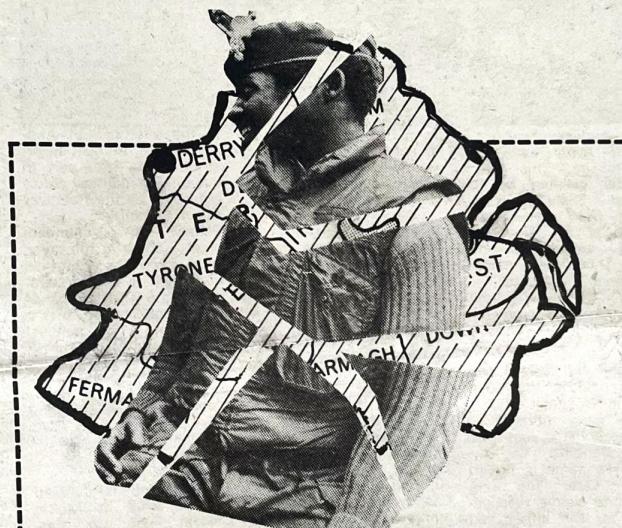
#### HEAVY

By the time I completed my training as a junior soldier at the end of 1970 there were about 16 black junior soldiers nearly all of whom were in the rifle platoon (the infantry).

In 1971 I joined a battalion in West Germany. This unit was completely different. There were far more black soldiers, there were much more frequent and open conflicts between the black and the white soldiers. But even worse, the NCO (non-commissioned officers) always seemed biased against us, we were always more severely punished than the others.

It was at the beginning of 1972 that things started to get worse. We were preparing for our first tour of duty

# WHY?



in Northern Ireland, which only lasted for 6 weeks anyway.

The NCOs started getting heavy. A couple of us were talking quite a lot of politics, we met with a few socialist groups in Germany we were beginning to think. For the first time a couple of us were being outrightly harassed, which ended in me being charged on three different charges. I got twenty days inside. At the same time the race problem was getting worse.

This was so, especially in the battalions that had just done a few tours of duty in Ireland.

It was during this period that I spent most of my spare time reading about the black struggle. The American, the African and the West Indian struggles. I went to a lot of meetings as well.

In June 1972 the battalions started preparing for a four month tour in Ireland. But unlike the previous tour this promised to be a whole new ball game.

#### DO AND DIE

We had lectures on urban

guerilla warfare and the army's version of the background to the war in Ireland. The rifle companies went away to a special camp for two weeks practicing things like: house to house searches, foot patrolling in urban areas, interrogation techniques (torture).

Most of the soldiers had the following attitude to killing Irish people; 'Ours is not to reason why, ours is to do or die'...and many did die!

On several occasions myself and a few others would try to get an explanation as to why the IRA were always 'terrorists' and the Protestant para-military groups were never mentioned.

Why the Protestants were always implied to be on the side of law and order?

We were always ignored..

At the end of 1972 we finally arrived in Derry where I spent most of the four months that we were in Ireland. One of the things that surprised me most on arrival was the total change in discipline. Things that usually carried

harsh punishment were being ignored. Incidents began happening every day. Platoons and sections would refuse to go out on patrol because they hadn't had any sleep or food.

Black soldiers refused to go out on patrols because we were being used for night foot patrols while the whites would do the cushy vehicle patrols.

Some soldiers committed suicide because they were sick and tired of being in Ireland.

The thing that really got to me was the hatred which the Catholics looked upon us...the blacks in the British Army.

#### BLACK POWER

We an exploited and oppressed minority like themselves were helping our own oppressors to oppress them.

The British have been exploiting the Irish for close on 400 years. The British have been beating and whipping black people for close on 400 years!

It was only those of us in Black Power who understood that although we were on the other side of

the wire, both black and Catholics faced the same enemy...the Brits.

One of the most vivid things I remember about Ireland was a chat I had with a couple of other black soldiers who had just returned from a house search...They had felt so ashamed and disgusted with the whole thing in Ireland that they felt like leaving their rifles in the house they had just smashed up.

#### BRUTALISED

They had gone to this house bust down the front door of the house, waking up the mother and the father and five kids living there (including a one

MOST OF THE SOLDIERS HAD THE FOLLOWING ATTITUDE TO KILLING IRISH PEOPLE; OURS IS NOT THE REASON WHY, OURS IS TO DO OR AND MANY DID DIE;

year old baby) they had ripped up all the mattresses on the beds, they had ripped up the floor boards, smashed the cistern in the toilet, flooded the bathroom and after all this all they had found was a kids catapult and a rubber bullet that was fired through the front room window by a soldier...

This is the sort of thing that goes on all the time, and no black person, no working class person should be part of it.

We must no longer be part of a murdering army of Britain, that itself has brutalised our race and plundered Africa and the West Indies.

One day the British Army is going to be used against us in Britain, when we declare war on racism, unemployment and police harassment. So brothers and sisters don't help them win that war.

'Republican News' wishes to thank 'Flame', Black Workers paper of the Socialist workers party, for permission to use this article.

# DIARY OF EVENTS

Wednesday 18th May

In Ballymena fire in a goods depot destroys several hundred thousand pounds worth of vehicles and various goods. An incendiary device is suspected to have caused the fire.

The search for the body of British terrorist, SAS-man Captain Robert Nairac centres on a South Armagh quarry. The Brits proceed very cautiously with huge deployment of gear. Local Government elections: while relatives of Republican prisoners and militants of the Relatives Action Committee picket polling stations in nationalist areas, and remind people of the boys and girls who fought for them and are now behind bars for them, massive impersonation is taking place inside the polling stations. Outside Blacks Road polling station, Belfast, IRA Volunteers fire at two RUC men. The local Stickie candidate boasts Provos were shooting on him...

Local youths stone RUC patrol near Springfield Rd. Barracks. Lodge in the afternoon.

More 'security' talks this time, Mason meets West. Fitt remarks that there is nothing to boast about he himself can see Mason when he feels like it.

Two petrol bombs are thrown into Black Preceptory Hall, Lurgan, but fail to ignite.

Turf Lodge women (Belfast), are seeking legal help from Association for legal justice over harassment of their area by British troops.

In the United States of America, addressing a dinner, Senator Edward Kennedy said that he thought the 'Women's Peace Movement' and the Loyalist 'strike' failure were the two main reasons for hope in 'Northern Ireland'. The rest of his speech sounded very much like an SDLP statement. Oh, incidentally John Hume was at the dinner. Quite familiar with the American scene, John Hume spent last year in the States sponsored by some academic trust fund...

Thursday 19th May. The search goes on for Captain Nairac south of the Border in a forest near Dundalk.

In the Upper North Street, Belfast, a bomb is planted in a hardware shop, and causes damage when defused by Brit bomb squad the shop-lifting experts.

In North Belfast, after an armed robbery, an RUC man chasing the robbers is shot by a British Army marksman.

A section of the 500 strong crowd from Beechmount which protested last Friday night against the murder of Danny McCoey by the British Army.



In Andersonstown, a British Army ambulance is shot at. This attack is later claimed by the Belfast Brigade, Provisional IRA, who accuses the Brits of using Red Cross ambulances for intelligence work in nationalist areas.

An RUC man is injured near Keady, Co. Armagh.

Friday 20th May

22 year old Danny McCoey died in the Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast. In the early morning an RUC reservist is shot dead near Benburb, Co. Tyrone. His name is Robert North. Later the IRA in Tyrone claims responsibility for the attack and warns of a stepping up of military struggle against British occupation forces.

Local Government elections: four main parties share most of the seats. Official Unionists (who nevertheless have lost about thirty seats on 1973 score), SDLP, Paisley's DUP, and Alliance. Other parties are left far behind, and Stickies get worst result ever in spite of their hard work on polling day. Participation is much lower than in 1973. 58% against 68%. The Official Unionists have dropped from over 200 seats to 175). The SDLP have now 114, seats won, several IRA Volunteers using armalite and Kalashnikov rifles ambush Brit foot patrol, injuring 3 Brits.

In the afternoon, Springfield Road Barracks, Belfast, is picketed by Carrington Printers' workers after the death of fellow-worker Danny McCoey. Later, at Beechmount Falls junction, a crowd of people protest about Danny's death at the hands of British torturers. In Suffolk area, Belfast, IRA Volunteers carry out shooting attack against RUC. An RUC man is injured.

Carrick-Sunday 22nd May.

In Fergus, 2 shots are fired at a house occupied by a Catholic family. Parents and the seven children are treated for shock.

Saturday 21st May

2,400 of the 3,000 British troops brought to the 6 Counties for Loyalist stoppage have now been withdrawn.

Around midday the Midland Hotel in Belfast is gutted by fire caused by two bombs. Belfast Brigade, Provisional IRA, claims this fourth attack on the hotel.

Two incendiary devices are defused by the Brits in Donegall Place, Belfast. At Fine Gael Ard Fheis, Cooney boasts about Government attitude to violence. Cosgrave like many before threatens to defeat the IRA.

Retired RUC man and businessman Christopher Shaw 63, is shot dead in his home near University Road, Belfast. The RUC suspect it might be related to Loyalist stoppage.

The Irish Republican Information Service releases a statement about the alleged talks between Desmond Boal and Sean McBride: "We will talk to anyone, but only British have dropped from over 200 seats to 175). The SDLP have now 114, seats won, several IRA Volunteers using armalite and Kalashnikov rifles ambush Brit foot patrol, injuring 3 Brits.

In Twinbrook, Dunmurry Fennell-McDonnell Sinn Fein Cumann denounces the use of school children as spies by British occupation forces, and warns of the danger on children of such involvement. Belfast Sinn Fein stresses the sharp increase in British Army harassment of nationalist areas in the last two weeks.

ces have earned abroad for their role in Ireland. He threatens to demand from the German Government strong action against the groups which have shown support for the Provos.

On T.V. Costello, (former Attorney-General for the 'free' State Government in the Strasbourg trial) denies that the Gardai have ever used torture, and tells us that since the Strasbourg torture trial, the RUC's attitude has 'improved'.

In Chichester Street, Belfast, a bomb explodes in a filling station, causing damage. The Belfast Brigade, Provisional IRA, later claims responsibility for the attack.

Tuesday 24th May.

56,000 people are unemployed in the Six-counties at present. It means an increase of 4,500 on May 76 figures. The highest rate of unemployment is found as usual in Newry, Dungannon, and most of all Strabane. Meanwhile, the unemployment rate in Britain is dropping.

British occupation forces are attacked in Belfast on several occasions. 4 shots are fired at a Brit foot patrol in Comedagh Drive, Andersonstown, Belfast. One shot is fired at Musgrave Military post.

In Coalisland, Co. Tyrone, workers are obliged to stop production at a plant damaged by a fire. It is thought the fire was caused by an incendiary device. Three loyalists from the Shankill area, Belfast, are charged with ten sectarian murders committed between 1975 and 1977. Of the ten victims, one had been beaten to death, two shot, and the seven others had had their throat cut, and the gang of criminals responsible for these psychopathic murders had been tagged the Butcher Gang.

Members of the R.A. rally last Sunday are prevented from entering Belfast city centre by the para-military R.U.C.



# SINN FEIN RALLY SUPPORTED BY BLACK LIBERATION ORGANISATIONS

A 'Picket' organised by Sinn Fein, turned into a march and rally in London on Sunday week, when police refused to allow Republicans to hold a picket outside 10, Downing St., the official residence of the British Prime Minister. The picket was being held in Downing street during the visit of American President, Jimmy Carter, and other leading politicians from the 'Western' Nations. Among topics being discussed there was the issue of 'Human Rights' and economic cooperation'.

Provisional Sinn Fein planned to picket the building the conference was being held in, to draw attention to the plight of Irish Republican prisoners in British Gaols, where 'Human Rights' do not exist and where a reign of terror has been imposed with the full knowledge of the British Home office.

The demonstrators assembled in Whitehall and were soon joined by members of the Indian Workers Association, the West Indian Defence Committee, Arab Liberation Groups, members of the Trades Union Group against the Prevention of Terrorism Act, the RCG, and members of several other British left-wing groups in London. Having assembled in the Downing St. area, the Police immediately moved in and ordered the demonstrators to take down their placards and banners. After remonstrating with the police for some time, the demonstrators

eventually decided to leave the area as they had made their point. By this time a large group of foreign visitors had gathered to watch the spectacle of the representatives of "The Mother of Parliaments" push and jostle those trying to hold a peaceful picket, and the visitors were kept busy with their cameras and tape recorders.

Having been refused permission to continue the picket, the demonstrators marched to Fleet Street - the home of the British Press - and picketed the offices and printing works of the daily newspapers. Again, the police moved in and threatened to arrest those taking part. It was obvious that no publicity was going to be allowed during the visit to Britain of Carter and other heads of state. The issue of "Human Rights" would only be discussed in Downing St. behind locked doors, with American secret service agents on guard.

By this time the 'Picket' had grown in number, so it was decided to hold a rally in Hyde Park. The marchers again set off, and walked through the crowded west end of London, up Oxford St. which was crowded with shoppers and visitors. On the way they were joined by a number of people from the sidewalks. On reaching Hyde Park the demonstrators held a rally in the Park adjoining speakers corner. There, the crowd was addressed by members of Sinn Fein, who thank-

ed all those who had supported the demonstration at short notice, many of whom had come considerable distance to take part. The speakers from the west Indian defence committee and Indian workers association pointed out the similarity in repressive measures being brought to bear on both Irish Republicans and coloured immigrants in Britain. The situation in the caribbean was also mentioned. To retain its economic stranglehold on small, former colonial countries, the British Imperial Government supported Quisling-type administrations in those countries-like what was happening now in the caribbean and in Ireland. Pledges of support also came from the R.C.G. and C.P.E. (M.L.) for the struggle for freedom in Ireland.

It is planned to establish permanent liaison between Provisional Sinn Fein in England and the political wings of the African, Asian and Caribbean Revolutionary Freedom Movements in London. More information on the progress made in this field will be published in the Republican Press as it materialises. There is already some liaison between movements and Sinn Fein which it is hoped to broaden.

Michael Holden.  
(National Organiser).

## WAR OF LIBERATION CONTINUES



**Thur. 19th**

The East Tyrone Brigade, Irish Republican Army. East Tyrone Brigade claim responsibility for the shooting dead of the RUC Reservist in Benburb on the 19th May. until the British leave Ireland East Tyrone Brigade will continue to attack the different elements of the British War-machine.

**Fri. 20th**

Belfast Brigade claim responsibility for the Gun attack on Friday (20th May) evening in the Stewarts town Road area of Andersonstown in which a member of the RUC was injured.

The Belfast Brigade will not allow this loyalist police force to enter Republican Areas."

**Sun. 22nd**

Belfast Brigade Oglach Na h-Eireann. "The attack on the home of Prison officer Irvine Last night (Sunday) was in response to his continual beating of Republican political prisoners. Intelligence on his home had indicated that he family in accordance with this information a small explosive charge was strategically placed to cause maximum damage to the house without causing serious injury to his family. The Republican army warns however that such considered and careful military planning may not always be possible in the future and that prison officers must accept the consequences of their role as an effective part of the British war machine, while they continue to brutalise political prisoners either physically or mentally, through beatings or excessive solitary confinement."

**Sat. 21st**

"Belfast Brigade" claim responsibility for the bomb attack on the Midland Hotel, Belfast on Saturday 21st May.

Left: Pat Holden, chairman of Luton Sinn Fein and Annette Gonzales lead the protest up Oxford St. in London.

Right: A section of the Indian and West Indian supporters at the Sinn Fein rally in London



