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# THE STARRY PLOUGH

An Camchéachta

# THE IRSP PAPER



## 800 YEARS IS ENOUGH



## BRITS OUT NOW!

# Collaboration Continues

Despite statements to the contrary from the Free State government, collaboration between them, the British forces and the RUC in their efforts to defeat anti-imperialists is on the increase. The Fianna Fail Government is hell bent on trying to outdo the Coalition on demonstrating their complete subservience to the Brits.

Every month members of the Garda-RUC Joint Co-ordinating Committee get together, as they have been doing secretly for years. At these meetings methods of defeating the Provos and Irish National Liberation Army are discussed and past collaboration evaluated.

The meetings are attended by divisional commanders of the RUC and Gardai, all of whom are Chief Superintendents. From the Free State come Joe McGovern of Cavan-Monaghan, Tom Broderick of Sligo-Leitrim and Dick Cottrell of Louth-Meath. They are accompanied by Deputy Commissioner Larry Wren and Chief Superintendent John Duddy of C.3.

The RUC is represented by Superintendents Patrick McCullagh, George Harrison, George Sterret, Dick Robinson and

## SUNNINGDALE

This modern-day collaboration began around December 1973 with Sunningdale and has continued since. Publicly the first signs were the meetings between



Maurice Johnson of Newry, Armagh, Enniskillen and Derry. Usually they are accompanied by Charlie Rogers - the Assistant Chief Constable in charge of the RUC 'South area'.

the then head of the RUC, Jamie Flanagan and the then Garda Commissioner Patrick Malone. This was followed by lower level talks between RUC and Gardai Superintendents in the border areas.

One of the first results of

such collaboration was the establishment of radio contact, following instructions received by Paddy Cooney from the then "Northern Secretary" Merlyn Rees. This enabled the Gardai to alert the Brits, via the RUC of any "incidents" and vice versa.

## COLLINS-ATKINS

This collaboration continues today. The recent meeting between Humphrey Atkins and Gerry Collins, Free State "Justice" Minister was one of its more visible signs. At that meeting Collins assured Atkins of his determination to continue collaboration and gave Atkins details of the deployment of the new Garda task force along the border.

## TASK FORCE

This task force originated from a meeting of EEC ministers two years ago, when British Minister Rees, pushed for the setting up of such a force. The force has German training modelled on the German GSG9 unit. It is only one aspect of the improved

collaboration. Other measures discussed at the meeting between Atkins and Collins included the sending of members of the Bridewell Gestapo to Castlereagh to assist in "interrogating" Republicans. There is also the possibility of the RUC members using their experience in interrogating Republicans in the Bridewell. (MacPartland won't be homesick much longer!) This increased collaboration is also reflected by the Garda Representative Body which now carries articles praising the RUC in its magazine and sends representatives to RUC functions and funerals.

Because of the hostility of the mass of the Irish people to collaboration and the lip-service Fianna Fail has given to Republicanism - such collaboration has been and is kept quiet by most sections of the media - a media muzzled by the establishment. Republican/Socialists oppose such collaboration and call on all opposed to British imperialism in Ireland to join in opposition!

# COOPER PROSPERS



It's nice to see that Ivan Cooper hasn't lost any of his old touch. Well known amongst local carpet-bagging circles, Ivan has had his well-heeled foot in every money-making mud pie in the North-West since the days he left the Young Unionists and joined the 'rabble-rousing' Derry Labour Party.

His latest escapade, it seems, is to produce frozen chips in a factory financed largely by the Local Enterprise Development Unit (LEDU). However, that item of interest is hardly likely to raise many eyebrows in Strabane where he now lives. What might cause ripples amongst the most deprived community in the North is the fact that a house he purchased for a small sum on the Dublin Road was subsequently bought up by

the Ministry of Development for a "substantial" figure (believed to be in excess of £40,000) and then re-let to Cooper until a by-pass scheduled to be built has been settled, for a nominal rent of approximately £10 per year.

What may further annoy some of the SDLP working-class supporters in the area, most of whom are unemployed, is that the by-pass is almost certain to be shelved because of Tory Government cuts in public expenditure. Clearly this will be tough on the many unemployed in Strabane but spare a thought for poor Ivan who has to sit in a £40,000 house at a rent which must have his bank-manager laughing all the way to the bank-vaults.

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## Great Wall Of Derry ?

Latest in a long line of what are becoming known as 'loyalisms' is that which has emerged from DUP City Councillor, John Henry, who recently called for the establishment of a second 'council' on the Waterside area of the city to cater for the 'hardpressed, harassed and exploited' Protestants in Derry. Has the coin been reversed? Are the exploited now becoming the exploiters?

the silliest statement of the season. Marlene Jefferson, Official Unionist, announced some time ago that the only answer to Republican incursions from the twenty six counties was to build an enormous wall (she didn't specify the height), around the perimeter of the six county statelet.

Has the unemployment, for generations the highest in Ireland, moved from the Bog-side to the Waterside? Not a chance of it! Mr. Henry is attempting to ape Dr. Goebbels by telling an even bigger lie than the late (but not regretted) Nazi propagandist. No real surprise this however, since some Loyalist city councillors have been at the forefront in the mad rush to produce

Now as most good loyalists confuse all Catholics with all Republicans, and as every good law-abiding building contractor knows, the only way to build walls (and other such money-making structures) is to import cheap labour from such 'catholic' areas as Bun-crana, Muff and Killea. Hence the dilemma. Perhaps that is why there is no wall. Or, perhaps it is because nobody really takes their ridiculous statements seriously. "Out of the mouths of fools..."

## DEFEND POLITICAL STATUS CONFERENCE

Sunday September 2nd 1pm-6pm

Organised by the Six County Relatives Action Committee Co-ordinating Committee. For details contact your local R.A.C.

## NEW H-BLOCK LEAFLET

The Irish Republican Socialist Party has produced a new leaflet detailing the H-Block Protest for Political Status. Copies of the leaflet and further details of the protest can be obtained from the IRSP offices in Dublin, Derry and Belfast. (Addresses on back page).

# I.R.S.P News

## Wicklow

### FRENCH SUPPORT

The Comite Irlande de Paris, which was represented at the Irish Republican Socialist Party Commemoration at Bodenstown, has re-affirmed its total support for the IRSP and the Irish National Liberation Army. In a statement, the Comite Irlande said that the support of the French people for the Irish struggle for national liberation is growing.

## Belfast

Belfast Comhairle Ceantair of the I.R.S.P. held its A.G.M. last month. The following Officer Board was elected:-  
Cathaoirleach: Sean Flynn  
Leas-Cathaoirleach: Sean Mallon  
Runai: James Daly  
P.R.O.: Sean O'Neill  
Cisteoir: Rose Campbell  
Margaret Torney  
Education Officer: Miriam Daly  
Prisoners' Welfare Officer: Eileen Byrne  
Organiser: Terry George

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## ZIONIST MURDER CONDEMNED

In a telegram to the Palestine Liberation Organisation, the Irish Republican Socialist Party has condemned the assassination of its representative Zuhair Mohsen.

The party also expressed its continued solidarity with the Palestinian people and the P.L.O. in their struggle to liberate their homeland.



Wicklow Comhairle Ceantair of the I.R.S.P. held their A.G.M. recently. At the A.G.M., which was also attended by party Cathaoirleach, Gerry Roche, members reviewed the past year's activity in the county.

Of particular significance was the part played by Co. Wicklow I.R.S.P. members in the campaign against continued membership of the E.E.C. - a campaign which is to be intensified in the coming months.

Motions of solidarity with Republican Socialist prisoners in H-Block, Armagh, Long Kesh, Crumlin Road and Portlaoise were passed unanimously. In addition members pledged to step up their campaigns for political status for political prisoners and for the release of Osgur Breatnach and Brian McNally - the two I.R.S.P. members tortured and framed by the Free State Government.

The Officer Board elected for the coming year is:-  
Cathaoirleach: Jim Doherty  
Runai: Jim Coey  
Cisteoir: Maelisa Costello  
Finance Officer: John Maloney  
P.R.O.: Michael Ahern  
Prisoners' Welfare Officer: Sean Doyle

## Bray

At the A.G.M. of the Seamus Costello Cumann, Bray the following Officer Board was elected:-  
Cathaoirleach: Maelisa Costello  
Leas-Cathaoirleach: Stephanie McCormack  
Runai: John Dunne  
Cisteoir: John Maloney  
Prisoners' Welfare Officer: Richard Reid  
Education Officer: Mick Ahern

# Censorship On The Increase

The carefully orchestrated hysteria which followed the B.B.C. "Tonight" programme interview with an Irish National Liberation Army spokesman is a well-prepared attempt to tighten censorship of the War in Ireland. Despite the lies and distortions which mark most British radio and television coverage of Ireland, British politicians especially the Conservative Party ones have repeatedly tried to suppress the little independence that the B.B.C. and I.T.N. programme makers continue to enjoy.

Apart from the attempt to blacken the I.N.L.A. by depicting it as part of an "international terrorist conspiracy" the stream of editorials and statements from politicians began a week after the programme was first broadcast. The Daily Telegraph, the paper which most closely reflects the politics of the new Tory Govern-

ment had an editorial denouncing the B.B.C. the same day that Thatcher stated she was "amused by the programme".

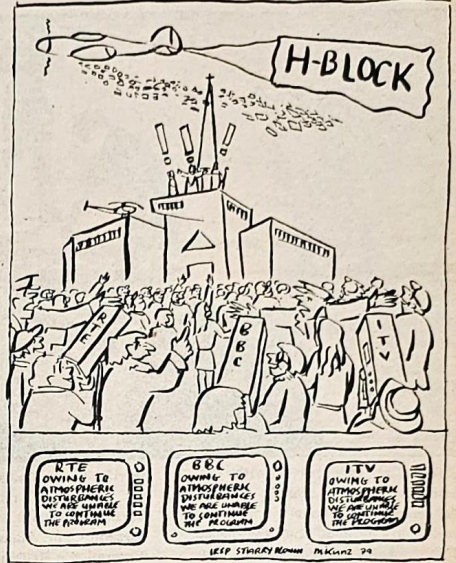
The role of the B.B.C. as an arm of State propaganda was well defined by its then Chairman, Lord Reith during the General Strike of 1926 "The B.B.C. is for the people, the Government is for the people, therefore the B.B.C. is for the Government." One of the most outrageous instances was the remaining in custody for almost a year of Gerry Adams, leading Sinn Fein member. The evidence used against him was a T.V. programme Spotlight which was broadcast in December, 1977.

The constant banning and censorship of programmes about Ireland which has been accepted by B.B.C. and I.T.N. staff for the past 10 years gradually produced a backlash. When I.T.N. stopped

the screening of a programme about RUC torture in Castlereagh the technicians refused to transmit the alternative programme as a protest against censorship.

The late Airey Neave and Roy Mason joined in a propaganda campaign to intimidate journalists branding any attempt at objective reporting as I.R.A. propaganda. When Thames television broadcast a programme about H-Blocks and prison conditions in September 1977, Neave claimed it was "Irish terrorist propaganda." When one of the Prison Officers interviewed on the programme was assassinated by the I.R.A. Mason tried to blame the Thames T.V. journalists.

Clearly the new Tory Government has whipped up a controversy about the "Tonight" interview in order to bring about a complete ban on any presentation of a Republican viewpoint.



## Derry's Gombeen Men

Warnings have been repeatedly voiced concerning the dangers of members of the Catholic middle-class attaining positions of power and influence in the Six Counties. Since the appearance of the S.D.L.P. in northern politics, the truth of these warnings is quite apparent.

Their activities in various local councils and their co-operation with the colonial administration in the Six Counties illustrates the hypocrisy of the S.D.L.P. It was a member of the latter party who took British administration's "revenge" against the participants of the "rent and rate strike", namely Austin Currie. The Northern Catholic middle-class need not necessarily be members of the S.D.L.P. in order to display their "Castle Catholic mentality" however, for there are many others who have come from the nationalist community and who have betrayed that community. One case confirms Pearce's contention "that we should beware of the men with the lean long faces..." Here we have in mind those whose background is that of the profession of law. A typical example is Derry's Paddy Maxwell.



Paddy Maxwell is at present a resident Magistrate in the Six Counties and as a member of the Judiciary he determines which persons should be incarcerated in Long Kesh and elsewhere for their participation in the present struggle for national liberation and socialism. Many an inmate of the North's Hell Holes can verify this statement (if they were free to do so) for they are there because Paddy Maxwell put them there. Yet a glance at Maxwell's background and a look at some of his previous statements will show the 'about turn' that this hypocrite has made.

For 17 years Maxwell was Nationalist MP for the Foyle Constituency of Derry. In 1953, however Eddie McAteer secured the Nationalist Party nomination. In turn Maxwell ran against McAteer as an Independent Nationalist and was defeated in the election. Also, for a short time Maxwell served on the old Derry Corporation as a Nationalist. He was also Chairman of the Catholic Registration Association and a founder member of the original Green Cross Fund. The latter fund was similar in certain respects to the P.D.F. of today.

The following are a few quotes from speeches made by Maxwell when he represented the Foyle Constituency by abstaining from Stormont. When Barnes and McCormick were under sentence of death in England in the 1940s for "planting a bomb" which accidentally killed 5 people, Paddy Maxwell, speaking at a Nationalist Rally in St. Columba's Hall to demand a reprieve stated:-

"Partition is the cause of these men being placed in this position of danger from British Law. We ask that the cause be removed." Some weeks later Maxwell along with 5 other Nationalist MPs wrote to the British Home Secretary protesting against the hanging of Barnes and McCormick and the following is a quote from this letter:-

"If the result be to establish

here a united Front, among all classes against British Imperial aggression, the lives of the two Irishmen will not have been in vain."

The latter quotes are from speeches and writings made by Maxwell in the early 1940s. In 1945 in an electioneering speech Maxwell stated: "I do not think the young people of Derry will forget the Internees. I do not think they will forget the pogroms in Belfast, the treatment meted out not only in this generation but in the generations of the past ages. If they do, they will be the first generation to forget."

In the same speech Maxwell said that Ireland had only one enemy "and that enemy had always been England." Also, the Derry Journal of June 13th 1945 reported Maxwell as saying:-

"You are not being asked to vote for me but for the cause I represent - the complete freedom and independence of this country."

Could anyone believe that these statements were made by a man who, in recent years, has put away behind bars the youth of Ireland's revolutionary vanguard. Yet it is the truth; a truth that will follow Maxwell to his grave! There are, of course, many of the Maxwell and Currie ilk within the ranks of the Northern Catholic middle-class... people who will use the working and small farming classes for political power and privilege. Then when they have achieved their desired objectives they will "kick the people". There are many older inhabitants of the Bogside who helped to put money into the pockets of Paddy Maxwell, who, if they could get him now, would hang him from Derry's Craigavon Bridge. Just as there are those who would put Currie into a Tyrone peat bog now that their weekly financial income is less than it should be.

## Trade Union Comment

One report that sneaked through the ICTU conference agenda last month with little attention from the press was the ICTU Northern Committee's decision to re-appoint its nominee to the RUC police Authority.

The re-appointment is a double insult to those tortured at Castlereagh in that the nominee, Terry Carlin, is from the Bogside and replaces the pro-loyalist Jack Hassard who resigned from the Authority earlier this year in protest against RUC torture. The fact that torture was officially confirmed by the Bennett Report does not appear to have embarrassed Carlin and his bureaucratic associates whose anxiety to pander to Loyalist prejudice within their own ranks means that they will condone torture of trade unionists and non-trade unionists alike.

But the republican population of the six counties need no official report to corroborate reports of brutality and torture from Europe's most discredited police force. The danger now is that republicans north and south will become even more disenchanted with the Irish trade union movement which, by and large, has done little to help the fight against British Imperialism and Loyalist reaction. In the six counties this is largely due to Loyalist domination of trade unions - the best industrial jobs produce the bulk of trade union influence. But even in the south many trade union leaders (with some honourable exceptions such as Phil Flynn, LG&PSU, who opposed re-appointment to the RUC Authority) are afraid to follow Connolly's

tradition of harnessing trade union muscle in the battle against British and Irish exploiters. The Irish trade union movement today is ten times stronger than when Connolly led The Irish Citizens' Army into the GPO in 1916. Yet Labour and trade union leaders insist on separating the immediate economic needs of their members from the overall aim of national and political emancipation for all Irish workers.

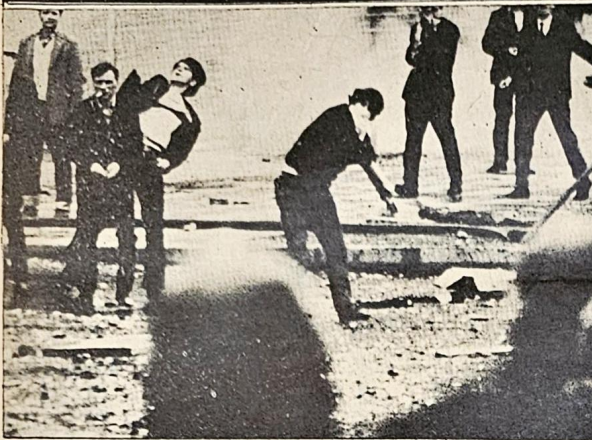
Certain political reformists have attempted to take advantage of this mistaken approach and one so-called "Workers' party" recently inspired a motion at the Federated Workers Union of Ireland conference urging the complete restoration of Loyalist rule in the North! Happily this motion was thrown out by a disgusted membership; but that such a motion could appear at all is an indication of just how far some of our trade union organisations have departed from the practice of Larkin and Connolly.

It is time that ordinary Irish trade unionists re-asserted basic trade union and republican principles. An injury to one is an injury to all! That goes for the prisoners in H-Block - many of whom are denied trade union membership because of unemployment and discrimination - as well as southern workers facing unemployment, wage cuts and high prices. At a time when the Northern war is on an upsurge again and trade union militancy is returning in the South it is vital that we begin to recreate the links between Labour and Nationality.

# '69

# TEN

# YEARS



1969: The year began with the Belfast Derry march which shattered the phoney consensus built up around the two-faced Tory trickster Terence O'Neill. The

horrific Burntoltet ambush showed the sectarian nature of the Northern Statelet in all its naked obscenity. In August the Bogside battered the RUC into the ground,

which led directly to the attempted pogrom against the Falls and the arrival of the Brits "to assist the civil power". Welcomed by some elements in the ghettos at first, the Brits, before the year was out, were displaying all the harsh arrogance of their nature. And increasingly coming into conflict with the youth. The image of the IRA — unprepared for the August events — hit an all-time low.

power in Britain, the savage Falls curfew penned people in the homes for two days, choking on CS gas. The Brits drove Unionist John Brooke round the area to lord it over the "conquered" people. The alliance between the Brits and the Orange ascendancy was out in the open.

## 1971

1971: The year when "armoured cars and tanks and guns came to take away our sons". And the people rose magnificently to defy the oppressors. The newly-formed Provisional IRA went into action. As did the Officials — despite the resistance of abject reformists within the leadership. Full scale torture got under way in Hollywood, Ballykinlear and Magilligan as the "hooded men" were used as guinea-pigs in fiendish

## 1970

1970: Free State and Brit commentators insisted desperately that "reforms" were working. But on the ground conflict between the BA and nationalist workers was building steadily. As were sectarian attacks on Catholic areas, particularly in Belfast. In July, shortly after the Tories came to

The war continued — and tension continued to build up within the Officials.

## 1973

1973: The Brits operated a strategy of trying to browbeat the militants and buy off the moderates. The moderates were easily bought off by the promise of "power-sharing" in the Assembly elected in June. Hume, Fitt and Paddy Devlin spent months wheeling and

double-dealing with Faulkner, before formalising their quisling pact at Sunningdale in December. On the bus to Sunningdale Fitt and Faulkner sang a duet of "Galway Bay" . . . "They might as well be chasing after moonbeams or lighting penny candles from a star!"

## 1974

1974: The power-sharing Executive was brought down by the Loyalist lock-out in May — which the British Army backed to the point of mutiny, telling PM Harold Wilson — as one senior officer later boasted in print — that "the military men know best, the politicians had better toe the line". The degeneracy of the Officials reached the point where an article in the IRISH PEOPLE hailed the udu thugs as "revolutionaries who must be supported". At the Sinn Fein Ard Fheis socialist elements, including Seamus Costello were refused all democratic rights and forced out. The IRSP was formed.



**THE STARRY PLOUGH**  
 Abreoir 1975  
 An CamChlachta op.

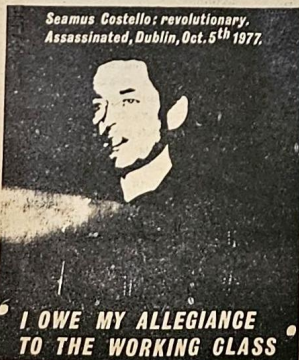
**I.R.S.P.**  
**THE WAY FORWARD**

The Irish Republican Socialist Party (IRSP) is a political party in the Republic of Ireland. It was formed in 1974 by the merger of the Irish Socialist Republican Party (ISRP) and the Irish Republican Socialist Party (IRSP). The party is a member of the Workers' Party of Ireland (WPI) and the Workers' Party of Great Britain (WPGB). The party's programme is based on the principles of socialism and anti-imperialism. The party is committed to the liberation of Ireland and the establishment of a socialist society. The party is also committed to the liberation of the oppressed peoples of the world. The party is a member of the Workers' Party of Ireland (WPI) and the Workers' Party of Great Britain (WPGB). The party's programme is based on the principles of socialism and anti-imperialism. The party is committed to the liberation of Ireland and the establishment of a socialist society. The party is also committed to the liberation of the oppressed peoples of the world.

## 1977

1977: As tortured "confessions" were regularly accepted by the corrupt "Diplock" courts, Mason boasted endlessly that he had the

Republicans on the run. There was a definite downturn in the struggle largely as a result of war weariness and the open terror tactics of the Brits. Mason brought the parasite Queen of England to the North in August and got her out alive which was a source of great sadness to decent people everywhere. On October 5 IRSP leader Seamus Costello was shot down by a cowardly assassin in Dublin, robbing the Irish working class and anti-imperialist movement of one of its most dedicated fighters. The daughter of James Connolly spoke at his graveside.



Seamus Costello: revolutionary. Assassinated, Dublin, Oct. 5<sup>th</sup> 1977.

**I OWE MY ALLEGIANCE TO THE WORKING CLASS**



# ONWARDS

# '79

experiments. Faulkner and the Brits tried to damp down anti-internment protest by banning all marches. But the marching went on.

## 1972

1972: When 14 men were murdered by the First Battalion of the Paras in Derry: the most ruthless effort to date to drive the people off the streets. But 50,000 marched the following week in Newry - after an incredible sabotage attempt by Thomas MacGiolla who at the eleventh hour urged "outsiders" to stay away! As the risen people swamped the streets in anger, Stormont was suspended - unfortunately not by the neck - in March. In May the Official IRA called an unconditional ceasefire and ordered volunteers to stand idly by as the war against the Brits escalated.

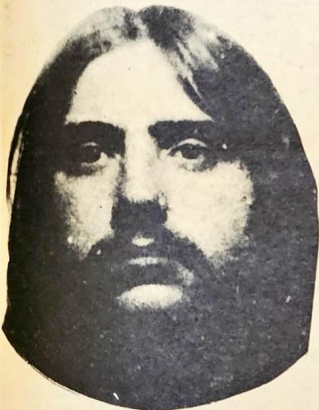


## 1975

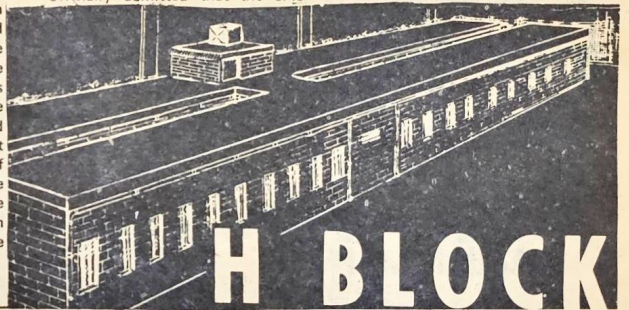
1975: The year began with the Sticky murder machine trying to crush the IRSP in Belfast, knee-capping, pistol-whipping and intimidating members, finally murdering Hugh Ferguson on January 20. As IRSP and supporters defended themselves the Stickies backed off, retreating even further into pathetic pacifism and marshmallow moderation. The Provos negotiated a truce with the Brits and set up the incident centres in nationalist areas. Meanwhile the Unionists and the SDLP had another go at a pro-Brit settlement via the Convention. By the end of the year both the truce and the Convention had collapsed. The irremediable nature of sectarianism in the North was clear to all but the politically blind.

1976: Abandoning all pretence at politics, the Brits went for a military victory. Political status was withdrawn for "offences" committed after March and torture was stepped up in the "interrogation" (torture) centres. In June paranoid Barnsley dwarf Roy Mason replaced the agitated Merlyn Rees as Brit supremo. For the first time it was officially admitted that the SAS

killers were active in the North. And a new organisation, the Irish National Liberation Army, made its debut on the war front. The first man to go "on the blanket" in defiance of Mason's bluster was Kieran Nugent, a Provisional Republican from Belfast. The second was Connolly Brady, from Derry, of the IRSP.



Hugh Ferguson



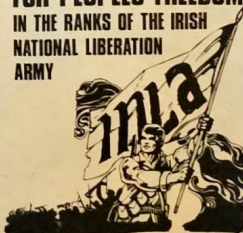
## 1978

1978: The SAS were given free range and licence to kill as Mason desperately tried to make good his euphoric predictions of "victory". Ten men were murdered by SAS thugs, including - in December '77 - Colm McNutt of the IRSP in Derry and three IRA volunteers in Belfast in June.

But the tactic recoiled. SAS murders, plus the indomitable persistency of the men on the blanket, stiffened the will of the people and marches again began to be counted in thousands rather than hundreds. The INLA fought a controlled and efficient campaign.

By the end of the year, even Brit ministers and Fleet Street hacks were forced to admit that they had got it wrong. There was no end in sight. The spirit of the people still surged strong.

**FIGHT FOR PEOPLES FREEDOM IN THE RANKS OF THE IRISH NATIONAL LIBERATION ARMY**



**WE FIGHT FOR NATIONAL LIBERATION AND SOCIALISM IN IRELAND**

1979: In March retired terrorist and supporter of capital punishment Airey Neave got a taste of his own medicine when an INLA unit pulled off the most brilliantly-organised operation of the decade

and blew him to bits inside the "impregnable" Palace of Westminster. The nauseous Margaret Thatcher snivelled on television that he was "an incalculable loss". And so he was - to the British ruling class. New Tory supremo Humphrey Atkins told the Brit parliament that it would have to resign itself to a long struggle. In June the EEC elections were subjected to a massive boycott.



With the Republican forces on the offensive with the IRSP and the INLA playing their full roles, Atkins can take it for certain that the struggle will only end when he and the bloody oppression he represents leave Ireland forever, and the Irish working class begins to build its own free future. Then and not until then...

## Political Status Campaign

As the weather improves and the commercial media are filled with stories of beaches and holidays the news that filters out from the H Blocks of Long Kesh Concentration Camp grows grimmer. Food is inadequate, there is no bread ration, beatings are intensified, then stopped. Sick men are untreated and medical appliances are removed from men who need them.



Central Relatives' Action Committee, at present chaired by Maire MacCrory who, herself, has the eldest son on the Blanket.

Republican prisoners who are conforming to the prison rules are moved into a wing of H6 Block where the Blanket Men lie in filth and neglect in an attempt to smash the morale and comradeship of both. Self-appointed spokesmen for the prisoners and arbiters of standards of public morality are silent, possibly suffering from exhaustion after the EEC electoral euphoria of the early days of June.

But the people, the grass roots, the relatives, friends and comrades of the prisoners, those who themselves are every day on the receiving end of repression have been active, especially those who are organised through the Belfast

IRSP members and supporters, in political prisons in the Six and Twenty Six Counties and funds are urgently needed to cater for their welfare and that of their immediate dependents. Send donations and orders to the Craft Department c/o IRSP, 35 Upper Gardiner St., Dublin 1. All cheques, etc. should be crossed.

# BRIT ATTEMPT TO DESTROY BLANKET MEN

A large, determined, well-organised picket was held on the offices of the Eastern Health Board on Thursday 21st June from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. A letter which outlined the health problems of the Blanket prisoners and the failure of the health authorities to maintain minimum standards of hygiene, exercise, stimulus and diet was handed to the Regional Officer by members of the RAC.

to walk without excruciating pain and jarring his injured spine. On reception at Long Kesh after being sentenced to 12 years imprisonment, he refused to put on the prison uniform. He was stripped and his orthopaedic shoe was taken away.

ish Army in 1977 has been refused surgical treatment even though "he conformed to the prison rules" six months ago in a desperate bid to save his health.

Despite written testimony by medical consultants that he may suffer permanent damage to his spine if he has to walk or stand without the shoe the screws have confiscated it and refused to accept another pair which his family had specially made for him.

The Relatives' Action Committee are preparing a full dossier on the campaign by the British Government to destroy the health of the Blanket Men. It has never been known before that people had to wear certain clothes to allow them to see a doctor. It is important that the serious failure of doctors and other professional persons to act according to the ordinary standards should be publicised.

Specific complaints were made about individual prisoners, for example, Tom McAllister on the Blanket in H4 is still recovering from injuries to his legs and spine that he received when he was captured and brutally shot by the RUC in April 1978.

Another Blanket man has had his crutches taken away from him and a third who developed a hernia on the site of an operation scar following major abdominal wounds caused by being a murder target for the Brit-

Pressure should be put on the Northern Committee of ICTU to investigate this question fully and publicly report on it. They nominate a Visitor to Long Kesh and he should act, or speak out as Dr. Donal Deeny from Lurgan did or be publicly withdrawn.

One leg is now 2 inches shorter than the other and he must wear a built-up orthopaedic shoe if he is

### What the Republican Socialist Prisoners mean by the Demand for Political Status

1. Full Prisoner of War Status as outlined by the Additional Protocols adopted by the Diplomatic Conference convened by the International Committee of the Red Cross at Geneva in June 1977.
2. Freedom for Prisoners to wear clothes of their own choice.
3. No performance of Prison Work. Educational programmes or work to be of prisoners' choice.
4. Full free association of political prisoners and freedom to elect own command staff. Communication with Prison Establishment to be exclusively through the prisoners' chosen spokesmen.
5. Remission of one half of sentence, one parcel a week, one hour's visit per week, no restrictions on letters and full facilities for family visits.

## SUPPORT THE BLANKET PRISONERS



Andytown Picket

"England's Belsen H Block", "No Leisure Centre for H Block", "Naked, Beaten, Starved, Defiant H Block" were amongst the slogans carried by a 50 strong picket who beat the Brits' security at the "opening" of the Andersonstown Leisure Centre, (actually it was closed to the public and only opened for designated dignitaries!) The picketers forced their way in and roasted the dignitaries and Tame Taigs who hoped to slip in to Andersonstown unannounced and congratulate themselves on how "the problem of violence" in the community was being dealt with.

As Lord Melchett, the Labour peer, who had been Education boss on Mason's team waffled; "if there had been leisure centres ten years ago there might never have been a H Block." He got his answer from a staunch member of the Andersonstown Relatives' Action Committee; "Leisure Centres are not much good to my sons - one is in Milltown Cemetery and the others are in the H Blocks." Other picketers remained outside and demonstrated that establishment hacks are not welcome in Andytown.

## City Hall Rally

History was made by a rally for Political Status which was held under the sacred nose of Queen Victoria in front of Belfast's "famous" City Hall. The meeting was organised by the Central Belfast Relatives' Action Committee for Political Status and was addressed by an IRSP and a Sinn

Fein speaker, as well as an RAC speaker. The meeting lasted for about an hour and the excellent amplification system ensured that the message from the H Blocks and the details of the inhuman conditions in the Concentration Camp 15 miles down the road was relayed to the thronging shoppers.

## R.A.C. PROTEST

The sequence of pickets organised by the Belfast Central R.A.C. to defend political status continued on 19th June. A large number of picketers who had detailed case-histories of the medical conditions of Blanket men in need of medical care surrounded the offices of the Eastern Health Board in Broadway, Belfast. As the offices are opposite the back gate of the Royal Victoria Hospital the occasion was used to press home the appalling public health

conditions in the H-Blocks, 15 miles away, to members of the medical, nursing and administration staff and to remind them of the responsibility of employees of the National Health Service for the health of all citizens.

A letter demanding a public health inquiry into the H-Blocks was handed in to the Eastern Health Board by officers of the R.A.C. Then as Mr. Jackson a chief administrator did not seem attentive to the points made by the relatives of the Blanket Men the

picket transferred to the King Edward Building, the administrative centre of the Royal Victoria Hospital. The building was forcibly occupied for 20 minutes. Mr. Jackson and other administrators then agreed to meet members of the picket and put their demands to the Board of the Royal Victoria Hospital and the Eastern Health Board. The R.A.C. are determined to force doctors and others to do their duty and attend to the health of the Blanket Men.



# Attempted Murder in Belfast by Brits

"A deliberate attempt at murder," was how one Belfast man described the shooting of Brendan Flynn. Mr. Flynn was shot on Monday evening 25th June, by a British soldier from Fort Monagh.

The soldier, in uniform, took up a sniping position from a house he had entered on Glen Road, and fired only one shot, believed to be a dum dum bullet. Mr. Flynn has had part of his kidney, spleen and stomach wall removed and had several major operations. He also lost the use of an arm. He is still in intensive care.

In a statement the I.R.S.P. said:

"The shooting of Brendan Flynn as he walked with his friends along the Glen Road in Andersonstown raises the question of a deliberate attempt at political murder by the British Army on the night of Monday 25th June.

It is well known that all British regiments now have members training with the SAS. The

story that the soldier who did the shooting had gone Absent Without Leave, with his rifle, past a sentry, only emerged very late in the day. It is incredible that the incident could have taken place as the British press releases described.

Also, although politically uninvolved himself, Brendan Flynn is brother of Sean Flynn,

who is Chairman of the Belfast Comhairle Ceantair of the IRSP. The coincidence is certainly striking, especially as only one shot was fired which went through Brendan's spine and destroyed one of his kidneys. The shot was fired from a well-prepared sniping position which overlooked the Glen Road. This incident seems a continuation of the British Army's policy of shooting to kill its political opponents.

This Army of Occupation has a centuries' long tradition of political murder, including the Black and Tans and the Paratroops in Derry. The only way that murderous tradition will be

ended is by the expulsion of the Belfast British Army from Ireland."

## HARRASSMENT OF FAMILY

Since the shooting Mr. Flynn's family has been subjected to almost continuous harassment. On Wednesday June 27th his sister Ann and other relatives visited him in the Royal Victoria Hospital and headed home for Twinbrook at about 11pm where they had visitors enquiring about Brendan's condition.

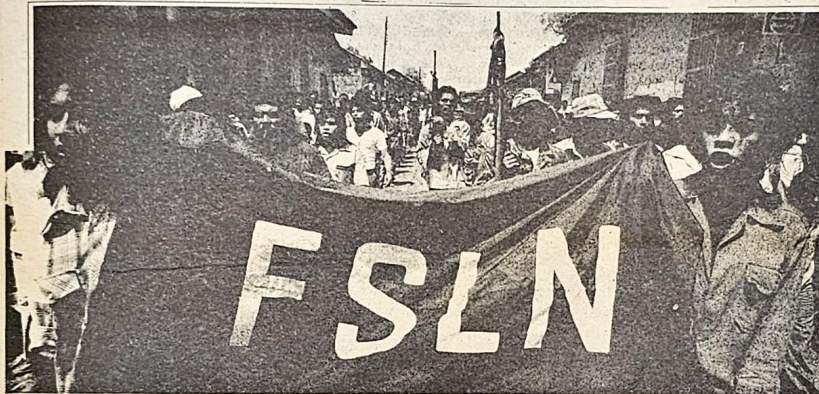
As some of the visitors were leaving at about 1am British soldiers arrived and ordered them back into the house saying that a major military operation was in progress.

Ann Flynn contacted the RUC who said that they would investigate. At 2.30am the British soldiers took the names of all those in the house and said that they wouldn't be allowed to go until a sniffer dog was brought. The dog arrived at about 3am with a member of the W.R.A.C. It was after 4am before the visitors were allowed to go.

In addition to the harassment of his family, Brendan himself was visited and interrogated by the R.U.C. Special Branch on June 27th before being placed in intensive care. His clothes were removed for "forensic" examination.



# VICTORY IN NICARAGUA



Sandinistas celebrate.

The final collapse of General Somoza's family dictatorship in Nicaragua has brought an end to 45 years of corruption and tyranny. In classic fashion Somoza has fled into retirement in Miami with most of the money from Nicaragua's Central Bank as well as several shiploads of loot. Like rats leaving a sinking ship, the leading profiteers and

torturers of the U.S. trained National Guard have been hijacking Red Cross planes in an effort to get out of the country with their booty.

## POPULAR SUPPORT

The disintegration of the regime is proof of the strength of popular support for the

Sandinist National Liberation Front and vindication of their strategy of prolonged guerrilla war. Like the Cuban 26th of July movement which overthrew the Batista dictatorship in 1959, the Sandinistas are a broadly based left-wing Nationalist movement. Their popular support came from a wide cross-section of

Nicaraguans, ranging from unemployed youth of the cities, to small businessmen and sections of the Catholic clergy who have been alienated by the total corruption and brutality of the regime.

The composition of the new Government reflects the differing interests who united against

Somoza's tyranny. They range from Thomas Borge, the last surviving founder of the Sandinistas, to Violeta Chamorro the widow of Pedro Chamorro the 'moderate' opposition assassinated by Somoza's forces last year.

## AMERICAN DILEMMA

The United States, which had been the mainstay of Somoza's regime since its inception was caught in a dilemma. Because of the domestic opposition to American involvement abroad, which had resulted from the Vietnam War, the Carter administration has not been seen to intervene militarily.

Having supplied the arms which devastated most of Nicaragua the U.S. is now offering the new Government massive economic aid, if it pursues a pro-American foreign policy and does not encourage revolutionary movements in other Central American Countries. In the end the victorious Nicaraguan Revolutionaries will have to choose whether to establish a fully independent Socialist society or retreat back into being a U.S. colony.



# Apartheid Links?

The recent Muldergate scandal in South Africa exposed the amount of money spent by its regime on burshing up its image, by the South African Information Service. Ireland was a special target for such "public relations" it has been disclosed! More Muldergate money per capita was spent on this country than on any other foreign country! I wonder where it all went to?



Speaking of South African publicity, the regime there, recently received a favourable boost from Liam Nolan, the intrepid R.T.E. journalist. Liam recently went on a trip there

and on his return gave an account of his 2-hour interview with the now disgraced South African President, John Vorster. The interview, published in the April 1979 issue of The Word, was a very selective one. There were no questions about apartheid or the fate of the 21 million Blacks in south Africa.

Upon Vorster's fall from power in early June, Nolan in an interview said he was "shocked" at Vorsters departure and said "I found Mr. Vorster so straightforward and forthcoming with his answers that the result of Muldergate amazed me."

I wonder who financed Liam Nolan's South African trip?



NORWEGIAN SUPPORT FOR IRISH STRUGGLE.

U.S.A. & CANADA 30c  
Britain 12p



TOP

THE  
**STARRY  
PLOUGH**

An Camhéachta  
**THE  
IRSP  
PAPER**

# ASAHI ARROGANCE

The recent outbursts from the Managing Director of the Asahi Plant near Ballina concerning trade union involvement is a warning of the dangers of reliance on the multinationals for industrial development. According to Mr. Onodera, the workers are guilty of 'insubordination, inefficiency, aggravation and even sabotage'. The reality is very different.

### NEAR DISASTERS!

In Asahi, the workers have to deal with very dangerous materials. The main one is acrylonitrile - an explosive, highly flammable liquid. It's toxic effects are similar to cyanide poisoning. The workers have to wear gas masks and protective clothing but most feel uneasy about the safety regulations in the plant. Already there have been several 'near disasters'!

One fitter was recently overcome by gas fumes and had to be rushed to Castlebar hospital. On occasions craftsmen have been burned by acid and acrylonitrile leaks have resulted in areas of the plant been filled with toxic fumes. In addition the lack of proper spark-proof tools has created a situation where maintenance work is carried out using equipment in areas where even a single spark could cause an explosion.

All this has resulted in agitation for safer working conditions. Already over one third of the maintenance of craftsmen have quit the firm altogether, and those remaining insist that the firm's safety measures be drastically improved. Statements have been made by the company that the workers are inefficient. However the workers reject this claim. One trade unionist told the STARRY PLOUGH that 90% of production at the plant is of



first class quality fibre and that this efficiency is as high as could be expected.

### ANOTHER FERENKA?

The allegations by the Asahi management are refuted by the workers at the plant. The allegations made are similar to ones made by the management of

Ferenka prior to its departure from this country - allegations which were shown to be false. One wonders if the Asahi management's manoeuvres are signs of an impending departure of that firm from this country as well.

In any case, that the workers can be blackmailed by the company into accepting unsafe

working conditions, and that the company is aided by the local gombeen element on Ballina Council reflects the dangers of depending almost totally on multinational industry. The choice offered the Asahi workers - are unsafe jobs or no jobs at all. It is a situation which must be changed. ●●

**SUPPORT GREEN CROSS '73**  
Green Cross helps the families of Republican Prisoners

The IRSP is organised on a 32 County basis with the aim of establishing a 32 County Democratic Socialist Republic with the working class in control of the means of production, distribution and exchange.

**ANTRIM, FERMANAGH, DOWN, TYRONE & ARMAGH:**  
C/O MRS. COLETTE DORNAN  
392 FALLS ROAD,  
BELFAST 12.

**CARLOW:** Michael Aherns, 7 Royal Oak Rd., Mhuine Bheag or Noel Doyle, 10 St. Oliver's Drive, Rathoe, Tullow.

**CORK:** Jack Lynch, 21 Earlwood Estate, Cork City.

**DUBLIN:** IRSP Head Office, 34 Upr. Gardiner St. Dublin 1. Tel. 721176

**DERRY:** IRSP, Connelly House, 8 Chamberlain Street, Derry City.

**CLARE:** Bridie Makowski, 16 Traders Court, Shannon, or Anne Kennelly, 28 Corravorrin Green, Ennis.

**LIMERICK:** John Gilligan, 143 O'Malley Park.

**JOIN the IRSP**

**TIPPERARY:** Tony Quinn, 4 Thomond Place, Nenagh.  
**WICKLOW:** Maeleosa Costello, 5 New Cornesourt, Dublin Rd. Bray.

(Block Letters Please)  
Aim (Name): .....  
Seoladh (Address): .....  
Tel. No.: .....

## Special Branch News

A prominent member of T.U.C.A.R. was recently visited by a new member of the Special Branch. The S.B. man wanted to enter the T.U.C.A.R. member's house but he forgot to bring a warrant. He introduced himself very fittingly as a member of the Gestapo, and produced an identity card with a photo of himself in uniform! If any of our readers come across him - go easy on him - he's still learning the ropes. His name? 'Harrier' Pat Hartnett.

Detective Frank (Joe Bugner) McLoughlin, has been recently with the wife and two children sunning himself in St. Stephen's Green, after attending a wedding in University Church.

Liam Townsen - at present serving a sentence in Portlaoise Prison for his alleged involvement in the killing of S.A.S. member Nairac - cannot have lost much sleep after hearing that one of his

Heavy Gang torturers Detective Sergeant Owen Corrigan, was seriously injured in a car crash recently.

Detective Sergeant John Jordan of the Heavy Gang has joined the "trendy brigade" in the Special Branch. No longer does he wear his 'Steve Silvermint' outfit but can be seen in shirt, slacks and sandals operating on 'foot patrol'. He seems to have taken over Det. Sgt. Jude Murphy's role in this field. We hear that Jude has moved onto richer pastures and is now operating for Det. Supt. Doucey's anti-freedom fighter force in the Dundalk area.

Harrier King who features regularly in this column was spotted recently guarding one of the injured Chinese in a Dublin hospital. Loafing about is part and parcel of his "profession".

Would you believe that the S.B. recently trailed a very prominent Sinn Fein member in a Mercedes? Keep an eye out for another strange car used by the Special Branch. It is a battered ten year old black Hillman Avenger and it sports a broken aerial. It is normally driven by a moustached S.B. man wearing clothes that look as worn out as the car.

It is reliably suggested that Det. Inspector James McPartlaid has been suspended pending an internal enquiry into his disastrous, provocative actions at this year's Sinn Fein Bodenstown.

Does anyone know who strangled Detective Martin Mannion's pet alsaion?



• Osgur Breatnach and Brian Mc Nally. •

Both men are now serving long prison sentences as a result of being tortured and framed by the Free State and sentenced by the Special Criminal Court.

Both are innocent!

DEMAND THEIR RELEASE!

### IRSP 3 CAMPAIGN

Support for the IRSP 3 CAMPAIGN continues to grow. During July there have been messages of support from England, France, Canada, Sweden, Italy, Switzerland and from the Scottish Republican Socialist League.

Over 5,000 copies of a pamphlet detailing the frame up, torture and 'trial' of the IRSP have been distributed. Copies of the pamphlet, called "Framed through the Special Criminal Court": The 'Great Train Robbery Trial', are available from IRSP head office. Cost 40p.

### I.N.L.A. Claim

The following statement was received by the Starry Plough publication.

An A.S.U. of the I.N.L.A. penetrated intense security to carry out an attack on R.U.C. personnel outside Armagh Courthouse on Tuesday 31st July. In the course of the attack one R.U.C. man was shot dead. The increasing casualties being suffered by the R.U.C. are an indication of the failure of the Ulsterisation strategy.