



THE STARRY PLOUGH

An Camchéachta

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Nollag '75

DUBLIN BOMBS

work of british imperialism

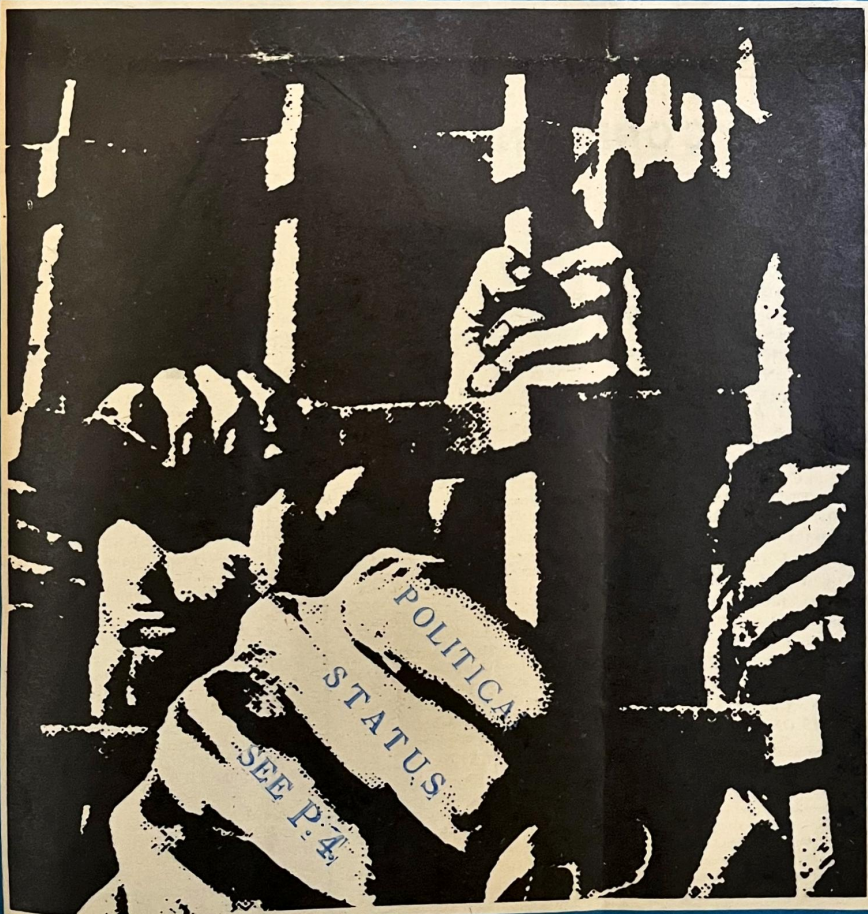
THE AIRPORT BOMBINGS, WHERE ONE MAN WAS KILLED, HAS BEEN CLAIMED BY U.D.A. IT IS EXACTLY THREE YEARS AGO SINCE THE FIRST DUBLIN BOMBS EXPLODED IN THE FILM CENTRE CINEMA IN BURGH QUAY. SOME 73 PEOPLE WERE TAKEN TO HOSPITAL AND FOUR DAYS LATER TWO C.I.E. BUSMEN WERE KILLED IN AN EXPLOSION AT SACKSVILLE PLACE, A SECOND BOMB EXPLODED AT LIBERTY HALL, IN ALL 126 PEOPLE WERE INJURED. LESS THAN TWO MONTHS LATER ANOTHER C.I. E. EMPLOYEE DIED AS A RESULT OF ANOTHER BOMB IN SACKSVILLE PLACE. 14 PEOPLE WERE INJURED.

IN MAY '74 TWENTY SIX PEOPLE DIED WHEN THREE BOMBS WENT OFF SIMULTANOUSLY IN THREE BUSY DUBLIN STREETS. SIX PEOPLE DIED IN EXPLOSIONS IN MONAGHAN TOWN THE SAME DAY.

SOME OF THESE BOMBINGS WERE CLAIMED BY LOYALIST GROUPS WHILE JACK LYNCH ADMITTED THAT THE SACKSVILLE PLACE BOMBINGS WERE THE WORK OF BRITISH S.A.S. AGENTS. ALL THESE BOMBINGS, INCLUDING THE RECENT AIRPORT BOMBINGS, WERE INTENDED TO INFLUENCE THE GOVERNMENT TO INTRODUCE REPRESSIVE LEGISLATION (THE OFFENCES AGAINST THE STATE ACT & NOW THE CRIMINAL LAW JURISDICTION BILL).

LOYALISM & SECTARIANISM ARE BRITAIN'S BRAINCHILD. ITS PURPOSE IS TO DIVIDE IRISHMEN SO THAT BRITAIN CAN KEEP ITS STRANGLEHOLD ON THIS COUNTRY AS A WHOLE. THEY SHOW TO WHAT EXTENT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT WILL GO TO CONTINUE ITS EXPLOITATION OF THIS COUNTRY, IRRESPECTIVE OF THE MASS MURDER, REPRESSION, TORTURE, AND MISERY IT CAUSES THE IRISH PEOPLE FOR THE IRISH PEOPLE THIS ENTAILS.

THE DUBLIN BOMBS SHOULD UNITE ALL IRISHMEN IN THEIR OPPOSITION TO BRITISH IMPERIALISM.



I.R.S.P. GROWS

The I.R.S.P. continues to grow. Three new Cumann have been formed in the last month in Cork City, Limerick and Queens University Belfast. The new Limerick Cumann has been formed in the National Institute for Higher Education, Plassy House, Limerick and all queries should be sent to Sean O Brian c/o the Students Union there. The Cumann formed in Cork City has enabled the formation of Cork Comhairle Ceantair and shows the increased support in that area resulting from hard work, despite continued harassment by the Special Branch.

A SUCCESSFUL lunchtime meeting was held in Belfield recently with an attendance of between 250 and 300. The meeting was part of a recruiting cum education campaign that has been launched by Cumann Laim Uí Mhaoliosa (Liam Mellows) in U.C.D. Seamus Costello, Cathaoirleach I.R.S.P. and Ita Ní Chionnaith and Niall Lenoch (members of U.C.D. Cumann) explained the reasons for the formation of the I.R.S.P. and a lively discussion followed on all aspects of party policy. The first meeting of the recently formed Queens University Belfast I.R.S.P. Club was well attended by over 150 people, mostly students.

The meeting held in the Students Union McNordie Hall on Tuesday 22nd of October, is one of the many activities of the new club and the interest shown in the Party at the meeting augurs well for future growth at the university.

The scores of questions that followed covered most aspects of Party policy and lasted for two hours. The ability of both speakers to give a detailed analysis of the overall situation was impressive and resulted in a number of enquiries about membership.

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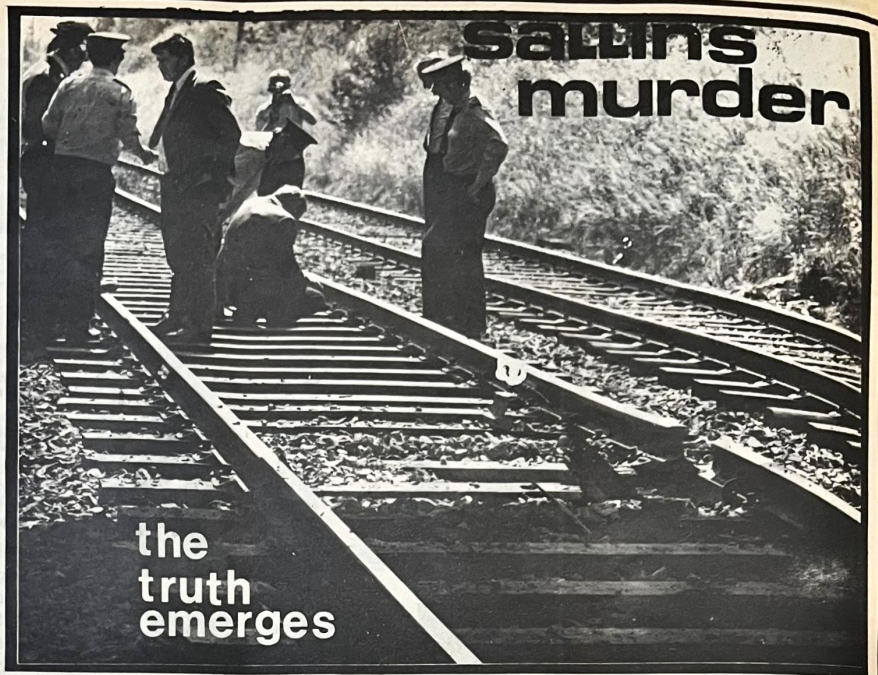
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A FOUR PARAGRAPHED ARTICLE IN THE 'IRISH TIMES' ON THE 30th OF OCTOBER LAST RECEIVED SCANT COVERAGE ALTHOUGH IT WAS PARTICULARLY INTERESTING. IT CONCERNED AN ADMISSION BY GARDAI THAT THEY BELIEVED THE U.V.F. WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE STABBING OF A LOCAL SALLINS MAN, MR. CHRISTOPHER PHELAN, DURING AN UNSUCCESSFUL ATTEMPT TO BLOW UP A TRAIN CARRYING ABOUT 300 OFFICIAL REPUBLICANS TO A WOLFE TONE COMMEMORATION AT BODENSTOWN LAST YEAR.

1000 TENANTS FACE EVICTION

CORK CONFRONTATION

THE POWER FAMILY OF THE MAYFIELD ESTATE IN CORK AWAIT WORRIEDLY FOR A KNOCK ON THEIR DOOR THAT COULD MEAN THEIR EVICTION. MEANWHILE NEIGHBOURS HAVE ORGANISED THEMSELVES THROUGH THE JOINT COUNCIL OF TENANT'S ASSOCIATION AND ARE TAKING PART IN A SIT-IN IN POWER'S HOME IN SOLIDARITY. AN EMERGENCY ANTI-EVICTION SQUAD HAS ALSO BEEN FORMED CAPABLE OF GETTING TO ANY HOUSE IN THE TOGHER AND MAYFIELD ESTATES IN A MATTER OF TEN MINUTES. AFTER A FIVE YEAR RENT STRIKE EVENTS ARE ABOUT TO COME TO A HEAD IN A CASE THAT COULD DETERMINE THE FUTURE OF THE REMAINING 1,000 STRIKING CORPORATION TENANTS ON THE ESTATE.

THE FIRST STRIKE began in Ballyphehane in 1971 and ended after six weeks. Another strike followed in 1972. In June 1972 the National Rent Strike began but when it was ended in the Autumn of '73 the Cork tenants continued their strike. The city Manager admits that "Less than 1,000 tenants are on strike" and that their arrears amount

to a staggering £420,000.

Meanwhile the Corporation continue to seduce its opposition with statements like "people who owe large sums of money would be surprised how easy it is to make settlements and how agreeable these settlements can be for them". On the other hand, and more ominously, they have threatened individual tenants with eviction orders in an attempt to isolate them and weaken morale. Last year three tenants were jailed for a fortnight for refusing to pay rent arrears.

THE TENANTS are quite prepared to negotiate but are adamant that there must be a withdrawal of all pending court cases. "All we want is a fair settlement" said one tenant. "We want a scheme that includes differential rents but that won't take all our recent 14% cost of living wages increases. Lastly we want decent houses to live in. Now that's fair isn't it?" And so it would seem.

CONDITIONS in the National Building Authority houses has long been a matter of contention in Mayfield and Togher due to the continuous dampness that has resulted in black fungus growing on walls and ceilings. A row has also erupted in Dublin concerning N.B.A. houses that were built with only one door.

THERE IS SPECULATION in Cork City that the recent Free State Army house to house searches in the Togher and Mayfield Estates, supposedly in search of Dr. Herema, were merely practice runs in case of any major 'civil disorder' following any eviction. With 1,000 striking tenants 'civil disorder' is not at all unlikely.

AFTER THE SALLINS MURDER there followed weeks of arrests and harassment of I.R.S.P. members and supporters. Many members of the Ard Comhairle of the I.R.S.P. were arrested and held under the Offences Against the State Act in connection with the murder. When I.R.S.P. members picketed the Bridwell they were threatened with arrest by the gardai and Special Branch. Four I.R.S.P. members who had either just left the various pickets or who were on their way into the pickets were actually arrested.

AT THE TIME the I.R.S.P. not only stated that they had nothing to do with the Sallins affair but condemned the incident. They pointed out that they were a legally registered political party and that the arrests were an attempt by the Gardai and Special Branch to intimidate members and supporters away from the I.R.S.P. The gardai now admit that they believe a member of the U.V.F. (who was amongst several U.V.F. men killed some time ago when a bomb which they were carrying in their car exploded prematurely) was responsible. The information came in the comparing of fingerprints by Scotland Yard, the R.U.C. and the Gardai. It is known that there is open and continuous collusion between these three bodies and that the checking of fingerprints would not have taken months. In fact it is probable that the U.V.F. connection was known at the time of the arrests of I.R.S.P. members but that it was kept quite so that the intimidation of the I.R.S.P. members and supporters could continue.

This is given further credence by the fact that while the gardai and special branch did not publicise their line of questioning, it concerned the whereabouts of a U.V.F. squad in the Dublin area (as if the I.R.S.P. would be told by the U.V.F.!). Obviously the gardai and Special Branch wanted to tarnish the reputation of the newly formed I.R.S.P. with a stabbing and mass murder attempt.

Now that the U.V.F. has publicly been blamed it completely vindicates the I.R.S.P. of any involvement in the Sallins affair and exposes the June arrests as open repression directed by the State against the Irish Republican Socialist Party.

KIDNAPPED AT GUN POINT 5.30 A.M.

A woman in her early fifties died as a result of British Army harassment in Derry City in October, during a series of raids aimed against the nationalist population and, in particular, I.R.S.P. members and supporters. The woman, Mrs. Norby, suffered a fatal heart attack shortly after a raid by the British Army. One of her sons who was serving seven years in Portlaoise Jail was paroled but was never told his mother had died. There was a large attendance at her funeral and wreaths were laid on behalf of all republican organisations.

During the month Derry has seen increased harassment by the British Army. In a period of one week alone over 30 houses were raided by the Brits. On average four to six people have been arrested per week, held overnight and released without charge the following day. To a community whose daily lives is interspersed with such harassment, it merely further strengthens their determination to end such

harassment and intimidation for ever. Being kidnapped at gunpoint at 5.30 in the morning and herded off to a British Army barracks is not a facet of the British Army 'peace keeping role' that is publicised in the media. Such repression, even to the extent of the murder of a 50 year old mother, is coldly calculated to force the nationalist population into a war weary, demoralised mentality so that they

will grasp at the next British solution in a hope that it will end the brutality of British imperialism.

In this context it is not surprising that a campaign has been initiated against the I.R.S.P. and its supporters as it is the only party in this country that can practically entwine the national question with the class question, that can correctly analyse British imperialism and that in only one year of existence has become a major headache for British imperialism and its native hacks in this country.

THE MAN IN THE STREET finds it incomprehensible that Republican should be shooting Republican while the same Republicans, regardless of their political persuasions, continually talk of the threat of a Loyalist takeover and demand the withdrawal of British military and political presence from Ireland. Any differences that exist between republicans no matter how justified from the point of view of any particular Republican organisations, are seen by the man in the street as insignificant. Regardless of his lack of knowledge relating to the reasons for a feud, and his lack of analysis of the overall political situation in Ireland, he is politically correct. Furthermore, it becomes clear that the only people who delight in Republicans shooting Republicans are the enemies of Republicans, Socialists and the man in the street.

LET THE BLOOD OF ALL OUR FALLEN COMRADES CEMENT ANTI-IMPERIALIST UNITY



IN THE NAME OF THE PEOPLE WE ALL PROFESS TO SERVE PLEASE STOP - TALK, DON'T KILL

PUBLISHED BY A NUMBER OF FRIENDS OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC.

BUY THE STARRY PLOUGH EVERY MONTH

An annual subscription for the Starry Plough is available from head office. Ireland £2.00, Europe £2.50 and United States \$6. As can be seen the cost of the annual subscription has been reduced. The prices above include postage.

IT IS FROM THIS APPROACH that we must view the recent feud or differences of opinion that took place in Belfast between the Official I.R.A. and the Provisional I.R.A.

It was only days after the November issue of the Starry Plough appeared with an article relating to attacks on members and supporters of the I.R.S.P. in Belfast and attacks on Provos and the murder of Sean McNamee, that the Provos in a lightning attack on "gangsters within the Republican Clubs", as they called them, shot about 18 of them, killing one. At this stage, had the Provos called off the retaliation they might not have suffered too much from bad publicity. However the shooting of six year old Eileen Kelly began to turn public opinion against the Provos and the

nursing of the Officials by the media accelerated this bad press for the Provos.

IN CONCLUSION we reprint a statement issued by the Ard Comhairle calling for an end to the killings and instead calling for unity of all Republican, Socialist and Anti-Imperialist organisations.

Irrespective of the reasons behind the present conflict, the overall damage being done to the anti-imperialist struggle in Ireland is surely of more consequence at this point in time than any "differences of opinion" which might exist between Republican organisations.

Surely one of the immediate effects of such activity will be a ground swell of public opinion against anti-imperialist organisations in

general, and a corresponding increase in support of the demands for the re-introduction of the R.U.C. into Republican areas.

The only beneficiaries of such conflict between anti-imperialist groups are British imperialism and their pro-imperialist allies in Ireland, namely the Free State Government, the S.D.L.P. and the various shades of Unionism cum Loyalism. Since the conflict began 11 anti-imperialists have been killed, eleven people who were at one time united by their common understanding as to who the enemies of the Irish people were, are now dead, while the real enemies, the forces of British imperialism rejoice.

The longer this conflict continues the greater the danger of what is now a feud between two Republicans organisations developing into a civil war type situation in the Republican ghettos. The role of the British Army meanwhile remains exactly the same. Their repression against the Republican population continues and their overall plan to crush resistance to imperialism can only be seen to be made much easier by the continuance of in-fighting amongst anti-imperialists.

At this crucial stage of our history, when the most pressing need is for anti-imperialist unity and in particular when the working class people of the Catholic ghettos are constantly calling for such unity, the clear cut duty of those who claim to lead the

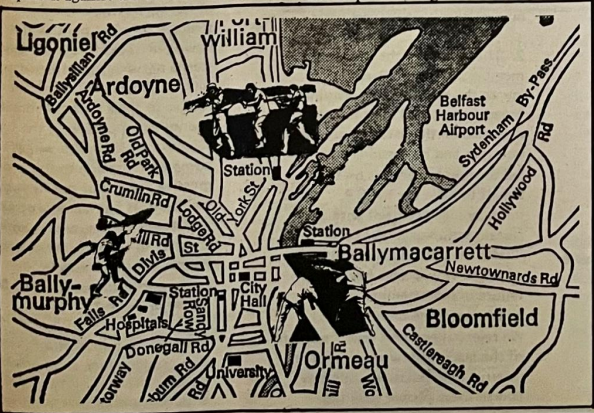
revolutionary struggle in Ireland is to find means of bringing about such unity.

As an initial step in this direction the Ard Comhairle of the I.R.S.P. again calls for an immediate end to the present conflict, followed by a meeting at national leadership level of representatives of all organisations who are actively involved in the struggle against imperialism in Ireland. The purpose of such a meeting should be twofold. Firstly to establish machinery at both National and local level to ensure that no further physical conflict takes place between anti-imperialist organisations.

As previous experience has shown the mere existence of such machinery divorced from an agreed and co-ordinated political approach to the struggle against imperialism is not sufficient in itself to prevent a recurrence of conflict.

We therefore suggest that the second and even more important purpose of such a meeting be to seek a means of creating a co-ordinated approach by all Republican and Socialist organisations in the struggle against imperialism.

This is the only ultimate guarantee that the struggle will succeed and that the Irish working class in whose name all Republican and Socialist organisations claim to act, can achieve the political power which is necessary for them to control and utilise the wealth and resources of the nations in their own interest.



POSTERS:

- I.R.S.P. Recruiting Posters (two colours) 5p each
- Constance Markievicz Poster (new on market) 60p each

The British Government intends to end the special category status of Prisoners next March. This follows continuous attempts to put a more legal and just face on oppression in the North, where there are over 1,500 special category prisoners i.e. political prisoners. The attempt to do away with their special category is intended to portray all political prisoners as common criminals, psychopaths, thieves, intimidators, whose actions for personal gain are devoid of any politics. This is of course rubbish and forecasts a hard struggle in and out of the North's four main prisons and concentration camps.

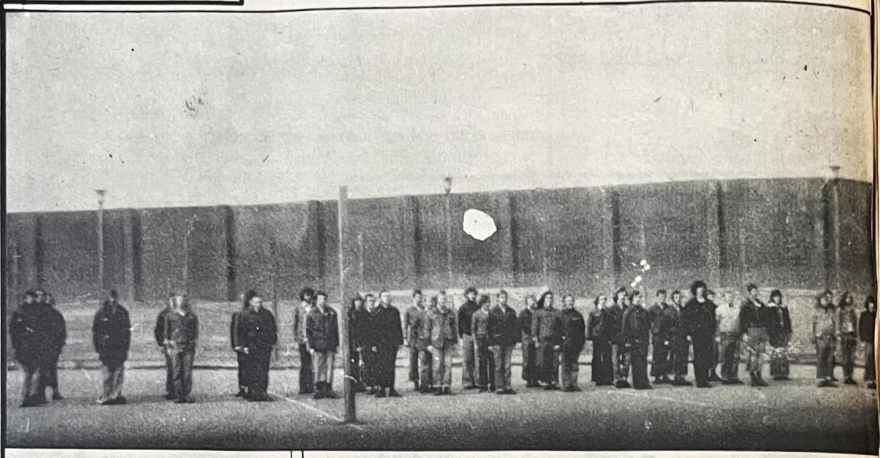
Internment has proved an international embarrassment to the British Government who have portrayed the struggle in the North as a struggle against terrorists whose aspirations are repugnant to the vast majority of the population while their own forces of 'law and order' have been portrayed as a peace keeping force. Long Kesh was renamed The Maze as if that would change the oppression and deprivation its political hostages suffer. The British Government intend to let most of the internees out by Christmas, leaving internment on its legal books in case they need it again, with the knowledge that all the internees can be rearrested at will and charged with any offence under the sun and sentenced to long terms of imprisonment through the biased northern courts. Doing away with the special category or the status of Political Prisoners will help the British Government (accompanied with the ending of internment without trial) to cement the impression that the British Government is just in the North and that all those in jail deserve to be there.

The whole question of prisoners has been the target of a massive white washing job by the British government who would wish it to be as acceptable and part of daily life as the dole has become. A man is thrown out of a job and is given the dole to minimise his reactions. It's a payment that subdues the unemployed and has made unemployment a feature that is accepted and portrayed by governments as inevitable in our society and that the workers must always, just as inevitably, bear the brunt. Similar attempts have been made on the question of legalising and minimising reaction to repression in the form of imprisonment. In July 1974 the British Government set up the Northern Ireland Resettlement Association (N.I.R.A.) which flopped because most of the organisations approached by

WE WISH TO CONFIRM THAT 11 MEMBERS OF THE I.R.S.P. have resigned from the Party, as a result of their failure to accept and implement the democratically decided policies of the Party. Since our Ard Fheis last May, the members concerned have consistently attempted at almost every meeting of the Ard Comhairle to divert the Party from its policies and to introduce policies which were clearly rejected by our members.

HAVING FAILED TO CONVINCE THE MAJORITY they have now resigned. The policy differences which gave rise to their resignations are as follows:

1. The refusal of the resigned members to accept the vital link between the national Liberation struggle and the struggle for Socialism in Ireland. The disagreement centered around the Party's policy on the National Question which the people



IMPRISONED MEMBERS OF THE I.R.S.P. both sentenced and interned in Long Kesh

this body refused to co-operate with it in the field of welfare provisions for released prisoners and detainees.

This latest ploy by the British government must be firmly opposed. N.I.R.A. received £20,000 from the Northern Ireland Office and had seven full-time field workers.

The British Government have abandoned that plan and now intend doing away with special category and, to make the pill sweeter, have decided to introduce a one half remission scheme for convicted prisoners. This plan, however, will also fail. While any remission in sentences is to be welcome one should not be blind to the obvious consequences. It is likely that stiffer sentences will be given out so that even if a political prisoner does get a half sentence remission he will in all probability serve the same amount of time incarcerated as he would now with political status — or perhaps even more. It is no answer to the

POLITICAL PRISONERS STATUS MUST STAY

whole question of repression.

The demand of political status is an important demand and must be defended. However, it is only with the complete end of repression, jailings, tortures and the misery suffered by the prisoners and their families that any headway will be made. There must be an end to all repressive legislation North and South and an amnesty for all those imprisoned because of their opposition to British imperialism whether military or otherwise. It follows that Britain must be made renounce all her claims to sovereignty over any part of this island or its territorial waters. Its local Forces of Repression (the R.U.C., R.U.C.-Reserve and the U.D.R.) must be immediately disarmed and disbanded. It is only on the completion of all these demands that there will be some hope of solving the problems of the North and the South, of which imprisonment is merely a product of those problems.

target - £200
FUND
to date £8

THE STARRY PLOUGH HAS OPENED A PRISONERS WELFARE FUND to support the families of I.R.S.P. internees and political prisoner. We have set a target of £200 which is urgently needed. You can support this fund by donations, however small, or by buying prisoners handicrafts, leather wallets £3.00, coloured wooden plaques £1.00 and leather handbags £15.00.

If you require your name or any special messages on any of these items it can be arranged at no extra cost. There is also a need for books, leather and other items. If you think you can help in any way contact: THE STARRY PLOUGH PRISONERS WELFARE FUND C/O 1a ESSEX GATE, DUBLIN 8 OR PHONE 770295.

resignations

who defected refused to accept. This led to their accusation that "the I.R.S.P. have retreated to traditional republicanism". On this point the I.R.S.P. see the solving of the National Question as an integral part of the struggle for Socialism and we do not view the struggle for National Liberation as a mere means of gaining support for the economic struggle of the working class. Specific resolutions on this question were put forward by these people at our Ard Fheis and defeated. Since that time the internal democratic processes of the Party were not availed of by these people. The political dishonesty of the people who resigned is reflected in their denouncements of the Party's programme as "objectively indistinguishable from either wing of the Rep-

ublican Movement". This statement is proof to us that these people joined the I.R.S.P. on a politically dishonest basis.

2. The refusal of the resigned members to accept Party policy on the building of a genuine broad front based on the Party's demands on the national question and repression. This led to repeated efforts on their behalf to have the I.R.S.P. publicly identify itself with a certain section or bloc of the "left" in Ireland, the results of which would have been total failure in our attempts to establish a genuine broad front. We reject allegations that "sections" of the leadership were engaged in internal manipulation, unless of course these people view the

adherence by the majority of the Ard Comhairle to Party policy as "manipulation".

3. Refusal to implement and work on the Party programme. On this point the I.R.S.P. is accused of having downgraded the struggle for class politics and having reverted to the so-called sterile nationalism of traditional republicanism. This statement relates to their almost complete economist approach to the Irish struggle, an approach which is completely hostile to the progressive aspects of the Republican tradition. It has become obvious that these people, while giving support to the struggle in the North, see that struggle as irrelevant to the building of Socialism in Ireland.

In conclusion the I.R.S.P. views these resignations as an attempt to destroy the credibility of our organisation and to sow confusion

LABOUR PARTY

November saw the biggest Labour Party conference ever. The growth in Party membership is not a reflection of the political activity of the Party but is related to the participation of Labour in the Coalition Government and the resultant advantages of Labour in the Coalition bourgeois parties in power enjoy.

THE CONFERENCE made it quite clear that come what may Labour intends to hold onto office and all the material trappings that go with it.

ONE OF THE MOST important issues "debated" at the Conference, in the context of the present situation in Ireland, was the proposed Criminal Law Jurisdiction Bill. The only people who could have been surprised that there was little opposition to Labour support for the Bill, were there on the "Left" of the Labour Party, who have always persisted with the illusion that somehow Labour can be forced back to a Socialist position. One of the delegates speaking in opposition to the Criminal Law Jurisdiction Bill quite rightly pointed out that this Bill and all repressive legislation would eventually be used against the working class. Even the fact that the Forcible Entry Act was used against Labour Party members didn't deter the Labour Party leadership in their support of the Bill. This is not surprising when one considers that the Labour Party is on record as opposing the Offences Against the State Act yet they continually allow its use.

THE GENUINE LEFT of the Labour Party have two alternatives now. They can remain in the Party and continue to organise to fight the

abandons socialist pretence

leadership (they must realise by now that their effect on the leadership is as minute as that of a flea bite) OR they can get out of the Labour Party and work towards the building of a real socialist organisation.

ANOTHER IMPORTANT ASPECT of the Conference was the open boasting by Labour ministers, who were attempting to fool delegates and the public, that Labour were having a great effect on the ministries they hold i.e. Health, Industry & Commerce, Post & Telegraphs. They completely ignored the fact that Ireland has the highest rate of rising prices in Europe (24% for the first half of 1975 compared with 6.1% for West Germany).

THE MESSENGER BOY, Brendan Corish, in his address to the conference pointed out the role the Labour Party will play in the coming period when the economic crisis is expected to become more acute. In speaking of coming budgets and making reference to how severe they will be, Corish compared them to war time budgets. He also spelt out quite clearly that Labour will be used by the Government to dampen down any

resultant opposition from the Trade Union Movement when the government introduce "new economic measures to offset inflation".

IT CAN BE SAFELY SAID that if Labour was not in government we would have seen the Trade Union Movement becoming actively involved in the fight against the attacks on the living standards of workers by now. It is equally true that we would have seen the unemployed taking to the streets.

THE LABOUR PARTY MOVED RIGHT when they first sat down with Fine Gael to form the government. It is said that the Normans in time became more Irish than the Irish themselves. It can be equally said that the Labour Party have become more "respectable" than "respectable" Fine Gael in three short years by shedding the brand of "socialism" that existed in the Labour Party.

on the Coalition was not allowed and where the microphone had the uncanny "habit" of breaking down whenever a delegate opposed the leadership.

NO DOUBT OTHER LEFT ORGANISATIONS WILL ATTEMPT TO FILL THE VACUUM LEFT BY THE LABOUR PARTY. BUT IF IT IS DONE ON THE BASIS OF AN INCORRECT UNDERSTANDING OF THE NATURE OF IMPERIALISM IN IRELAND, THE LEADERSHIP OF THE WORKING CLASS WILL ONCE AGAIN FALL INTO THE HANDS OF SOCIAL DEMOCRATS.

Members of Dublin Comhairle Ceannair of the I.R.S.P. picketed the Labour Party Annual Conference that was held in Dunlaoire in protest at the Coalition's support of the Criminal Law Jurisdiction Bill.

over 150 attended a social in Carlow town held by the Carlow Comhairle Ceannair, where Seamus Costello, guest speaker, spoke of the formation of the I.R.S.P., its aims and its present activities.

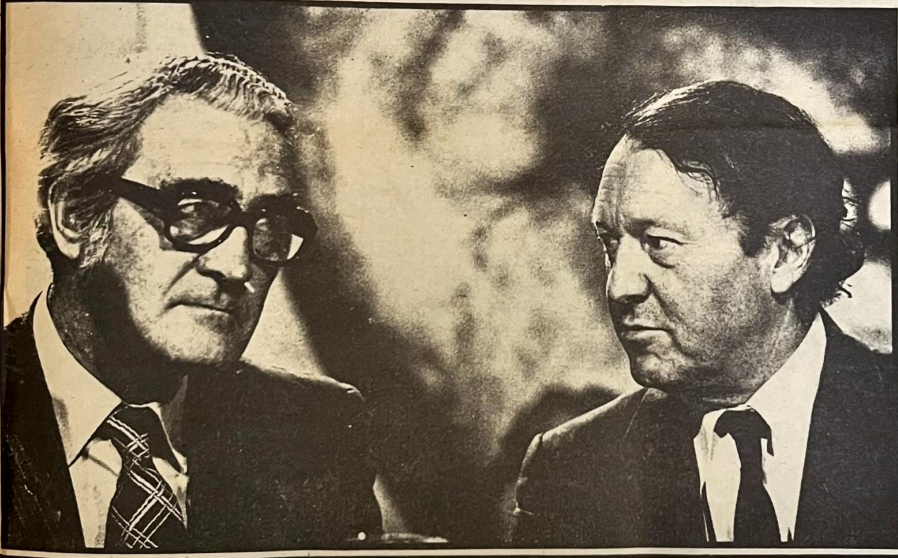
BESIDES BEING DISILLUSIONED with Labour policy and loss of identity, the left within the Labour Party will have been disgusted by the rigged conference where discussion

unemployed must organise

The only business booming in Dunlaoire is the Civil Service as they are opening another office to deal with the ever increasing unemployment in that area which now stands at well over 2,500. The local I.R.S.P. cumann, the Markievicz Cumann, has leafleted the Labour Exchange pointing out that something can be done about unemployment in the short term and the long term. The leaflet besides giving accurate information regarding the effects of the Free Trade Agreement and the E.E.C. on local industry also points out correctly that capitalism cannot guarantee the right to work for the people of Dunlaoire.

The leaflet continues with the suggestion that unemployed workers committees should be formed demanding amongst other things withdrawal from the E.E.C., that a carming and processing industry be established locally, that the local Corporation build its own houses using local labour and carry out necessary repairs to local authority houses in the Dunlaoire area. Such a plan would not only alleviate local unemployment but also alleviate the chronic housing shortage in the Borough where there are over 2,000 homeless families.

The leaflet suggests that such local industries could be financed by the full use of the native resources and skills of the people by the nationalisation of all our mineral resources, and by the implementation of the I.C.T.U.'s plan for a £200 government investment in housing and public works.



officials sell out internees

■ Prior to the local elections of 1973 the Northern Ireland Civil Rights Organisation asked various groups to sign a people's pledge, i.e. to refrain from taking any seats in any administrative position in the North until internment was ended. The S.D.L.P. refused to sign this and during the Assembly, from Cabinet positions, began to prosecute those who were on rent and rates strike (another part of the anti-internment campaign). The Communist Party of Ireland candidates also refused to sign the pledge despite the fact that C.P.I. Executive members of N.I.C.R.A. did sign it as did the Officials.

The decision by the Official Republican Movement that all their Councillors are to start attending council meetings in the North is nothing short of a sell out of the internees and all those on rent and rates strike

At the last Officials Ard Fheis a resolution was passed instructing all northern Sinn Fein councillors to take their seats but had to be postponed due to opposition from the rank and file. Now, however Official Sinn Fein councillors are to take their seats.

The Officials explain this away by stating that the People's Pledge is obsolete since they are the only organisation sticking to it (forgetting that the Provos have boycotted all elections in opposition to internment as have the I.R.S.P.) They state, tongue in cheek, that the N.I.C.R.A. has recinded the People's Pledge and that they are therefore not bound by any such pledge. What they are neglecting to mention is that the Executive of

N.I.C.R.A. is mainly controlled by the Officials themselves and the Communist Party of Ireland i.e. N.I.C.R.A. is only rubber stamping the Officials decision. N.I.C.R.A.'s decision in no way justifies breaking a promise to the electorate by all those Official S.F. councillors that they would not take their seats until internment ended. Indeed when the S.D.L.P. took their seats the Officials were quick to condemn their opportunism. It seems impossible that their decision will go down well with either their own members, particularly in the North, or their electorate. This S.D.L.P.-type mentality by the Officials exposes their attitude to the whole question of internment.



courtesy of Connacht Tribune.

GALWAY — victimisation

FROM MANY ASPECTS the strike at the Crown factory in Galway, now in its tenth month, is the most serious of all. In this case a small handful of renegade workers have allowed themselves to be used by the management in its attempt to attack, discredit and break the militancy of loyal trade union members in that factory. This case was highlighted recently when the management announced that Crowns

would close within one week unless the strike ended. This was followed immediately by a stab-in-the-back injunction brought against the strikers by the 40 or so scabs who have been passing the pickets since the strike began. The Courts ruled that the scabs were correct, that nowhere in the unions rules did it give the Galway District Committee of the A.U.E.W. the power to call an all-out official strike. It is not surprising that the state backs the scabs who are in turn being used by the management to break

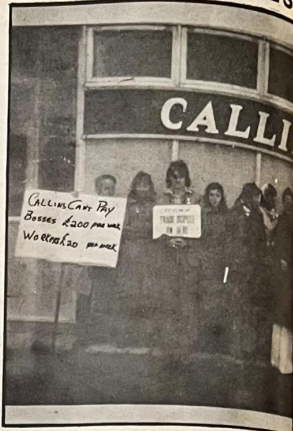
this strike.

However, Mr. Frank Callaghan, District Secretary of Southern Ireland (A.U.E.W.) told the Starry Plough that "the strike goes on". As far as the union was concerned the Galway District Committee had the right to call an all-out official picket in the case of victimisation of a shop steward. The management claim that the shop steward was sacked for using bad language but the unions see it as victimisation of the shop steward because of his militant representations in the past on behalf of union members. The union want his immediate re-instatement.

"Despite the opinion of the learned gentlemen in the courts it is an official dispute. We cannot change that. All out pickets will continue to be carried by the strikers", said Mr. Callaghan. W.I. asked what the Unions reaction would be to attempts by the Courts to enforce its decision Mr. Callaghan said that such an action would be resisted and that it could have serious repercussions from the Trade Union movement as a whole, throughout the country.

About 123 workers are employed in Crown Control. 83 are supporting the strike while only 40 are scabbing, passing pickets and working with the management. The strike began on February 7th 1975. The strikers are getting wide support from the Trade Union Movement and the general public, both financially and otherwise.

limerick — WAGES



The strike at Callins International, an American firm at Shannon Industrial Estate, is going into its sixteenth week. Sixty six workers are involved, all members of the I.T.G.W.U. who are striking because of the refusal of the management to pay increases agreed under the National Wage Agreement.

Callins is part of a multinational company, Whitehall Corporation of the U.S.A., deeply involved in the fields of energy and mineral exploration. The Corporation has valuable contracts with the U.S. government for the rebuilding and modification of jet fighter interceptor aircraft.

Recently workers were told that the Shannon plant had sufficient orders to keep it busy until next year and that the company is anxious to take on 30 new employees. New machinery has also been installed worth about £250,000. It also turns out that the Maintenance Workers Union officially confirm that their members have received all payments under the National Wage Agreement.

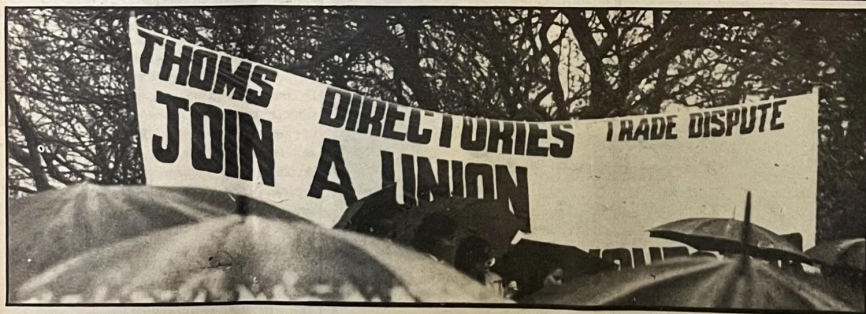
However, the management told the Labour Court that they could not pay the increases and the Labour Court ruled in its favour. The Callins workers refuse to accept this and are demanding wages due to them under the National Wage Agreement, small as it may be. The workers also claim that workers who joined the firm last year are the lowest paid in the region.

A round the clock watch has been put on the factory by the gardai following windows being broken.

The crux of the matter can be seen in the above photo. One placard reads "Bosses £200 per week — workers £20 per week". Even though the National Wage Agreement gives workers peanuts and increases the bosses profits, the 'agreement' can be broken at will by the employers. When will workers learn that National Wage Agreements suit no one but the bosses.

In the Callins case this point is brought home. This is a clear case of bosses wanting to further increase their profits at the expense of workers. Local workers should refuse to have anything to do with Callins while the strike continues, whether they belong to the same union or not. Otherwise they are helping the bosses. How can they pass the pickets or ignore the 66 workers and then go to their union meetings and vote a donation for the workers to keep them going through the strike. Such an attitude doesn't make sense.

strike!



DUBLIN — union recognition

FOR FOUR MONTHS nine young women have been picketing their former workplace because their boss refused to recognise their union. It's not that they were particularly militant workers (their weekly wages ranged from £18 to £26 per week) but when they saw their fellow workers being sacked and replaced by workers who received lower wages they knew that the same could happen to them. As the strike enters its fifth month the girls continue their picketing undeterred that three of the girls had to get work due to financial pressures.

EVIDENCE as to who is wrong is clearly pointed at the employer. The employer, Mr. J. L. Wooton of Thom's Directories in Merrion Square, Dublin, claimed that he was winding up his business (but only after the whole question of union membership arose). Since then he has been employing scab-labour in place of the sacked girls. After a mass of union correspondence between the unions, the employer, the F.U.E. and the Labour Court, all that has emerged is that it is a clear case of victimisation of workers.

OVER 500 workers supported a solidarity march through Dublin in the pouring rain, demanding that the employer be forced to re-employ the girls. Failure to do so means that the state recinds the right of the individual to join a trade union. The trade union movement and indeed all socialist and republican groups must support these girls and follow the old trade union,

slogan of AN INJURY TO ONE IS THE CONCERN OF ALL. Furthermore if the present pressure being exerted by the unions through normal channels are seen to have no effect it will perhaps spur them on to more militant action. In conclusion this strike highlights the unpublished oppression of women in International Womens Year and is merely one small aspect of the struggle for the complete emancipation of women, an emancipation that will only come about through a 32 county Socialist Republic.

Since the above was written it was announced that the strike was over as the employer had recognised the union. However when I passed Thom's today they were still picketing outside. They told me they had been locked out as the employer said "there's no supervisory or and no work". He handed two girls redundancy forms and told the others that they would be compensated!

THE BASQUES

GENERAL FRANCO IS DEAD and it now is only a matter of time before his regime finally crumbles. When it does, much of the credit will belong to the Basque people for their long resistance to Fascism and colonialism. After Franco's victory in the civil war, the Spanish police and army launched an all out campaign to smash Basque resistance and national identity. Thousands were arrested and shot, thousands of others had to flee to France, the teaching of Basque in schools was prohibited, and the Guardia Civil even systematically destroyed gravestones with Basque inscriptions. There were two reasons for this, firstly the Spanish state had been trying to colonise the Basque country since the 16th century, secondly the Basque country was the most industrialised area of the Spanish state and the Franco regime would be unstable so long as the Basque country was struggling for its national identity.

THE 1950s saw a gradual revival of the Bourgeois Basque National Party, from which the E.T.A. originated. In 1961, the newly formed E.T.A. began military operations and quickly won massive popular support. Throughout the 40s and 50s, Franco had pursued a policy of economic nationalism. But a powerful group of Spanish capitalists wanted closer integration with the E.E.C. and foreign investment. The Franco regime increasingly found itself in a vicious circle. In order to strengthen its economy, it needed foreign investment, and in order to get this foreign investment, it granted a few mild reforms, but these reforms encouraged strikes and demonstrations which in turn weakened the regime. The growth of the E.T.A. was paralleled by the growth of resistance in factories and universities. At the same time, the E.T.A. cultural section set up a system of "Ikastolas" or underground Basque schools.

AS TIME WENT ON, the problems of the regime grew worse. In 1970,

international protests forced Franco to reprieve 6 E.T.A. men who had been condemned. The Franco regime then resorted to the use of a right-wing murder gang "The Guerillas of Christ the King". This had the advantage of terrorising the Basque people without the Spanish government being held responsible (similar to the Loyalist sectarian assassination campaign in N. Ireland). In 1973 the E.T.A. dealt a mortal blow to Franco plans to hand over power peacefully by assassinating the Prime Minister Admiral Luis Carrero Blanco. In December '74, when the E.T.A. called a general strike in the Basque country to demand the release of political prisoners more than 300,000 workers supported it. Faced with such powerful resistance the regime declared a "state of exception" in the Basque country. Over 15,000 people were arrested and nearly 30 were sentenced to death on the basis of statements given under torture. Two of these were shot by firing squads along with three Spaniards.



AN EXAMINATION OF THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE BASQUE STRUGGLE TO THE INEVITABLE DOWNFALL OF FASCISM IN SPAIN CONCLUDES OUR STUDY OF THE BASQUES

The photo shows Txiki (Juan Paredes Manot) a few hours after his execution. There were a number of people present—apart from the firing squad—and here is an explanation of how the sadistic pigs in the Civil Guard carried out the sentence.

There were six Civil Guards in the firing squad, each had two bullets. When the order was given to fire, the shooting was 'very irregular'—'like a slow machine gun' as someone described it.

The guards were shooting at their own pace, in order to prolong the agony of Txiki. Six bullets were fired into his stomach (that is not the way you normally kill someone quickly) and five 'around' the heart. One bullet went missing.

Txiki didn't die immediately and the officer in charge had to finish him off.

THE E.T.A. which is split into three groups which are working together in a broad front to achieve self-determination for the Basque country. The inevitable liberalisation which will follow Franco's death does not in any sense guarantee a total victory for the E.T.A. The far right led by the civil guard commander General Iniesta is determined to resist any move to the left. These Spanish capitalists who want to join the E.E.C. are determined not to lose control of the Basque industrial resources. Even some sections of the Spanish socialist party will oppose self-determination for the Basque.

IN AN INTERVIEW given a few months ago an E.T.A. leader explained "When Franco dies, we will possibly witness a democratic opening up, we are conscious of this. In such a situation, we shall loosen our armed struggle to concentrate on mass struggle, but mass struggle will inevitable reach a ceiling. I mean that

class struggle will necessarily go through a phase of armed struggle to further our final objective, socialism and the independence of Euskadi".

In the immediate future, it is necessary that the Basques work with other left wing forces in Spain without compromising their right to national independence. It is equally necessary that the Spanish left unconditionally recognise the right of the Basques to self-determination.



SUPPORT THEM NOW!

Support Irish Republican Socialist Party political prisoners and internees by supporting their families.



The West German Ireland Solidarity Committee report they had tremendous success at their exhibition in Paris at the Fete Rouge. Over 150,000 people from France and all over the world attended the October Fete. The Solidarity Committee report they distributed over 10,000 leaflets in French and sold a colossal amount of literature and records concerning the Irish struggle for National Liberation and Socialism.

They also participated in lengthy discussions with Portuguese soldiers belonging to Soldiers United Will Win, Basques E.T.A. members and patriots from Argentina and Brittany concerning the Irish struggle.

The successful exhibition in Paris on the Irish struggle.

A new committee has been formed in Amsterdam to support and inform the Dutch people of the Irish struggle for National Liberation and Socialism. The Amsterdam Committee has not been formed to support any particular group involved in the Irish struggle but (as is I.R.S.P. policy) to unite as many groups and individuals as possible in supporting the Irish people. Such committees are invaluable in countering British and Free State propaganda in Europe.

SMALL FARMERS & C.A.P

PRIOR TO IRELAND'S ENTRY INTO THE EEC Republicans and Socialists warned that entry would prove disastrous to Irish small farmers. The Mansholt Plan it was said, would lead to the elimination of small farmers and would result in the creation of more and more ranchers.

When these warnings were given, the representatives of the big farmers said that the Mansholt Plan would not be implemented in Ireland should we enter the E.E.C. They were technically correct. Today it is not the Mansholt Plan that threatens the livelihood of small farmers but the Common Agricultural Policy (C.A.P.) This policy is supposedly geared to modernise farming.

THE CHIEF EFFECTS OF THE C.A.P. policy is to cut down on the number of small farms and increase the number of large economical holdings i.e. ranches. Small farming organisations such as the National Land League and the Small Farmers Defence Association have voiced their opposition to C.A.P. They point out that not only will the C.A.P. push more people onto the unemployment queues, increasing emigration but also destroy rural life in Ireland as it existed up to now.

THE SMALL IRISH FARMER should not be deceived by the C.A.P. policy and should realise that the Brussels Bureaucrats are not going to protect their interests. They should realise that the interests of the ranchers (organised through organisations such as the I.F.A. and backed by propaganda such as the Farmers Journal) are completely incompatible with their own interests.

IN MANY CASES small farmers have already spurned the promises of the I.F.A. (e.g. Co. Mayo) and have joined organisations such as the Small Farmers Defence Association and the National Land League. However a great deal remains to be done.

Initially farmers should reject the ranchers organisations and join organisations that stand for the interests of small farmers. They should also actively campaign for a withdrawal from the E.E.C. and the scrapping of the Common Agricultural Policy. However, in the long term the only lasting answer for small farmers is a socialist republic that can guarantee them the full use of the land for the benefit of the Irish people as a whole and a decent standard of living for Irish small farmers.

Twelve hundred workers from Verolme Dockyards in Cork marched through Cork City in protest against the Government decision allowing Irish Shipping Ltd., to place an order worth £11.2 million for two ships with a Japanese shipyard. They were also protesting about the cancellation of two further orders.

The workers claimed that unless Verolme received more orders the first redundancies would be felt in October next.

"The hypocritical attitude of the Government in allowing this order at a time when £1.5m is being spent per suading us to "Buy Irish" is incomprehensible. When the Minister for Transport and Power next exhorts us to buy Irish we will be in an unique position to judge the sincerity of the concern for Irish workers' jobs. We wonder if the Minister really understands that there is an employment problem.

"Furthermore the recent announcement that the Minister for Industry and Commerce was successfully restoring a trade imbalance with Japan by securing orders for £225,000 worth of exports to Japan, now looks less impressive when compared with £11.5 million worth of ships we intend to import from that country.

"The Minister for Transport and Power has made a statement in the Dail on Wednesday, November 19th, 1975, excusing the action of buying Japanese. We reject this excuse. If the mandate given to a State shipping company is to operate only on commercial considerations, then those who give this mandate can change it if there is the political will to do so. If Irish Shipping cannot or will not acknowledge any social or community responsibilities, the same can hardly be the case with the responsible Ministers of State who control this State shipping company.

"In the interests of avoiding redundancy of Irish workers, we call on you as Head of Government to take immediate steps to cancel the order for ships to be built in the Japanese yard, and to ensure the placing of these four new building orders in Irish shipyards."

The letter was signed by eight shop stewards and workers' representatives.

DOCKYARDS SLAM GOV.



another 1,000 shipbuilders for dole

THE STARRY PLOUGH CAN BE CONTACTED AT 1a ESSEX GATE, DUBLIN 8, OR BY PHONING 770295. WE WELCOME NEWS, VIEWS AND COMMENTS.

WE WOULD LIKE TO WISH ALL OUR READERS A HAPPY XMAS.

Harland & Wolfe shipbuilding workers face a bleak Christmas as the British Government plan to send them to the dole queues. The scheme, according to a spokesman from the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions, entails making every worker over the age of 65 redundant.

The Unions in fact say that there is a shortage of workers, particularly in the steelwork sections. A protest by all the 40,000 engineering and shipbuilding workers in the North has been planned by way of a stoppage, protest march and meeting in the Belfast city centre.

At present unemployment in the North is running over the 5,000 figure as Northern workers bear the brunt of a crisis brought on by capitalism.

I.R.S.P. 1yr. old

THE IRISH REPUBLICAN SOCIALIST PARTY celebrates its first anniversary on December 8th. Since its formation the I.R.S.P. has been steadily growing, has opened a head office, has a monthly newspaper which is sold on a 32 County basis as well as being distributed in Europe and the United States, has participated in a European tour, and attended a seminar in the U.S. from which it received very favourable publicity. The I.R.S.P. now has branches throughout the 32 Counties.

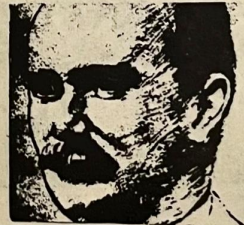
The formation of the I.R.S.P. followed mass resignations from the Official Republican Movement and had a bloody baptism when an attempt was made to annihilate its members, in Belfast, by the Official I.R.A. Repression by the British Government in the North and the Free State government in the South followed in another attempt, this time by the establishment, to destroy and discredit the I.R.S.P. Both these campaigns failed although harassment and intimidation of I.R.S.P. members and supporters continues to this day.

The I.R.S.P. correctly decided to boycott the Convention Elections in the North which, as the I.R.S.P. predicted, resulted in an overwhelming victory for the Loyalists, and mounted a campaign against it and also against EEC entry.

Since December last the I.R.S.P. has done well to remain intact in the face of such repression and much of its work has involved the organisational end of the Party and the expanding of the Party, with remarkable success. It has also as a priority been attempting to create a climate of opinion that would favour the formation of a genuinely broad front which in itself would be a tremendous contribution to the struggle. I.R.S.P. has been to the forefront in opposition to repressive legislation through a series of public meetings throughout the country. The I.R.S.P. has also been involved at local level in strikes, agitation against internment, protests in favour of the nationalisation of our mineral resources and inland waters, the prevention of evictions, etc.

After only one year the I.R.S.P. has become a major political party & has been registered as a political party. It has become a headache for the British Government and its puppet Free State government. It is the only political party in Ireland that has managed to entwine the National Question with the Class Question and that can successfully do something about it. The I.R.S.P. faces the struggle for national liberation and socialism with renewed vigour and strength.

JOIN



Write or contact.

An Rúnal,
I.R.S.P.
1a Essex Gate
Dublin 8.

THE IRISH REPUBLICAN SOCIALIST PARTY

I.R.S.P.

PÁIRTÍ POBLACHTACH SOÍSIALACH NA H-ÉIREANN

The aim of the I.R.S.P. is "to end Imperialist Rule in Ireland and establish a 32 County Democratic Socialist Republic with the working class in control of the means of production, distribution and exchange.

TAR LINN!

I want to join

I want associate membership

Teastaíonn ballraíocht uaim

Teastaíonn ballraíocht taca uaim

Ainm Name _____

Seoladh Address _____