

THE STARRY PLOUGH 10p.

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE IRISH REPUBLICAN SOCIALIST PARTY.

I WAS TRAINED TO SHOOT WOUNDED

EXCLUSIVE!

SAYS EX-SOLDIER

#8

Brits loot & terrorise Turf Lodge



We want work

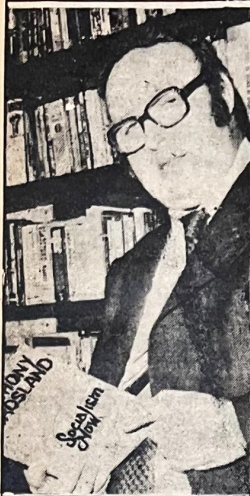


225,000
Unemployed

see page 5

THEY FRAMED & TORTURED MY HUSBAND

EXCLUSIVE!



SDLP IN CHAOS

The present chaos of the SDLP is not surprising if one takes even a cursory glance at its history. The SDLP was set up as an alliance: There were three strands: the Civil Rights and the Liberals of the NDP, Belfast Workers; and rural and West of the Bann Nationalists — the last in the least position. They were brought together in Holy Matrimony by Maurice Foley, a Labour MP who is closely connected with British Intelligence, for which he was responsible as a Minister, he is also a trustee of the Ariel Foundation, which finances research and various projects to end "conflict", i.e. anti-imperialist struggle. They were heavily financed for years by the Joseph Rowntree Memorial Social Services Trust, whose administrator was Mr. Patrap (now Lord) Chitnis, an Indian, who had formerly been prominent in the Liberal Party in England.

The SDLP is now being dropped by these sponsors because they accepted the impossible terms within which British and Loyalist interests demanded that the "conflict" be seen. It is ironic indeed to hear Gerry Fitt coming out with phrases like "We are a legal political party" after SDLP papers were seized and held at a military road-block. He also in his bluster called for a search for subversive literature in the offices of the Loyalists with whom he has been busily trying to share power for the past three years.

Unlike the other workrister, Paddy Devlin, Fitt has decided to play the green card for the expected Westminster general election. The Irish dimension, he said, will always be part of the SDLP's policy. Once, of course, it was a "Council of Ireland with teeth"! This disappeared after the Loyalist lock-out. Power-sharing with "members of the minority tradition" has since become the upper limit of SDLP operations.

Paddy Devlin recently publicly abandoned even that minute concession to the demand for Irish self-government. He also recently made himself very unpopular by supporting loyalist counselors on the Belfast Corporation in refusing to sign the guarantee of "employment asked for by

A SOCIALIST VIEW OF THE ECONOMY

We continue our column on a Socialist view of the Economy and in Part Two deal with INDUSTRY

Ireland faced the twentieth century with a deformed economy that was riddled with paradoxes and bristling with contradictions. Though agriculture was overwhelmingly its most important industry, farming was organised exclusively on free enterprise lines which meant that output was dominated by conditions in the world market. This was in turn dictated by the demands of England which was the dominant food-importing country at the time. There was concentration on the product which maximised the profits of the rancher and landlord class — live store cattle. These were exported on the hoof. Their production was most economical in the use of labour which was abundant and unemployed in Ireland. The profits were concentrated in the hands of a small number of ageing families who neither generated demand nor re-invested in the land nor spent on consumption or services.

It took the whole effort that was put into the co-operative industry and the backing which it was given by successive governments to save the butter and bacon making sectors of the food processing industry from extinction. Apart from the brewing and distilling industries, which were capital-intensive, labour-saving, highly profitable industries and biscuit factories in Belfast and Dublin no industrial employment was generated by processing Irish agricultural output.

Further because of the structure of agricultural industry the price of food was high in Ireland which meant that wages had to be high if workers were to enjoy a human standard of living. This in turn meant that in the free competitive market which Ireland was, Irish manufactures could be under-sold by British and foreign competitors. The Irish cotton industry was as technologically developed and enjoyed proportionately as much entrepreneurial exploitation and capital investment as its British competitor. But the domestic market on which it depended shrank away partly through the pre-famine removal of protective tariffs which made imports cheaper, with consequent loss of jobs. The political integration of Ireland in the United Kingdom under the Act of Union finally impoverished the rural population and destroyed

domestic demand for anything. Finally the disaster of the potato blight was allowed to run its course which resulted in a million deaths from hunger and deprivation, and two million emigrating within five years. This meant the erosion of the domestic market for all Irish manufacturers as an aging, dwindling population generates little demand. The rates policy of the Irish Railway companies favoured British manufactures. It was cheaper for instance to send bread or biscuits from British centres to remote parts of the Irish countryside than from Irish provincial towns to their hinterland.

KANGEROO COURT IN CRUMLIN ROAD GAOL

On 14 September 1976 Ciaran Nugent a young man of 19 from the falls resisted the attempts of prison warders to dress him in the prison clothes and sent out the defiant message "They will have to nail the prison clothes to my back before I will submit." Since then he has been joined by 180 comrades, Connolly Brady from Derry in spite of sustained beatings from warders led the IRSP members and supporters in the protest, whilst in Crumlin Road, Gerry Dowdall has despite his massive injuries contested every step in protracted attempts to "criminalise" him and the other Republican and Socialist prisoners of War in A Wing, who are still on remand.

Gerry Dowdall set an example the Prisoners of War of this campaign by escaping from Crumlin Road when on remand in 1972. This marked him out for special vengeance when he was moved to Crumlin Road from Musgrave Park hospital in April of this year. Though he was a remand prisoner who had never been sentenced he was denied association except with notorious habitual prisoners.

During a raid of A wing on

In Belfast and its hinterland the linen industry modernised and relocated itself mainly on sites proximate to convenient transport. It changed from being a domestic industry in the 1820's to a factory based industry by the 1860's which was its greatest period of growth in the nineteenth century. Employment was 70% female and already by the turn of the century it was suffering from the failure of world demand which was to lead to heavy unemployment in the 1920's and its virtual extinction in the 1950's.

Engineering took firm root in Belfast in the early decades of the nineteenth century and continued to grow first to supply and service machines in the cotton and linen industry which located in Belfast. This was mainly because of the free availability of a free suitable deep-water-front site on Queen's Island. The Northern industries were export-oriented and increasingly used imported inputs with the result that there was little spin-off industrial growth generated by their success outside the immediate hinterland of Belfast the only in Ireland which experienced a modern industrial growth rate in the nineteenth century. The successful northern bourgeoisie allied with the landlord class to act as colonial agents in Ireland. Protestantism equated its interests with imperialism as the century advanced and became more fundamentalist and bigoted in its relations with Roman Catholics. Belfast replaced Dublin as the scene of Orange/Green riots and discrimination. Sectarianism was licensed as a means of distracting the workers from concentration on their class and anti-imperialist interests. The British imperialist government systematically built up the social role and authority of the Catholic

church as a bulwark against revolutionary and liberal ideas.

When Ireland was partitioned in 1920 only 13% of the workforce in the 26 counties were engaged in manufacturing industry and about 26% in the 6 counties. In the Free State emigration was the great social problem; in Northern Ireland unemployment. The only significant change to the pattern of stagnation in the 6 counties in the inter-war years was the total failure of demand for ships and linen which led to almost total unemployment in these industries in the 1930's.

Between 1932 and 1938 Fianna Fail under Eamonn De Valera made a systematic attempt to exploit the hard-won autonomy of the Free State, in the matter of taxes and tariffs, to build a broader industrial base and to ensure Irish control of as many businesses as possible. Further experiments were made to use State capital to build enterprises which either required large capital investment such as Bord na Mona or were areas neglected by private investors such as the Industrial Credit Company. The result was that many new capitalists emerged with a nationalist or even pseudo-Republican background who accumulated small fortunes and also had a certain political power in the new state. New industries were established such as motor-car assembly or bicycle manufacture or old ones were strengthened such as boot and shoe manufacture or the furniture workshops. But the Irish remained on a par with sterling, the Bank of England continued to dictate Irish financial and monetary policy and British imperialism engaged in an all out economic war to smash the 26 counties and teach DeValera a lesson. The motive behind Britain's xenophobic reaction was to ensure that its supplies of cheap food and labour and the ready market for British manufactured goods was kept open. When the World War 2 ended this policy of stifling the Irish economy was resumed. The 26 counties were effectively robbed of payment at a realistic price for its massive food and labour exports to the United Kingdom during the forties through being paid in sterling, and the freezing of Ireland's sterling assets.

Next Issue Part 3: Monetary and Financial Policy.

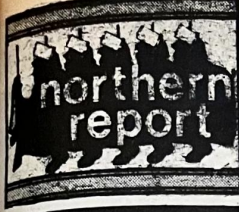


Wednesday 6th July his property and cell was wrecked. (see letter in page seven).

Dowdall told the Prison officer in charge that he was taking a legal action against him for assault. He also complained to the Principal Officer, the Assistant Governor and finally to the Governor. The Governor, instead of showing concern or disciplining his men accused Dowdall of issuing false and malicious allegations against a prison officer. He then "tried" him, found him guilty and sentenced him in what was no more than a 'Kangaroo Court'. He was sentenced to One Month's loss of association for not making his bed (night exercise), and One Month's loss of access to the Tuck Shop, food parcels and privileges. For the so-called "false allegations" he lost a further two months of association. This means in all he has been deprived of night exercise from 11th July 1977 until 10th October 1977. It must be further observed that in view of the massive surgery that Gerry Dowdall underwent in April and the fact that his wounds are still healing this will have an irreversible long-term ill-effect on his health.

PRESS RELEASE FROM BELFAST EXECUTIVE IRISH REPUBLICAN SOCIALIST PARTY.

The American government has now indicated publicly that it no longer pretends to see the six county struggle as a purely internal British problem. The World Banker is publicly revealing that it regards Britain's role in Ireland as a political and military police role for international capitalism. Perhaps this is what is meant by the Irish National Caucus and Ruairi O Braidigh President of Provisional Sinn Fein when they welcome the "internationalisation" of the issue. But in this case the internationalisation has taken a disastrous form — the confirmation of the existence of an entity "Northern Ireland", and the confining of the issue to the condemnation of "violence" and the search for agreed government within "Northern Ireland".



ORGY OF VIOLENCE

The Marine Commandos came in from the Monagh roundabout entrance and then from the other end of Turf Lodge only to be met by bin bashing, whistling and stones from youths and women of the area. These were baton charged and eyewitnesses saw women and children being beaten by riflebutts. Then British troops began their orgy of violence and looting, arresting anyone in sight and beating them senseless on the way to Fort Monagh and Castle-reagh where the treatment was continued before they were released without charge. Up to twenty people were taken to the Royal Victoria Hospital.



BRUTALITY IN LONG KESH

The struggle for the retention of political status continues in the Northern nationalist ghettos where the people, particularly relatives and political groups, see the importance of firmly establishing that a national liberation struggle is being waged. Meanwhile the brutality in the H-Blocks continues.

POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE

Instead the repression in Armagh Jail and Long Kesh against all prisoners, and, particularly those demanding political status, continues. Confined naked to their cells except for blankets or towels, deprived of reading materials, visits and letters, and little or no recreation, the courageous prisoners continue to demand the right to be recognised as having been jailed because of their political aspirations. Irrespective of random assaults and beatings by prison officers and the torture of strip lighting that will eventually make them blind, they struggle on. On the outside, ignored by the media and harassed by the Brits, the relatives, friends and politically aware demonstrate their support.

their demands. They insist on their implementations because they recognise that the struggle for national liberation and socialism is political and correct and not, as the Brits try to make out, merely gang warfare by criminals.

Any attempt by British Imperialism and its native agents to falsify the struggle and the reasons for it, should be opposed and exposed by none more than an attempt to portray the entire struggle as that of criminals, defaming the entire nationalist ghetto population, its political activists and the very principle of self determination for the Irish people.

MOUNTJOY

Meanwhile in Mountjoy prison solitary confinement is being used to punish prisoners who demonstrated inside the Prison in July. Reports indicate over 20 prisoners are confined to their cells 23 hours a day.

Despite the inclusion of an article in the Geneva Convention stating that those engaged in guerrilla warfare should be, when captured, granted prisoner-of-war status, the British government and the Northern Ireland Office continue to refuse to do so and are escalating their propaganda campaign to falsely imply that the struggle is one between non-political criminals and the 'security forces'. Part of this campaign is the withdrawal of special category status. This special status was seen by the insurgent population as being tantamount to granting political status which it never was. Special category status was a con and many fell for it. It should never have been accepted in place of full political status.

The prisoners should be supported not only because of their suffering but because their demands have a deep political significance. Life would be much easier for them if they abandoned

MAY: Three members of the Front attend meetings in Birmingham, Manchester, Liverpool, Enfield, London, and other cities in Britain. Interviewed by all the socialist papers and political magazines. Tour highly successful. External Secretary accepts invitations to participate in extended tour in October.

JUNE: External Secretary addresses first session of Open Troops Out Conference attended by 400 delegates in London. . . joins Grunwick picket line in solidarity. Front pickets schools in Derry on the 25th, anniversary of Queen Elizabeth's coronation against closure. Many teachers support their action.

JULY: Irish Front exposes methods of torture at various RUC holding stations. Plans are drawn up for visit of Queen Elizabeth of England. RUC officers visit Front leaders requesting that they comply with the Public Order Act. No forms are completed, and no 'permission' sought.

AUGUST: Derry Troops Out Group receive replies from British MPs on the invitation extended to them to visit the north. MPs annoyed at Labour-Unionist 'deal' at Westminster. Plans going ahead to bring MPs over in late October. 12,000 demonstrate against the visit of Elizabeth II. Police block Derry Walls and refuse entry into Derry Diamond. Rioting breaks out and lasts three days. Over 40 arrests. Front leader struck by plastic bullet. Street play performed in Waterloo Square followed by a political status meeting organised by Sinn Fein.

SEPTEMBER: More MPs write to Troops Out Group. Irish Front External Secretary addresses meetings organised by the Irish Defence League in Glasgow and Edinburgh. Letter sent to British socialist groupings on the question of the Labour-Unionist 'deal' to extend representation from 12 to 20 seats at Westminster.

UNITY IS STRENGTH!!!

TROOP OF BRITAIN PLANNED

From the 10th until the 16th September, Affairs Secretary will be in Scotland, addressing meetings in Glasgow and Edinburgh. On October 6th two representatives will address a meeting at Middlesex Polytechnic, Enfield, near London, and in the following week will address other meetings in the Greater London area. Prior to the October 6th meeting, the speakers will address gatherings in the north and midlands, but since the full programme of meetings has not yet been finally drafted invitations from British organisations would be most welcome.

Gerry Fitt is angry

It was amusing to hear Gerry Fitt complaining about the seizing of SDLP documents at a Road block in Co. Tyrone by the British Army and the arrest of various delegates on their way to a conference in Dungannon. "This says very little for the democratic process in this country. The SDLP is a legitimate political party and I see no reason why its members should be harassed in this way. I am very angry," said Fitt.

We have been trying to tell him that this is not a democratic country for many years and the treatment his delegates got is part of the DAILY treatment meted out to members of the IRSP and the general (nationalist) public in the North. At least Gerry got his documents back and the delegates were released. Other people are less fortunate and have to suffer seven days of torture in Castlereagh only to be jailed for years on trumped up charges, besides having their homes looted and vandalised and relatives harassed.

Brits loot and terrorise Turf Lodge

Belfast's Turf Lodge, which has solidly resisted British presence in its area, has been subjected to British terror on a scale not seen in Belfast for some time. British troops saturated the area following the Queen's visit in August, raiding and ransacking houses, beating the occupants, irrespective of sex or age and stealing anything of value. Numerous arrests were made and those arrested were taken to Fort Monagh and Castle-reagh where they were severely beaten. One victim described Fort Monagh as an "abattoir" with blood splashed on walls and in pools on the ground.

Happy birthday Irish Front

Towards the end of September 1976 a series of discussion type meetings began between the various anti-imperialist groups in Derry City, which were to end in the creation of an organisation called the Irish Front. In many ways this was an outstanding achievement in that at long last political activists began to realise that undue emphasis on differences was not only divisive, but a great weakness at a time of imperialist aggression.

The aim of those taking part in the discussions was to establish what aspects on which could be built unity, and what organisational form this new found unity would take. After some weeks demands were adopted as the platform for struggle. These demands are: 1) An end to torture, harassment and intimidation, 2) Full support for the political status campaign leading to a general amnesty for all political prisoners, 3) The repatriation of Irish political prisoners in British jails, 4) The withdrawal of the British Occupation Forces, and an end to British interference in the political, cultural and economic life of Ireland. Around these demands seven organisations are now combined. These include: The Republican Movement, The Irish Republican Socialist Party, The Irish Nationalist Party, the Prisoners' dependants Fund (P.D.F.), The Magilligan Prisoners Welfare Committee, The Political Prisoners Action Committee and the Derry Troops Out Group.

The following is a summary of activity by the Irish Front up until early September; **JANUARY:** A document of harassment complaints was compiled and forwarded to the many cases of arrest and torture. A motion was raised in the City Council on the question of political status by IRSP member Cllr. M. Montgomery. Letters smuggled out of prisons published.

FEBRUARY: Over sixty delegates attend conference to formulate policy. Over 10,000 attend Bloody Sunday commemoration. Roads blocked, picket of 70 people at strand Rd. RUC Complex, and march to Bishop's Palace to highlight the tortures at Castle-reagh Interrogation Centre. Telegram sent to Human Rights Court in Strasbourg. Letter to Britain on torture of internees in '71 at Human Rights Court in Strasbourg. Letter to North Bishop brings sermon on physical and mental torture, and press throughout the north contact the Front for news on ill-treatment. Document on repression sent to contacts all over the world. 1,000 march on Feb. 6th in support of Irish Front demands.

MARCH: 12,000 march on St. Patrick's Day. First time National Feast Day celebrated in 25 years. March 17th marked as Prisoners Day and many messages of solidarity from America and Britain read from platform. Messages from Ireland from Sean McBride, Tom Barry and Nora Conolly O'Brien. Call for Boycott of RUC widely supported. Troops Out Movement supporters from Britain speak out for prisoners' political status campaign. One arrested. Central telephone number established to combat ever increasing repression. New headquarters opened. Allegations of torture raised at Derry Council meeting and given wide press coverage. Front blocks Blucher Street while ten army vehicles carry out raids. . . boy injured when army explode device thought to be a bomb. Demand for inquiry on gaols in 26 Cos. backed up by pickets for prisoners in extra gardai rushed to scene. Front takes up question of education for prisoners in Magilligan concentration camp. London contacts and supporters picket Irish Embassy in London in support of Portlaoise hunger strikers. Hundreds sign petition before being sent to Cooney, Minister for (In) Justice.

APRIL: Pickets against mass arrests outside RUC Strand Rd. barracks. Hundreds of leaflets distributed opposing Prevention of Terrorism Act and 7 Days detention orders. Case of Shane Paul O'Doherty in Wormwood Scrubs, highlighted by the Irish Front. Call for his repatriation together with all other prisoners. External Secretary writes to Europe, U.S. A. and Britain explaining what the Irish Front stands for. As a result several invitations for speakers during the summer are received at I.F. headquarters.

No change with Fianna Fail

Has Fianna Fail brought any real change or is it about to? These are fundamental questions that must be asked by those who voted them into power. While one must acknowledge the protest vote delivered by the electorate against the coalition, not alone on unemployment and prices but also on the North and Civil Liberties, and their view that anything was better than coalition rule, there are many who believe that Fianna Fail will in fact be different. On the surface Fianna Fail may well give that impression but fundamentally there will be little or no change in policy except that a better PRO job will be done.

On the question of unemployment it is obvious that there is little change. The same economic policies are being pursued and private enterprise is still proclaimed as the answer. The IDA will continue its policy of wasting tax payers money in wooing foreign industrialists who make their profits and leave. The government will not introduce massive government spending to provide jobs and their promised 1,600 civil service and local government jobs are merely a sop to the public and not a reversal of the coalition policy of cutting back on public spending. For instance CIE still has a ban on recruitment.

Jobs for the boys, or in many cases, cash for the boys, still continues with the revelations that the government made a secret pre-election pledge to the Dublin Gas Company that they would build a pipeline from the Kinsale field in Cork to Dublin if elected, although it will cost £70 million of tax payers money. Meanwhile Fianna Fail men have been buying up shares at 61 pence, ensuring a lucrative return.

On the question of civil liberties Fianna Fail have refused so far to repeal the Emergency Powers Act allowing seven day detention despite their many objections to the Act when in opposition. It remains to be seen whether they repeal it when it comes up for renewal this month. Before the Amnesty International call for an independent inquiry into garda brutality, the government showed themselves to be just as willing to keep the Justice Department's dirty linen in private with their cover up of the fingerprint scandal. No one has been charged with falsifying fingerprints to get convictions nor has an inquiry taken place to allow framed people their freedom. The Heavy Gang is still walking around free without fear of prosecution or even demotion.

Despite Gerry Collins' willingness to grant an imprisoned couple permission to marry and the relaxing of visiting conditions, no fundamental change has occurred in our prisons. Strip searching still continues in Portlaoise accompanied by beatings. Prisoners who refuse to be broken are being placed in solitary confinement. One man, Eamonn Sullivan has been in solitary now for six months. Visits are still a farce. Then there was the protest at Mountjoy prison by prisoners in July, and the ICRA protest in Grafton Street in August both of which were met with batons.

The issue of discrimination against women still continues with many married women being refused unemployment benefit. The Unemployed Workers Association is currently taking such a case to the High Court.

On the national question Fiann Fail have been forced to make a policy change on seeking a declaration from Britain of intent to withdraw from Ireland to appease both the public and their own nationalist members. Although since then Jack Lynch has denied the existence of such a policy. Meanwhile they continue their collaboration with British terror in the North and Britains interference in Irish affairs.

Fianna Fail know that their return to power is based mainly on the public's repugnance to the policies of the coalition government. But Fianna Fail will have to enforce the same policies as their predecessors as they share the same basic policies. Fianna Fail are thus embarked on a great public relations con to give the impression that they are basically different. History will show in the future, as it has in the past, that they are not.

EXCLUSIVE

Statement made to the Relatives Action Committee by Mrs. Gretta Fusco (a member of the RAC) 161 White Rock Road, Ballymurphy on Monday 5th September 1977, describing the events of Saturday morning 3rd September 1977.

I was in bed with my husband John and my four children aged from 6 to 1 year three months were asleep when we were awakened by the rumbling of Saracens and banging at the door. It was about half past five in the morning. We knew it was a raid so we got dressed and I looked out the window. I looked out and I saw between twenty and thirty soldiers at the door. They walked in and one of them told me to bring the children downstairs. I brought two of them into the sitting-room where my husband was and the soldier in charge made us witness his search of the men. Some of the soldiers went upstairs and John went with them. They searched the two bedrooms and the attic and lifted the floorboards on the landing.

I followed another party of soldiers out to the scullery. When they had finished searching the working kitchen I went into the sitting-room. Meantime they had brought in a gelly-sniffing dog who found nothing. About this time John came down to the sitting-room with the other two children.

Three soldiers then began to search the sitting-room. There was a knock at the door and after a few minutes one of the soldiers in the hall opened the front door. Another soldier came into the sitting-room. Most of the soldiers left their guns standing in the hall but this one had his rifle with him. He gave it to another soldier to hold while he was "searched" and went straight up the stairs. Then he ran down again and the front door banged behind him.

Another soldier called out "Bring him up here" My husband went upstairs and the next thing I heard was him calling "Gretta Come up here" I met him racing down the stairs. He was shaking with anger and shouting "The B...s have planted ammunition on me." I went mad and started shouting at all the soldiers in the sitting room.

I heard laughing and I looked out the back-window and I saw a soldier standing there laughing his head off. A soldier gave my husband the search form to sign. It was marked with F which means Find. It said no damage was caused. This was about 7.30. My husband refused to sign it.



There were damaged floorboards in the front-bedroom and on the landing and a large hole left in the floor of the bathroom/toilet which could have been very dangerous for my little children. Yet the search note said that no damage was caused to our house. It also said that the search only lasted from 6 a.m. to 6.15 a.m. whereas the soldiers were there from about 5.30 a.m. until after 7.39 a.m.

The next thing a couple of soldiers came in and one of them grabbed John and said: "I arrest you in the name of the Queen" They took him out and pushed him into the Saracen.

I wasn't told where they were taking my husband or how I could find out or what unit had searched the house or who was in charge of the search.

THEY FRAMED TORTURED MY HUSBAND

Later on I went to tell his parents and I heard from John's aunt that someone who was released after questioning in Springfield Road Police barracks had seen him and heard him being abused and threatened by the soldiers.

At about 12 mid-day someone telephoned Castlereagh Interrogation Centre for me and I heard that they admitted that John was held there under Section 10 of the Emergency Provisions Act.

I telephoned Castlereagh again on Saturday night and I was told by Castlereagh that John wouldn't be out in the near future and when I rang again I was told not to be ringing until mid-day on Sunday. I rang about one o'clock on Sunday and I was told there was no change that everything was still the same. About 1.30 a friend came in with word that John was in the Royal Victoria Hospital. I and my girl-friend got a drive straight down. He told me where John was and that he had seen him walking handcuffed in the corridor. He was then tripped up and dragged along by the hair and thrown against a wall.

I went to the Casualty Department and I saw a nurse. I asked who had treated him. Whilst I was waiting with my friend and I looked at the entries in the book and saw: John Fusco - Eye doctor came and said that he had bruises on his eyes but that he was not worried about them. He said that what he was worried about was his ear. He was a lot of help from the ear and there was a buzzing in his ears. He said that he had asked the following day that an ear specialist could be asked as he suspected a fracture of the eardrum. He said that he had asked my husband how he got the injuries and he had said that the CID or the Detectives did it. He asked him "were there any bruises on his body and he said that he hadn't examined his body." Then rang Castlereagh from the hospital and were told "circumstances haven't changed". I said "That's very funny. I'm here from the Royal Victoria Hospital and I have just been speaking to the doctor who treated him for the injuries he got from his beatings. She said "I can assure you that he got his beating here."

I rang Castlereagh again at 10 o'clock and I was told that he had been shifted to Townhall Street and charged. The family doctor refused to visit him on Sunday even though John asked for him. I told him on the phone that I had been speaking to the Casualty Officer who treated him in the Royal but he said he would only visit him on Monday and only after he had been asked to do so by John's solicitor. I told him that I wanted someone to visit him straightaway and he told him what the doctor had said in the Royal but he said there was nothing he could do about it.

I went to the Chichester Court on Monday morning and my friend and her mother and sister. When I court I saw that his right eye was swollen and his right eye was behind his right ear. There was blood all around his right eye and on his cheek. There were finger mark bruises on a throated. He seemed to be in a dazed state.

WE WANT WORK

Work is a right that is being denied to 160,000 people in the 26 Counties and another 65,000 in Northern Ireland. That makes 225,000 in all without work. Yet the Irish people have the expertise and wealth to employ the entire population if they develop the will to abandon a system that has failed them for over 200 years and if they introduce a system that ensures work for all and a higher living standard.

Naturally those who benefit from capitalism wish to retain it, irrespective of its detrimental effect on the entire nation. To divide us and sap our energies they have introduced everything from apathy to an artificial border with the inevitable bloodbath that is occurring today. The rights won after arduous struggle by workers, such as trade union and civil rights, are tolerated as long as they become no immediate threat to the capitalist class. When they do they are whittled away. Examples are plentiful; injunctions are granted against pickets, statutory wage 'agreements' are threatened, workers are arrested for striking or other forms of demonstrations, special courts are introduced.

independence

Ireland has never gained full economic independence even to the limited scale of European countries. Britain's capitalist class have always ensured they pulled the strings irrespective of who the stooges were in Stormont or Leinster House. Our economy has been built to support the quickest path to profit by the large ranchers and native capitalists on the one hand and the economic interests of British capitalists on the other.

With Ireland being offered on a silver platter to the multinationals of the world, because of the failure of the Irish capitalist class to provide work, came

the great sell-out of our mineral and sea wealth and shortly will come the abandoning of our sovereignty. Our workers have been shifted like cattle abroad to find work and this will be repeated in emigration to Europe shortly. Our land lies underdeveloped and our produce is geared towards an artificial market rather than the needs of the community.

failure

We are always told that capitalism can work but that the fault lies in its bad management. We are told alongside that lie that no other economic system works. The fact is that capitalism depends on private enterprise to survive. Everything must be developed by private enterprise although it is interested in nothing short of profit. They cut all corners, change their products, hire and fire, all in the interest of profit. Thus if they occasionally meet the needs of the community it is mere coincidence.

alternative

There is an alternative and that is socialism. In fact historians and philosophers would insist that it is inevitably the next step; just as capitalism followed feudalism so too will socialism follow capitalism. However, the change will come about like all changes, after long struggle, when the contradictions of our society are settled.



One of the greatest of these is that 225,000 people should be without work to suit the selfishness of a small class of profiteers.

neglect

Capitalism cannot meet the needs of the people because it does not set about to meet them. Its very practice ensures it steals from the people, neglects their needs and destroys everything from the land to the atmosphere.

Unemployed workers and trade unionists march on Dail Eireann in 1976. They must take to the streets again.

The coalition told us that our economic crisis was due to outside influences: the world slump, the oil crisis etc. They told us that the working class must suffer the consequences and they cut our social services and wages and inflated prices. Meanwhile they signed away economic bonanzas such as our oil and minerals could produce. Then they told us things were better but whenever we asked for more they told us they were still bad.

insincerity

Fianna Fail have replaced them and their insincerity is shown by their lies on unemployment: they claim only 111,000 are out of work. If they were to succeed (and here one must stretch the imagination) in halving their unemployment figures they would accept the remaining level of unemployment as satisfactory. Besides that, and more basically, they back private enterprise.

organise

As far as the IRSP is concerned the only good labour exchange is an empty one. Work is a right, let us demand it. Capitalism cannot provide work, socialism can. As we struggle towards socialism, demand the nationalisation of our natural resources, the massive injection of state funds into public expenditure, the harnessing of the sea's wealth and full pay whether employed or not. Demand it in your resident and tenant and community groups. Demand it in the trade union movement. And when it is accepted demand that these organisations do something concrete to force their implementation, even if it brings them into open conflict with the state, as it inevitably must.



The solicitor asked the judge to let him step out into the light to begin to ask the detective to see the bruises on John's face. The detective said he could see a red mark on his face. I was furious and shouted out that they were there plainly to be seen. I asked "Are you blind or something?" I was grabbed and pushed out of the court and as the door was closed behind me I tried it with anger and put my foot through the door.

& BRED

Later on the solicitor Oliver arranged a few minutes' talk for me with John. He told me I was roughed up by the soldiers on Springfield Road and that when I was taken to Castlereagh he was left lying in his cell for a long time at first. He was then taken to an interrogation room where there were two men. One questioned me about bullets. John said "The bullets planted them in my house" he said "Come on admit they are yours" John said "No". He asked me another question. John said: "I'm saying nothing" One man grabbed him by the throat and nearly choked him. John tried to defend himself. The other man punched on him and the two started punching and kicking me. John hit back. Two more men came in and all four of them kept on kicking and punching me on the ground. That was all he had time to say except that he made no statement or confession of any kind to the police.

He was charged with possession of 40 rounds of Armalite ammunition. I was charged with contempt of court and malicious damage to property. My friend was charged with contempt of court and assault.

FRAMED BY LONDON POLICE

The Irish Republican Socialist Party's London Organiser, Peter Grimes, has been framed by the British Special Branch under the Prevention of Terrorism Act to hinder the growth of the IRSP's Support Groups in Britain. He was charged at the beginning of September and released on £5,000 bail.

At this stage it is not possible to fully examine the extent of the frame and who was involved besides the Special Branch, but there can be no doubt that it is an attempt to prevent the IRSP from growing in Britain. This is clear from one of the conditions of bail laid down for Grimes; he is to have no further connection with the IRSP.

BRIBERY ATTEMPT FAILED BEFORE

Six uniformed policemen first arrested Peter Grimes on September 30th, 1976, after raiding his flat for firearms. None were found although Grimes was arrested following the discovery of a toy pistol left behind by his nephew. At Bethnal Green Police Station he was questioned by two Special Branch officers who asked him to spy on the IRSP in return for payment and report to them. "Will you stay in the IRSP and help us out with names, places, dates, telephone numbers and anything that could help us?" they asked. Grimes asked them "what will happen if I refuse?". He was told he could "get into a lot of trouble".

On his release Peter Grimes reported everything that had occurred to the London IRSP Support Group who made the whole affair public. . . "to protect our member from any form of intimidation. Let the police be quite clear, no amount of raids or interrogation will silence IRSP members or supporters. We are more resolved than ever to continue our work here in England and to fight for the destruction of British Imperialism in Irish affairs".

KNOW THEY WERE BEING WATCHED

The London IRSP Support Group continued their work of publicising the policies of the IRSP, selling the Starry Plough, and engaging in support work against repression in Ireland and Britain, although they were aware that their phones were being tapped, their mail read and that they were under police surveillance.

At the beginning of May they were contacted by a man who said his name was Con Mallon. He claimed to support the IRSP policies and stated he was willing to form another support group in Ramsgate, Kent. During the next month he sold copies of the Starry Plough, donated money for the dependents of prisoners in Ireland and asked for a meeting which was held in mid-July.

Amongst those who went to see 'Mallon' was Peter Grimes in his capacity as organiser. Mallon told them he was an ex-paratrooper, dishonourably discharged from the British Army for speaking out against British policy. He claimed he actually spent six months in the 'glass house' prior to his discharge. He also stated another five people were interested in joining.

Grimes then went back to London to report on the possibilities of forming another Support Group but no definite decision was reached as inquiries were still being made into Mallon's background.

ARRESTED AND CHARGED

However, at the end of August Peter Grimes was arrested at work, and taken to Bethnal Green Police Station under the Prevention of Terrorism Act where he was kept for seven days. He was constantly interrogated for periods of four hours, every three hours. His girl friend and father were also arrested and held for four days, before being released uncharged. Grimes however was charged "that between July 13th and August 26th you had information which you knew might be of material assistance in preventing acts of terrorism" and that he had not passed this on to the police.

STAY AWAY FROM IRSP

The information Grimes is alleged to have known is that Mallon in Kent or Harry Driver as the police called him, had armettes and explosives buried in his front garden! Although Grimes denied any knowledge of the find he was charged. Eventually he was granted bail with his own surety of £100 and two independent sureties of £2,500. His passport was taken, he was made sign on at a police station every evening between six and nine and forbidden contact with the IRSP.

His flat was raided and all records of IRSP meetings, financial records, letters etc. removed. The house of the treasurer and regional organiser was also raided and similar items removed.

Grime's case comes up for mention on October 14th and is expected to be remanded for another two months. It could be nearer 12 months before the actual case is heard. In other words the IRSP's national organiser in Britain is being prevented from organising for the IRSP for at least a year.

The IRSP have no doubt that Peter Grimes was framed. He was repeatedly warned that such an attempt might be made before he undertook the work of national organiser in Britain. It appears the Special Branch have gone to considerable lengths to avenge themselves since he exposed the attempted bribery in September '76. At this stage it is now known if Con Mallon, Harry Driver or whatever his real name is has been charged or whether he will 'suddenly' decide to give Queen's evidence, which would mean all charges against him would be dropped.

ACT IS REPRESSIVE

The Prevention of Terrorism Act has been responsible for the arrest of over 2,000 Irish people living in Britain although only a handful have been convicted of any offence. Numerous deportation orders have been granted under the Act. The particular section under which Grimes is charged has not been used often. Meanwhile the London IRSP Support Group state they will not be hindered in their work and intend to bring as much pressure to bear to expose this latest frame up.

A Convention was held in Philadelphia in 1787. One of the delegates was a wage earner worker or frontiersman, while the majority of people were made up of small farmers who were represented by only one delegate, who later withdrew and did not sign the draft. Thus, over 90% of the people were unrepresented in the drafting of the American Constitution, which signed by only 39 of the 55 delegates. It must also be mentioned here that the framers of the Constitution wanted

DUBLIN FRAME-UP
In Dublin, four IRSP members will appear in court on September 20th to hear if a date has been set for their trial, a trial they have been demanding for the last few months. Their case follows the arrest of over 40 IRSP members and supporters in May 1976 following a train robbery. Four of them were severely injured. Six were eventually charged with the robbery after four had made statements dictated by police following days of torture. Two months later the case having been thrown out of court, four of the original six were rearrested and re-charged. All claim their innocence and state they were framed and have ample evidence to prove it.

No visits at Portlaoise following assault

Relatives visiting prisoners in Portlaoise Prison on Monday September 5th were "lifted bodily and thrown out" of the prison as prison officers dragged them away out of the visiting boxes. They allowed attempts by the prisoners to draw attention to the plight of Eamonn Sullivan who has spent six months in solitary confinement. He was also attacked by wardens on the previous Thursday and Sunday and lost four teeth. All prisoners in Portlaoise are to attend visits in protest at the inhuman and general treatment in the prison.

30 CASES FOR STRASBOURG
Over 30 cases are being brought before the European Court of Human Rights by the Prisoner's Aid Committee (PAC), a non political organisation which represents Irish political prisoners in Britain. Several of the Court actions are being taken by prisoners assaulted while in custody. There are approximately 110 Irish political prisoners in jails in Britain.

After the Seven Years War, England still kept her armies and navy in the American colonies, and to pay for their maintenance, the colonies were to be heavily taxed - with taxes on beer, malt, spirits and a host of other things. The American colonists were infuriated over this and from 1765 on, with the introduction of the Stamp Act, agitation broke out. This continued on for the next ten years until the outbreak of hostilities between English soldiers and colonial militiamen at Bunker Hill in 1775. In the same year a continental congress was called to raise an army, with the command of it being given to George Washington. On the 4th of July 1776 the Declaration of Independence was proclaimed throughout the land. Fighting continued over the years, until in 1781 the English commander in America, Cornwallis, surrendered at Yorktown.

With this defeat English rule in the American colonies ended, but it was not until 1783 that England recognised that the western boundaries of the USA were fixed at the Mississippi River. Thus, in short, came about the birth of the United States of America, on the face of it, it looks fairly simple and easy to explain. But if we probe deeper into

the real causes of it we will find out just who benefited from it, what the real economic interests were behind it etc.

To explain: The most valuable products of the colonists were the tobacco of Virginia, the rice in Carolina and the tar and timber of New England, which was vital for the shipbuilding of the time. The American colonists were hindered by the colonial trading laws of the British Empire in that none of the colony's products could be exported anywhere except to England and Scotland.

And also, the colony was forbidden to import manufactured goods from any country in Europe except England. Thus as can be seen they were extremely restricted in their trading by England which also restricted the budding colonial industries from developing and expanding, as it might endanger the home industry in England and become a rival for the market. Thus, we have in America a rapidly-rising, ambitious ruling class, which cannot develop its industries and its relation to England being merely to serve as a market and supplier of manufactured goods and raw materials.

A New Series
We are serialising a pamphlet produced by the IRSP collective in Cage 14 Long Kesh. The pamphlet was produced to mark America's 200th anniversary. It will shortly be on general sale.

1763-1783 The colony gains its independence. The Northern merchants and the southern slave-owners draw up their constitution.

The only way left open to develop was by breaking asunder these chains and restrictions, and this is just what they did. It was this that led to the American War of Independence.

This war was fought mainly by small farmers and artisans. But its leadership was all of the upper class, with George Washington himself being a large plantation owner. It was this upper class which benefited and prospered from the American Revol-

THE REAL USA

WOUNDED MAN TORTURED

A CHARA.
I was very interested in your article on torture in the North, which was in the August issue and I think it is very important that your readers do not think that the example you gave of a man being tortured is an isolated incident.

Gerry Dowdall was shot in a field in South Derry at the beginning of April last. He was immediately surrounded

and shrapnel removed from his leg. No one was allowed to visit him. The next day he was taken to Musgrave

TO THE EDITOR

THE EDITOR
STARRY DERRY

by soldiers who cut his trouser-leg with a knife and began to stomp on the wound on his leg. Having tortured him for half an hour they were about to shoot him when a British Officer arrived and stopped them. "Your fools" he said "we can get information from him."

He was then brought to a nearby RUC Station where he was tortured for about five hours. I should mention that besides the wound in his leg he had also been shot in the chest and his kidney damaged but his torturers didn't care despite his heavy loss of blood. Eventually he was taken to the Mid Ulster Hospital where his kidney was removed, his side opened to allow his bowels to empty into a bag

Park Hospital in Belfast. He was immediately put on the critical list but the Northern Ireland Office would not grant his relatives permission to visit him until a week later. I visited him about this time and he was on death's door. He was on the drip for six weeks and without solid food for 52 days. After ten weeks in the hospital, and only ten days after a major operation to remove shrapnel from his chest, he was moved to Castlereagh torture centre. There he was tortured day and night by teams of RUC Detectives and British Army Intelligence Officers. They concentrated on his wounds and the parts of his body that were already marked so that their work wouldn't show up

afterwards. No visitors not even a solicitor were allowed in. He stood up to the torture for five days without sleep or food and eventually signed a statement implicating himself in crimes he never committed. From there he was sent to Crumlin Road Jail.

We thought he would have been put in the medical wing of the jail but he wasn't. After a beating from warders for refusing to tidy his cell (that had been wrecked by the warders) he was refused medical treatment despite the fact that he was passing blood. It was later discovered that he had internal bleeding. He is taking a case against the warders for assault. Having been isolated for the first few weeks it was only when he was visited by doctors, solicitors and relatives that the terrible story of his ordeal came out. A solicitor well used to torture cases said "he's one man who has really been through the mill".

At present Gerry Dowdall is like a scarecrow, weighing only 9 stone instead of his usual 13. The treatment he received is going on every day here and everyone knows it. A special wing has been opened in Crumlin Road Jail to hold 'suspects' pending their 'interrogation' in Castlereagh torture centre. It is due to this torture that Mason and the RUC can claim that they are catching the 'terrorists', people who in the main are innocent of any crime attributed to them. I hope all this sinks into your readers.

PRISON VISITOR.

(Name and address with Editor).



Appalled at the bias of the British media in its coverage of the Irish question, a group of journalists and other media workers formed the Campaign for Free Speech in Ireland last March. They recently issued a pamphlet, in response to the report of the Committee on the Future of Broadcasting, chaired by Lord Annan, entitled Small screen = Smokescreen.

"A democracy by definition is an open society; suppression of information within a democratic society is an evil not to be tolerated, demanding where practised the fullest justification" begins the pamphlet. Broadcasters in the main confess that news and current affairs programmes are biased — to democracy. The Annan Report confirms that "... broadcasters are operating within a system of parliamentary democracy and must share its assumptions" (paragraph 17.9). Annan agrees that the "due impartiality" which is a legal obligation laid on broadcasters includes the transmission of "the widest possible range of views and opinions" (par. 17.10). The BBC Controller of Northern Ireland, Dick Francis, said in 1977: "I believe we have a contribution to make to the maintenance of democracy, both by providing a forum where harsh differences can be aired, and by reporting and courageously investigating the unpalatable truths which underlie the problems in our midst". Yet before 1968 the British media ignored Northern Ireland. Since then "television has contained its Irish coverage more and more tightly within a catalogue of bomb blasts, casualty figures, and laundry lists of sectarian murders, punctuated by the occasional very special programme" (Chris Dunkley, Financial Times, 6.4.77).

age of Northern Ireland is no different from the treatment of issues such as industrial and race relations although this aspect is criticised by Annan. Yet he claims "Northern Ireland is a special case". Annan excuses it all by blaming lack of adventurous news and current affairs programmes on bad journalism, i.e. laziness, incompetence or ignorance. The truth of the matter is that "... BBC and ITV have both pursued a deliberate systematic policy to suppress information, inevitably distorting information which is available." as the Free Speech leaflet points out.

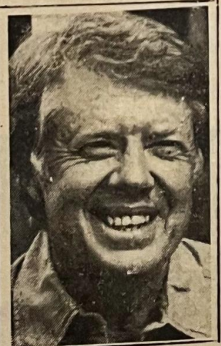
Three important films were made for television which presented alternative views on the North. Marcel Ophüls' 'A Sense of Loss' commissioned by the BBC was never transmitted. Kenneth Griffiths' 'Hang out your brightest colours: The life and death of Michael Collins, made for ATV was banned. World in Action: 'South of the Border' (Granada) was banned on IBA intervention.

In March the BBC did transmit (Tonight) Keith Kyle's interview with Bernard O'Connor who alleged torture at the hands of the RUC. A deafening and sustained howling greeted the programme. Roy Mason hysterically attacked the BBC as did Airey Neave, Opposition spokesman and the RUC blamed Kyle for the subsequent killing of a policeman by the IRA! Kyle described how before allowing the programme to be transmitted the Governors had received a detailed memorandum

CARTER BACKS BRITS

President Carter's speech fell far short of a contribution and is in fact a hindrance to any solution of the Irish problem. Basically Carter has said nothing new. He has backed powersharing which even the SDLP are about to abandon. Even if powersharing were implemented it would merely prolong the conflict, as it would inevitably support continued British interference in Irish affairs. That very interference is at the root of the problem.

The economic 'contribution' of investments in Ireland is nothing to be welcomed, as such investments would be made to suit the investors not the Irish people. Such investments equal exploitation as unconsciously revealed by Unionist M.P. Harold McCusker when he said on UVF the following day "investors will invest if there is a labour force available and if they can make a profit, not because President Carter asks them". In any case the Irish people are quite able to provide full employment in Ireland to suit their real needs, if they adopt a socialist economic system.



has been occurring anyway. It is a logical position for US Imperialism to adopt when it wishes to protect its own exploitation of the Irish people, while at the same preventing any weakening of capitalism in any weakening of capitalism in Europe, such as a socialist Republic would undoubtedly bring about. Again when McCusker stated "it is something he should be doing anyway" he was correct, from a capitalist point of view.

Protecting imperialism

Carter's promised clamp down on organisations providing 'direct or indirect' aid to the Irish struggle for national liberation or even those humanitarians merely helping the families of prisoners is something that

British imperialism. Any weakening of the world imperialist camp aids the struggle against British imperialism in Ireland. It is this very point that prompted Carter to place himself "firmly on the side of those who seek 'peace' and reject 'violence' in Northern Ireland". By the word 'peace' he means retention of continued British interference and when he attacks 'violence' he attacks any attempts by the nationalist population to defend themselves against British terror. Continued British violence is not attacked — the massive unemployment, discrimination, bad social services and daily repression that comes hand in hand with British interference.

No political compromise is possible with Unionism or Loyalism as it means a compromise with sectarianism. Sectarianism divides the unity of the Irish people and is deliberately fostered to weaken us and ensure continued British rule.

our solution

The only solution lies in complete independence not only from British rule but from the control of multinational companies as well. A declaration by Britain that the Irish people have the right to self determination is a prerequisite to any solution. Next Britain must end her political, military, economic and cultural interference in the affairs of the Irish people. She must disarm and disarm the UDR, RUC and RUC Reserve who are under her control and abolish all repressive legislation. British troops must be immediately withdrawn from Ireland.

It follows that an amnesty must be granted to those incarcerated because of their opposition to British interference in Irish affairs. These are the demands that Carter should have made had he intended to help and the suffering of the Irish people. Instead he expressed the view of US imperialism which stands shoulder to shoulder with British imperialism against real peace in Ireland.

The Irish people should realise, as well as those in America who support the struggle for national liberation and socialism here, that US imperialism is as much an enemy of the Irish people as is

Ex-Free State soldier was trained to

SHOOT THE WOUNDED



An ex-soldier who recently left the Free State Army has revealed that part of his training dealt with the ill-treatment of wounded enemy soldiers, which is in contravention of the Geneva Convention for the treatment of prisoners-of-war.

In an exclusive interview with the Starry Plough he told us how he joined the FCA in 1972 and from there joined the Free State Army in 1975. "In our training we were lectured on subversives and on republicans and a lot of time was spent telling us how socialism was wrong and how present day republicans and socialists differ from those of 1916."

TREATED LIKE SCUM!

The ex-soldier, who was a member of the elite Ranger's course before it was discontinued ("the course was too tough"), told how they were treated like dirt in the army. "We were called scum and treated like scum. We weren't

RIP OFF BANDAGES

The ex-soldier explained that this was not the individual opinion of a particular training officer as a high ranking officer was present during the lecture. "I checked around with mates in other battalions and found that they had been told the same" he added. He also told us that they had been told to rip off bandages from the wounded enemy, even their 'life lines' (tourniquets) as they were retreating. "Anything was alright as long as it slowed up the enemy".

"We were also trained in riot control and were told that it was basically up to ourselves whether we shot demonstrators or not as long as we felt our lives were in danger." They were assured that the Army would do everything in its power to protect a soldier who shot a demonstrator.

Recently, the ex-soldier left the army after making it clear that he would desert unless he was allowed to buy himself out. "Besides our terrible treatment I didn't want to be in an army that seemed to have more and more in common with the SS than anything else" he told the Starry Plough. "Not that all the lads were bad" he continued, "In fact most of them felt about the same as I did but stayed in because there were no jobs for them in civic life".

**WE WELCOME
NEWS, VIEWS
AND
COMMENTS**

EXCLUSIVE!

allowed to express personal opinions. Even then our lockers were raided about once a week while we were out on parade and any soldier who had a copy of republican or socialist papers or books was victimised or dismissed'

KILL THE WOUNDED

During one lecture which dealt with street to street fighting the soldiers were told to kill the wounded enemy. "After we had taken a house and cleared it of booby-traps we were told to kill all the wounded enemy in the house. When I asked about the Geneva Convention I was given a cold stare and told I would be answered later. It was clear to me that I had asked the wrong question, a question that was never answered."

CIA INVOLVEMENT

President Carter's real intentions towards Ireland can best be judged by taking a look at the latest US Consul General in Belfast. He is Mr. Peter Spicer who previously held the post of political officer in the American Embassy in Santiago, Chile. A Military dictatorship now controls Chile and their brutal climb to power was planned and assisted by the United States. The dictatorship has been responsible for mass murders, some of the most horrific tortures, mass imprisonment and the abolition of civil rights.

Members of the US Consulate in Belfast have been in contact with Loyalists in the past and consulted them before the Carter speech.

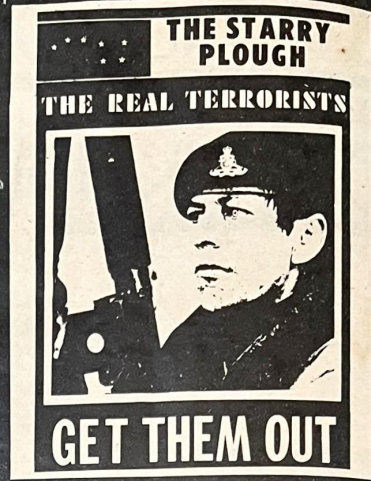
Free Speech on Ireland from p.7

"in which I described every stage of the preparation and production of the interview and the motives that determined every important decision that I made". Annan records the BBC's reaction to the hysterical howling . . . they intensified the reference-up system; and; that they gave particular consideration to the effect of BBC broadcasts on the Army in Northern Ireland". The fact that journalism becomes near impossible with such exhaustive checks is not mentioned, and has led to the inevitable self censorship of the majority of journalist, producers and editors.

Another recent example of the censorship was the banned Thames Television film on the Queens visit 'Ulster - In Friendship and Forgiveness' which was not shown because it reported accurately on a speech by a Provisional Sinn Feiner. The sound was cut in this section, the commentary changed and it was shown a week later.

Alongside "impartiality" Lord Annan refers to its twin "due accuracy" (both of which are enshrined in the Independent Broadcasting Act.) but fails to examine the concept further. No exhaustive checks are made into stories emanating from British Army or Northern Ireland Office sources, which are swallowed whole by broadcasters with practical ease. Most of these reports are part of the 'Black Propaganda' of British Army policy to spread falsehood and confusion. Examples are too numerous to mention but the murder of Majella O'Hare is only one where the British Army stated she had been shot by a "gunman" but eventually emerged as the 'accidental' killing by a British soldier.

"The banner of democracy and of free speech the broadcasters raise is tawdry and tattered" continues the Free Speech leaflet, concluding "it might well be concluded that the enemies of the open society are not just the bogeymen in the public glare, but the pen pushers hiding in the fastnesses of TV Centre and Brompton Road, and their satellites."



The STARRY PLOUGH, published monthly, covers Irish economic, political and cultural affairs while also giving some foreign coverage. It represents the views of the Irish Republican Socialist Party. It has outlets in Europe and America as well as in Ireland. An annual subscription is available for only £2.20 (Ireland); £2.70 (Europe); and \$6 (United States).

Make sure you are getting the news from a republican socialist point of view by ordering your copies from 34 Upper Gardiner Street, Dublin 1.

IRSP SUPPORT AMNESTY DEMO

Members of the IRSP participated in a demonstration organised by the Irish Civil Rights Association in Dublin at the end of August calling for an amnesty for Irish political prisoners.

About 25 demonstrators held a sit-down protest at the top of Grafton Street protesting at the treatment by the gardai of their members during a similar protest a fortnight earlier. They had been refused permission to march down Grafton Street and batoned when they held a sit down protest. Several were arrested.

Referring to Fianna Fail's policy of seeking a declaration of intent from the British Government to withdraw from the North, Mr. Joe Stagg, chairman of the ICRA said "We are asking him not just to call for it but to do something about it, and we want an amnesty for political prisoners after the withdrawal".

The IRSP's position is that we can see no end to the Northern problem as long as there is any British political, economic or military interference. We are therefore demanding the abolition of all repressive legislation North and South, the disbandment and disarming of the UDR, RUC and RUC Reserve, the withdrawal of British troops from Ireland and the granting of total amnesty to all those engaged in anti-imperialist struggle. As well as that Britain must concede the right of the Irish people to self-determination.

JOIN THE IRSP

ANTRIM, FERMANAGH,
TYRONE, DOWN &
ARMAGH: Contact national
headquarters, Dublin.

CARLOW: Contact Michael
Aherne, 7 Royal Oak Road,
Muine Bheag.

DUBLIN/WICKLOW: Contact
national headquarters, 34 Upr.
Gardiner Street, Dublin 2.
Tel: 721175.

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

I want to join

teastaíonn ballmócht uain

Name (Name) _____

Seoladh (Address) _____

CO. DERRY: Contact IRSP,
8 Chamberlain Street, Derry
City.

ENGLAND: Contact London
Support Group, Box 6, 182
Upper Street, London N.1.

ENNIS: Contact Patrick
Kennelly, 26 Corrovin Green.

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

SHANNON: Contact Stella
Makowski, 16 Traderee Court.