

IRISH LIBERATION



PRESS

Volume 1 Edition 1



Revolutionary violence meets reactionary violence

THE IRISH NATIONAL LIBERATION
SOLIDARITY FRONT:

1. acclaims the long and glorious history of the struggle of the Irish people for self-determination.
2. unreservedly and resolutely supports the national rights of the Irish people to independence, sovereignty, unity and

territorial integrity to their motherland and will strive for the achievement of the Republican and Social Ideals of the 1916 Proclamation by organising effective propaganda and social activities in Britain, particularly among Irish men and women workers, in support of those who are struggling to implement these ideals within Ireland.

FOR IRISH PATRIOTS AND SUPPORTERS IT'S JAIL, JAIL, JAIL

Imperialist courts lash worker militants

23 FEB 70

In replying to this letter, please write on the envelope:—

Number 074975 Name PURDIE.

H. M. PRISON, *Sunderland*
WORMWOOD SCRUBS

Ian Purdie, a twenty-five year old Englishman, was sent to prison for nine months on Tuesday 10th February at the end of an Old Bailey trial lasting seven days. He was convicted of throwing a petrol bomb at the Ulster Office - London headquarters of the fascist regime in Northern Ireland - during a solidarity demonstration on 17th August called to condemn British imperialist atrocities and mobilize support for the courageous struggle of the Irish working class.

After being found 'guilty' of this and two other minor charges he rose in the dock and commenced making a statement pointing out the crimes being committed against the people of Ireland, mentioning particularly the use of C.S. gas, clubs, guns and mobile equipment, and the deaths and injuries these had caused workers and their families.

The trial was from beginning to end a show-piece by the British ruling class for the benefit of its stooges in Belfast. But it was at this point that all the pretence of British 'justice' was thoroughly exposed. The judge, Sir Carl Arvold, chief legal lackey in this country, angrily shouted at Purdie that "These are not matters relevant to my consideration".

Here was the Chief Recorder of London, senior criminal judge sitting in the highest court in the land, sending a man to prison for allegedly throwing a petrol bomb in London - and brazenly stating that the slaughter and burning out of working people at the hands of the fascist RUC and B Specials are 'not matters relevant', despite the fact that 'legally' Northern Ireland is held by the British capitalist class to be part of Britain, the laws of which Arvold is supposed to be guardian.

This example of one law for the ruling class and another for workers provides a penetrating insight into capitalist 'justice' and 'law and order'.

EDITORIAL

THE regular production and mass distribution of a newspaper taking an uncompromising stand with the brave struggle of the Irish people for national liberation is long overdue in Britain. It is the express task of the IRISH LIBERATION PRESS to fill this gap and play an active part in the building of a mass movement of the working class throughout Britain pledging concrete support to the fight to smash once and for all time the rule of British imperialism in Ireland. Thus the PRESS is firmly based upon the principle of international working class solidarity and will wage a constant and ruthless battle against narrow (i.e. bourgeois) nationalism, and outlook fostered by and serving the interests of only imperialism and its lackeys in the colonial and neo-colonial countries of the world.

THE PRESS is an openly-avowed instrument of revolutionary struggle, for only through revolution will Ireland be liberated. Britain and the other imperialists who control Ireland and the lives of the people will never leave of their own free will. It would be against their class interest to do so. They will leave only when the people of Ireland rise up as one man and drive them out.

THERE can be no revolution without a revolutionary theory and this theory - scientific socialism - must at all times be accompanied by revolutionary mass work within the proletariat, the most advanced class, the 'men of no property', the only class in Ireland with nothing to gain from the continuation of British rule and everything to gain from its total destruction. It is precisely the absence of a revolutionary theory applied to the conditions of Ireland and arousing the masses of the people that has resulted in sell-out after sell-out, compromise after compromise, treachery after treachery - in fact in the continued subjugation of the Irish nation. Until such time as there exists a clear understanding of the nature of the class forces at work this story will never end.

ACCORDINGLY, the PRESS will provide both news and analyses of the struggle in Ireland and the changing conditions which constitute the objective context of that struggle. Recognising that it is part of a world struggle the PRESS will also feature items on the anti-imperialist campaigns being waged throughout Asia, Africa and Latin America, current storm centres of national liberation. The exploitation of the working class here, particularly that section of it comprising Irish and other immigrants forced into exile by colonialism, will be ruthlessly exposed. Similarly the PRESS will not stand idly by and watch groups that pay lip service to the cause of Irish liberation yet in reality use this as a cloak for their phoney, anti-working class, pro-imperialist class essence. Such silence would be complicity.

People's War - the way forward in Ireland

There are two types of solutions involved in the struggle in Ireland: ones that 'solve' the problems of the imperialists, and ones that solve the problems of the masses of the Irish people, the working class. As these two classes have opposing economic interests no solution can be good for both classes. There is no third way.

The imperialist 'solutions' take different forms and are frequently mouthed by its representatives nestling within the ranks of the proletariat. These provide an insight into the political essence of imperialism and it is useful to discuss them, albeit briefly, before analysing PEOPLE'S WAR, the invincible weapon of national liberation in the hands of the Irish people under the leadership of the working class with its revolutionary party in the vanguard.

It is argued by some that the main demand in Ireland should be for 'peace'. Of course the Irish people wish for peace. But they wish for freedom more. The source of violence is not the people but imperialism oppressing the people. There can be no lasting peace of any value to the working class until the rule of imperialism is completely and utterly smashed and the foreign exploiters driven out.

It is not surprising that the main advocates of this phoney notion are Wilson and Callaghan, Heath and Hogg, all the denominational hierarchies (though increasingly in contradiction with the practice of their congregations), and the stooges of British imperialism in Stormont and Dublin.

'Law and order must be maintained', Wilson says, i.e. the law and order necessary for the continued exploitation of the working class. With one side of his mouth Callaghan orders the equipment of the fascists with the latest weapons, including C.S. gas used extensively against even children, and with the other makes heart-rendering appeals to workers to hand in their guns, turn the other cheek, and literally hand themselves over to their class enemies on a platter.

'Aid', often accompanied by the slogan 'Wilson must act', is a second tune played on the imperialist fiddle. At the heart of this is the thesis that imperialism is benevolent which is in fact nonsense as it exists by exploiting people and can exist in no other way for it has no other reason to exist and profit is gained from workers.

It is put forward that the aid Britain gives to Northern Ireland helps the working people. The contrary is true. The £100+

provided annually goes not to workers but to prop up a police state machinery of B specials and RUC, the courts and the prisons used to intimidate the proletariat. Thus 'aid' to the people turns out to be oil for the machinery of terrorization.

One twist of this particular argument is likely to cause more confusion than its cruder version. Indeed, this is its purpose.

It is said that nationalization is the solution to the basic problem of unemployment. Again it must be remembered that it is not the purpose of imperialism to solve the unemployment question, unless its solution coincided with the needs of the British ruling class, and it doesn't to any meaningful degree. Quite the opposite, Britain has consciously created massive unemployment in Ireland as part of its deflationary strategy to push the burden of its balance of payments deficit onto the workers. The imperialist Labour Party is doing this right now and within Britain as well. Figures released recently put the unemployed at around 33,000 for Northern Ireland alone. Moreover, a large unemployed section assists the employers in keeping wages to the minimum and facilitates the victimization of militants on the shop floor.

The second fracture in this argument is that it can make little difference in real terms to the worker in Belfast or Dublin, Galway or Derry whether he is being exploited by a nationalized or privately owned company. True, it might mean the difference between a job and no job for a few, but taking into account the narrow margin between the very low wages and the very low benefit this cannot be seriously entertained as a solution from a worker's standpoint. The fact remains that he is still being exploited. His surplus value is being taken from him still, passed onto his employer, and then in all probability onto shareholders in Britain who will gladly give some of the plunder to the fighting fund of one or another of the imperialist parties to make sure that things don't change in Ireland or anywhere else there is money to be stolen - legally of course.

The essential question is not private ownership versus nationalization (how much has nationalization helped British miners and railway workers?), but which class holds state political power. And it doesn't matter that imperialism changes the forms by which exploits workers, for until workers as a class seize political power their lot will remain as it is now. A further imperialist 'solution' is for the United Nations to step in and work things out somehow. Is this organization as 'neutral' or 'peace-loving' as we are led by the capitalist press to believe?

further setbacks hit british imperialism

Dhofar

British imperialism- with its massive investments in the natural resources of the Middle East- is experiencing serious political defeats.

In Dhofar, a country situated on the southern most point of Saudi Arabia, the People's Liberation Army of the People's Front for the Liberation of the Occupied Arabian Gulf have been waging people's war against British Imperialism since June 5th, 1965.



During this time they have wiped out more than 3,000 British aggressor troops, including over 250 officers, destroyed over 4,000 military vehicles, shot down 16 British military planes- the latest brought down over Rakhyut on January 21st- and captured over 600 different kinds of military weapons.

Even though this imperialist country has intensified its shelling of villages, the people are gaining victories through their armed struggle. The P.L.A. have liberated all the towns and villages in the western region, the entire countryside and most of the villages in central Dhofar have also been liberated.

Rakhyut, the biggest town in western Dhofar and one of the most important strongholds of British imperialism and its mercenary troops was liberated by the P.L.A. on August 23rd. 1969 after a battle lasting four hours, in which the aggressor troops were forced to surrender.

The people of Dhofar are proving conclusively that no matter how strong British imperialism may appear to be- with its highly technical war machinery- it cannot defeat a people determined to gain liberation from the exploitation and oppression of imperialism.

Lybia

Two leading imperialist powers- Britain and America- have lost yet another foothold in North Africa.

The Libyan people, led by the Revolutionary Command Council, threw out the old feudal royalist regime- with its strong backing from these imperialist powers- in September of last year.

An ultimatum was given to Britain to liquidate their military bases in Libya. America's Wheelus airbase- one of the biggest U.S. aggressive military bases abroad, employing some 12,000 personnel and also providing a training base for Zionist pilots - has been forced to agree to a final date of June 1970. Britain started her exodus on December 14th, when families of 1,700 British servicemen stationed in Libya were expelled.

The £130 million agreement with Britain for an "air defence system" has also been cancelled- its only function being to safeguard British imperialist investment, in particular oil and minerals.

All banks have been nationalized, including Britain's Barclays Bank, and an agreement- made under the old regime, whereby the British-American Tobacco Company undertook the administration, management and marketing operations of Libya's state tobacco factory- has been cancelled.

This has dealt a blow to Anglo-American imperialism, both economically and strategically, particularly in the sphere of their aggressive designs against the peoples of the Middle East in their struggle to smash Zionism and its imperialist backers.



Fighters of the People's Liberation Army take short rest during campaign to smash British imperialism in Dhofar.

Rowton House-a J.P., Baron,Q.C., a Magistrate

QUESTION: What has a Baronet, who has been awarded the C.B.E. and is a J.P. (and previously a brigadier in the British imperialist army); a group of property magnates; a Q.C.; a magistrate; and American imperialism and Canadian capital got to do with workers in London's Camden Town?

ANSWER: These bloodsuckers are all represented on the Board of Directors of Rowton House. They are directly responsible - as stooges of the capitalist system - for the exploitation and social degradation of a particularly vulnerable section of the working class, among them many Irish men.

Forced to seek the cheapest temporary shelter in one of London's private doss houses, they often end up being permanent inmates of these squalid Dickensian-type habitations. Rowton House- sometimes called Arlington House- in London's Camden Town is one such notorious institution.

To register at this Rowton Hotel (official name) a man must have one of the following means of identification: driving licence, birth certificate, National Insurance card or a P45 tax form. The police call round every evening to check the registration of all new arrivals. In this way the police keep tight tabs on this section of the working class.

Many of the inmates of these privately owned Rowton Houses are sent there by the Ministry of Social Security- a clear case of state capitalism backing private capitalism. To drive the point further the men sent to Rowton doss House are sometimes issued with food vouchers valid only for Rowton House.

This back street "hotel" sleeps about 1500 men in tiny cubicles split up into dormitories. The cost is around 8/- to 10/- per night, meals work out at 4/- to 5/- average, baths cost extra and there are little or no laundry facilities. A frequent sight is men drying their underclothes and hankies etc. on radiators in the corridors.

PRESS Investigation brings the following facts to the attention of the working class. The company was first registered on the 16 March 1959 and it is one of the subsidiaries of the extensive Rowton Empire - Rowton hotels Ltd. had assets totalling £146,424 and in nine months of 1959, the company made a clear profit of £11,055. Between

Statement of Aims - contd. from Front Page

3. recognizes that the most immediate task confronting the Irish people is the liberation of their motherland from the rule of British imperialism, which takes the form of the direct military occupation and administration of the six counties and the indirect control, together with other imperialist powers, of the economy of the South, and that national liberation is the most necessary and vital precondition for the resolving of the problems of Ireland by the people of Ireland.

4. hails the fight for civil rights, housing, employment and better living standards and opposition to the Special Powers Act as an essential part of the resistance struggle against the denial of the most basic of democratic rights, coupled with the brutal repression of Irish people in their own country.

5. acknowledges that the solution of Irish problems can be brought about only within Ireland, by the Irish people united under the working class on a clear programme based upon the determined pursuit of an independent, united Ireland, free from all imperialistic obstacles currently blocking the road to real social and economic advance.

6. understands that no imperialist power has ever ceased exploitation and stepped from the stage of history without a last desperate struggle and therefore wholeheartedly supports and pledges concrete assistance to all militant campaigns, particularly the strategy and tactics of people's war, by the people of Ireland in both defence of their inherent rights against injustices- political, economic, social and cultural- imposed by British imperialism and its puppets North and South, and in their fight for national liberation.

7. opposes all suggestions from any quarter that the right of the Irish people to self-determination is negotiable.

8. supports all demands for the immediate withdrawal of British troops, the dissolution of the Royal Ulster Constabulary, the B Specials, and the immediate and unconditional end of British imperialist political and military rule in the six counties.

9. will energetically campaign to unite and mobilise Irish exiles and Irish immigrant organizations in Britain prepared to work together to build a principled, massive united front organization in solidarity with the immediate goal of an independent, united Ireland in which all men are guaranteed religious liberty in accordance with their conscience.

10. condemns all divide-and-rule tactics, particularly the exacerbation of religious differences which serves to smash the unity of the Irish working class and divert the attention of both catholic and protestant from their real, common enemy- British imperialism, the main beneficiary of such tactics.

11. recognises that the struggle in Ireland is part of the worldwide struggle to end the system of imperialism, colonialism, and neo-colonialism; that this system of imperialism based upon the exploitation of man is reaching the end of its tether in an era in the development of mankind in which imperialism is heading for total collapse and the forces of national liberation and socialism and advancing to worldwide victory.

12. expresses its solidarity with the oppressed peoples throughout the world and the struggle they are engaged in: supports the struggle of the working class in Britain against intensified ex-

ploitation and repression and vicious attacks on their democratic and trade union rights and against the attempts being made to divide their unity on racialist grounds, and supports their struggle for socialism.

13. will promote among Irish workers a true understanding of the principles of Connolly and Pearse and make available all writings relevant to the current struggle.

14. will work untiringly for the social welfare of Irish exiles and their families in Britain.

15. resolves to build a mighty, mass-based organization throughout Britain to give solidarity and every possible assistance, in whatever form is required to the Irish people in their fight for freedom, justice and independence.

Adopted at the Founding Conference of the INLSF on September 27, 1969 in London.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

I (name).....
of (address).....
phone (if any).....

agree with the aims and objectives of the Irish National Liberation Solidarity Front and agree to uphold these at all times.

I enclose ten shillings membership subscription for six months.

Edward Davoren, General Secretary, Irish National Liberation Solidarity Front, 83a Golders Green Road, London, N.W. 10-455 6968.

political dictionary

imperialism

Imperialism is the monopoly stage of capitalism. The markets of the large capitalist countries, which have from the beginning of this century become increasingly saturated, have needed to expand throughout the world to maintain and develop their profits and also to secure supply sources of cheap raw material, produce and labour. This scramble to divide up the world between the imperialist powers has brought about contradictions between them and has so far this century caused two world wars.

Since the second world war in particular the revolutionary struggles waged throughout the colonies have created crises

for the imperialist powers and have forced them to switch their strategy from relying solely on direct colonial rule to combining this with indirect colonial rule, i.e. neo-colonialism. These crises have been further sharpened as a result of an upsurge in proletarian consciousness and militancy within the metropolitan countries, that is in the very heartlands of Imperialism. The stage has now been reached at which the system of Imperialism, based upon the exploitation of man by man, is reaching the end of its tether in an era in the development of mankind in which imperialism is heading for total collapse and the forces of national liberation and socialism are advancing to worldwide

In Ireland, for example, we see the two types of strategy in operation with the North directly governed through a puppet

regime backed by British aggressor troops and all the machinery of a police state, all answerable to Whitehall; and in the South a neo-colony with the Dublin government acting as caretaker for several imperialist powers, led by Britain, between them completely controlling industry, commerce and finance.

proletariat

By proletariat is meant the class of modern wage labourers who, having no means of production of their own are reduced to selling their labour-power in order to live.

IRISH LIBERATION PRESS PROBE

DERRY CORRESPONDENT'S REPORT



Derry youth lay into fascist cops

AN IRISH CITY AND ITS PEOPLE RAVAGED BY IMPERIALISM

WHAT BRITISH HAS DONE

Family 1

MR AND MRS STEPHAN CANAVAN AND THREE CHILDREN, PATRICK 7, ANTHONY 5, STEPHAN (JUNIOR) 3.



They live in a one bedroom unfurnished flat. The bedroom as you will see in the photo is 13' x 7'6", two double beds take up every foot of the room. Mrs Corcoran — when making beds has to squat on one bed while making the other, there is simply no room to stand on the bedroom floor. The other room where they live, cook and eat is 12' x 9', the window of which does not open

This flat is at the top of a three storey house which is reputed to be 160 years old. They were given tenancy of this depressing hovel by the ex-corporation as a temporary measure before getting a new house; that was 10 months ago, it looks like they will be forced to suffer on for another year at least.

Mr Stephan Corcoran is 38 years old and has never had a job in Derry. He did, however, do a course of woodwork training. This is a government scheme and the period of training is 12 weeks, which is totally useless and is only any use to the government to keep the unemployment figures unofficially low. This family exists on £11. 6. per week from the National Assistance. They have applied for a grant from the National Assistance, (this grant can be paid to families on the poverty line) twice and they have been refused. By-the-way this family lived in Bradford for 3 years and only returned to Derry 11 months ago because they had a baby of 6 months die. They walked the streets for some

days and then took part in a squat-in at the Derry Guildhall, which is the city hall. Some 14 homeless families took part in this squat which lasted 2 months. They were given their present flat by the ex-corporation (we now have a government appointed commission.)

While this family was in desperate need for a roof over their heads they approached the St Vincent de Paul ("charity") and the only offer made by the committee was to pay the family's fare back to England.

Stephan Corcoran has three brothers. None of them has ever had a steady job of work in Derry. Stephan left school at 14 years, he was in a class of 35 to 40, 90% of them do not work.

THE INEVITABLE MESSAGE

FOR DERRY AND ALL

IRELAND - UNTIL

IMPERIALISM IS UTTERLY

SMASHED.



typical worker slum dwelling

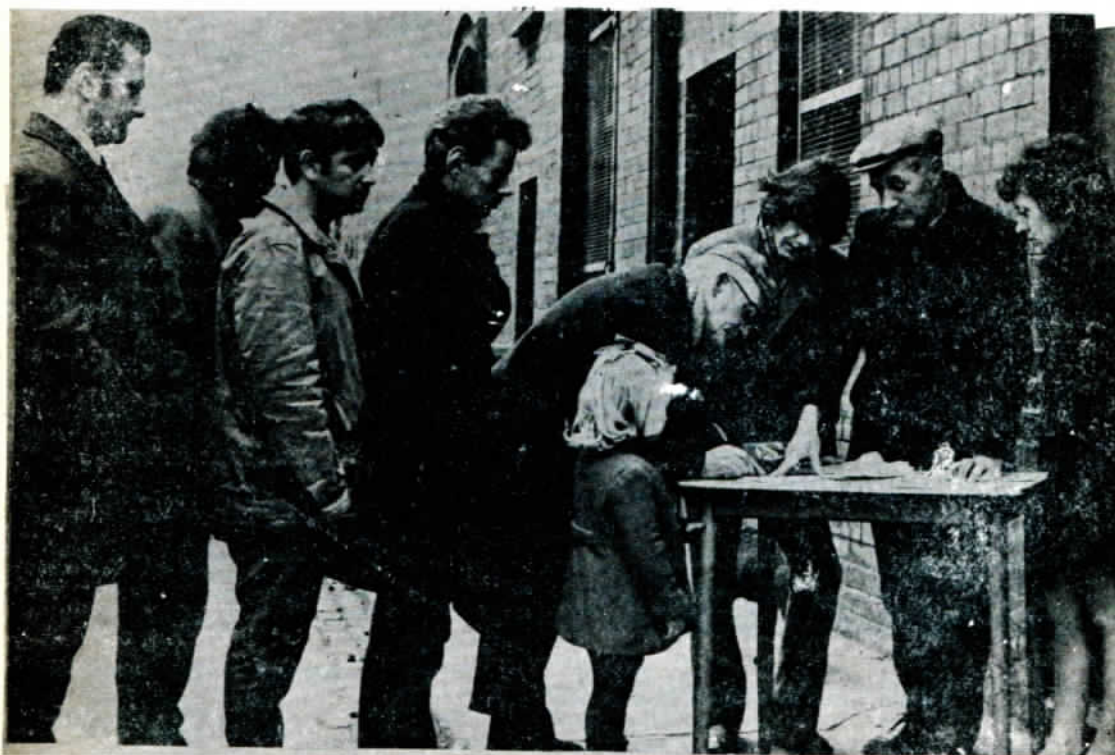


the Canavan's cramped bedroom

IMPERIALISM FOR DERRY



the guns, batons and hirelings



yet another petition of the unemployed

Needless to say, Mick is very bitter and during the troubles defended the Bogside like a demon. He hates anything Unionist and for very good reasons. This case is typical and indeed there are many much worse cases to be found in Derry.

Their house is the most depressing one imaginable.

Last week the Steeles had a visit from a Miss Morrison, an official of the Ministry of "Social Security" as a result of an application for a hardship grant. This miserable official admitted she was visiting the family to cut the grant to a minimum. Such

Family 2

Mickey MacNamee, his wife and 6 children- another of the families who squatted in the City Hall. They were allocated their present house which has been condemned for years. This house is at least 150 years old, the ground floor is completely uninhabitable. This house is cold, damp and in a dangerous condition, in short not much better than an average stable. This family lived in England, returned to Derry in 1964 and have been on the housing list since then.

Since he came home Mickey has had work for 18 months, his age is 30 and he has been unemployed on and off for 10 years. Unemployment and the poor housing conditions have left a visible mark on Mickey's personality. The Derry Development Commission housing inspector has visited this family twice, so has the welfare officer and the district nurse. All visit the house regularly but nothing is done for them. It was Unionist policy to keep the Catholic working class without work or houses to force them to emigrate, thereby keeping the Catholic population down and giving the Protestant working class a minimum-advantage which keeps the working class Protestant and Catholics fighting among themselves while the fat, overfed and well-dressed capitalist- who is their real enemy- can sit back and enjoy the sorry spectacle of the working class fighting themselves.



Mr. John Steele 1943-70
unemployed

Family 3

John Steele aged 58 years left school in 1926 at the age of 14. From 1926 until 1940, John was unemployed. He worked until 1943 with the Americans during the war and has not worked since. He did, however, complete a government training scheme (Woodwork) which lasted for 12 weeks and is totally useless to the workers, but does help

are the workings of the Ministry of "Social Security".

John Steele, because of what he has been forced to suffer, his age and the long years of conditioning is getting beyond help. He has become socially demoralised and is nothing more than a mere shadow of what he could and should be.



The MacNamee family

Mickey's father before he died was constantly unemployed for 18 years and his three brothers have never had work in Derry. They are presently exiled working in England, his third brother lives in Derry and has never had a job of work.

to keep down the rate of unemployment.

John Steele, his wife and one year old baby son live in a condemned house in almost unbelievable squalor.

Quotes from Chichester Clark's speech

There is a similar story of progress in relation to other vital services:

These economic developments have been fully supported by developments in physical amenities and social services.

All that has been accomplished at this point - and it is in some respects a record of great achievements - should be merely a springboard for Londonderry's great leap forward.

**REVOLUTIONARY
LITERATURE: CONNOLLY,
MARX, ENGELS, LENIN,
STALIN, MAO TSETUNG**

The UN is controlled by four powers: Britain, France, America and the Soviet Union.

Britain is the oldest colonial power in the history of international murder and fraud. None other is more sophisticated in the art of sowing the maximum amount of confusion for the maximum amount of profit. Only at the conclusion of the second imperialist world war did it lose its lead to another.

The French ruling class butchers of the Algerian people against whom was perpetrated the vilest of colonial war crimes and tortures. France the European laboratory scientist with French workers and students as the guinea pig being used to test the 'mob control' potential of C.S. gas. No doubt the information gained was quickly circulated to every capitalist nation in the world and in the case of Britain the fact that it caused so much physical damage to the workers at their barricades in France must have given cause for comfort when the Irish people started to erect theirs in the streets of Northern cities and towns.

America, the leading imperialist power in the world, busy for years attempting desperately to maintain control of Asia, Africa and Latin America in order to continue with the job of exploiting the peoples and resources of these continents. America of My Lai. America, supporter of every fascist and reactionary regime in the world. America that directly engineered the Greek fascist takeover and is now propping up the Zionists in Israel where the four powers are again getting together to impose their 'political solution' onto the Arab peoples fighting for their freedom. America, where black comrades are refused their right to speak on their own behalf and manacled to chairs and bound and gagged and given two year prison sentences for correctly describing the judge as a big fascist pig. America that has declared war on its people, blacks and women being super-exploited. America that spends millions of dollars on its propaganda machine directed mainly against the Peoples Republic of China. This is a nation, it is said, that is capable of bringing succour to the Irish working class.

Russia, with its war machine well oiled and exercised after the invasion of Czechoslovakia motivated by the fear that that country was about to move out of its own power block into the sphere of influence of the other major world imperialist power.

This, then, is the United Nations organization. In a word this particular anti-working class argument amounts to saying that when one imperialist power, Britain in this case, has problems in its colony other imperialist powers are put on stand-by in case of further deterioration, and the bourgeoisie activates its puppets in the colonies and in the social democratic political parties and 'solidarity' organisations in an attempt to sow as much confusion as possible and lead the working class up a variety of blind alleyways.

'It's a religious war' is another cloak for the class base of the contradictions in Northern Ireland. Yet it is a hard fact that for long periods catholic and protestant workers have lived together with only minor skirmishes. And the reason for this is simply that as workers of whatever religion they share the same objective economic interest because they are both, despite a few fringe benefits going to the latter, severely exploited by imperialism.

In times of deep economic crisis it becomes more imperative than ever for British monopoly capitalism to exacerbate differences in order to cloud the basic fact of protestant and catholic working class poverty. It is no accident that this is happening in invigorated style at precisely the same time as fascists here are running around frantically trying to play off workers of different colours against one another and thus attempting to smash the unity of the working class. However, when attacking immigrants can be utilised then immigrants as a block of 'foreigners' are made the target.

Each of these so-called solutions to the Irish question is totally phoney, totally anti-working class and totally in the service of imperialism. Their common denominator is hatred for the Irish proletariat and its allies, no matter that they are dressed up in the language of socialism. Their purpose is to take the struggle out of the hands of workers and place it in some safer depository. The middle class is resurrected.

Finally, it is necessary to examine the 'civil rights' argument: that one man one vote, abolition of the fascist Special Powers Act, a few more houses and jobs here and there is synonymous with the emancipation of the working class.

In this form, and this is the main form it has taken, this argument is as phoney as all the others.

Of course it is absolutely vital that workers defend themselves against fascism. But the eradication of the source of slum housing, unemployment, reactionary laws etc, necessitates an offensive as well as a defensive strategy and this must be based upon a conscious recognition that British imperialism is the main enemy and that nowhere has it ever been voted out of power despite changes of the social democratic parties that act as its chief executive. Because a clear anti-imperialist consciousness has still not yet emerged and with the civil rights movement in the pockets of middle class misleaders and bourgeois republicans, and because reforms have been used as an end in themselves rather than in a revolutionary way as a means of escalating the political consciousness of the masses the struggle has been diverted, disillusion is setting in and the interest of the working class has been subordinated to the interests of the imperialist class. It is certain that the British ruling class

will if really pushed institute reforms, even if ultimately it has to do this over the head of Stormont by direct rule and suspension of the constitution. The constitution was originally set up to suit the needs of British imperialism and it will be set aside to suit its needs if this becomes necessary.

However, it clearly hopes that its more intelligent stooges in Stormont will be able to convince the leading circles in the Orange Order and the Unionist Party, with an overture or two to the 'opposition', that it is in their class interest to bring in a few reforms as these present no real threat to the political power of British imperialism in Ireland.

Moreover, it is also clear that those individuals and groups in the North that oppose the introduction of reforms needed to maintain foreign control of industry, banking and commerce have lost the support of the British ruling class that was theirs in other times and in other conditions.

Thus the British ruling clique faces a contradiction. Whilst it needs to foster religious bigotry in order to divide workers and divert their attention away from their common enemy, on the other hand it does not now want a civil war on its hands. Hence two paths lay before it. It can permit the right extremists of the Northern small and big bourgeoisie to pursue unbridled fascism under the guise of a religious war backed by a police state with British troops becoming more and more involved in the day-to-day administration of the North with the horizon dotted with pogrom after pogrom and repetitions of violent street demonstrations resulting inevitably in a whole scale civil war, or it can play for time and attempt to defuse the situation by ensuring that the reformist demands of the middle class misleaders are accommodated within a system that has shown itself on countless occasions to be the most accommodating of all. Of course, it will (and no country knows this more than Ireland) always have the big stick at the ready, but it is too old a hand at the imperialist strategy to use this method when the horse can be got back into the stable by allowing him an extra lump of sugar - and sugar is very cheap in Ireland, compared with the profits being sucked from workers' labour.

The second part of this analysis will appear in next month's edition of the PRESS and will deal specifically with PEOPLE'S WAR, INVINCIBLE WEAPON OF IRISH NATIONAL LIBERATION

cont'd from page 11

happen here. This is why it is quite happy to let many of the existing organisations go happily on their way.

If we are serious people, if we are determined to bring down the system that has put Purdie, Smullen, Doherty, O'Sullivan, Lynch away in prison, then we must organise to that end. To ignore this responsibility is to assist the very enemy that has for centuries reduced Ireland to a colony and its people to colonial

cont'd from page 3

1959 and 1968 the company's total assets rocketed to £333,856 and it made a clear profit (after tax) of £38,000 in the year ending December 1968.

Listed are the five company directors and attention is directed to their qualifications and occupations. Top of the list is the chairman of the board; William Barclay Harris, 59, occupation, Queens Counsel (barrister) He is a company director of three property companies including Rowton Hotels Ltd a laundry company and a dyers company.

Second; Sir Richard Hamilton Anstruther-Gough-Calthorpe, 62, ex Brigadier, baronet, Commander of the British Empire, Doctor of Law, Deputy Lieutenant and Justice of the Peace (magistrate) He is a company director of three British property companies including Rowton Hotels Ltd. two American companies, one Canadian company and one insurance company (British)

Third; Charles William Baker, 64, magistrate, Fellow of Chartered Institute of Secretaries. He is a company director of two property companies including Rowton Hotels Ltd.

Fourth; John Lloyd Harvey, 43, Chartered and Accountant. He is a director of Rowton Hotels Ltd.

Fifth; Clive Howard Eckert, 38, FRICS, FAI. He is a director of six property companies including Rowton Hotels.



Some Conclusions:

Exploitation and social degradation are class questions and wherever these things exist so there will be in the background representatives of the system of capitalism - a system that is inherently based upon exploitation and class oppression.

There is no poverty in isolation-poverty is worldwide and must be so since the capitalist system has extended its robber clutches around the globe.

The courts and the legal hacks are shown by this one example (and there are literally millions more) that they are not neutral or above politics, but to the contrary, they at all times act in the interest of their own class, the capitalist class. We wonder how often these particular magistrates have determined that Rowton House, their house, is acceptable as a 'fixed abode' as a condition of bail?

Irish workers, like other immigrants groups, continue to be among the most exploited sections of the working class. This is particularly true of the older Irish workers who, without even the benefit of a home, are after decades of hard work thrown onto the scrap heap of used capitalist labour.

Appeal to Workers

The boss's class and their intellectual flunkeys never tire of telling us that they are there to do the thinking and the writing and workers are fit only to passively absorb like vacant containers their ideas, which are always opposed to the interests of the working class.

We reject this false notion. This paper is produced by workers for workers. We appeal to workers to write in with constructive criticisms so that we can make the paper a better agent of struggle, and reports, no matter how insignificant you may feel they are of your struggles against all forms of reaction. Reports from comrades in Ireland, here in Britain, and in particular from other immigrants living in exile will be considered for publication.

SELLERS.....

Take a few copies of the PRESS - if you don't manage to sell them all, you can return them - and sell them on the site, in the factory, depot, hospital, etc.

CASH.....

If you support what we are doing, and can afford a donation, no matter how small, please send it to: THE PRESS FIGHTING FUND, c/o 83a Golders Green Road, N.W.11.

FREE ADVERTISING.....

Brief adverts for anti-imperialist, anti-fascist activities will be published free in the PRESS.

Pan African Congress of Azania (S. Africa) has Irish People's struggle

STATEMENT OF SOLIDARITY WITH THE IRISH PEOPLE'S LIBERATION STRUGGLE

For centuries the Irish people have been subjected to one form or the other of British colonialism. At all times the Irish people demonstrated their loathe for British colonialism through determined struggles, struggles that have won the Irish people the admiration of allopponents of colonialism and imperialism.

Lately the British imperialists have been engaged in the sinister game of neo-colonialism setting Irishman against Irishman and using brute force to achieve this objective. Hundreds have been killed or wounded struggling against this oppression in Ulster and other parts of Northern Ireland.

For final victory to be achieved in this protracted struggle the Irish people must adopt the revolutionary programme of uniting as one to fight for the overthrow of foreign aggressors and their local lackeys.

Victory to the national liberation struggle of the Irish!

Defeat to British imperialism and its running dogs!

Power to the people!

signed DAVID M. SIBEKO

Head of Mission to Europe and the Americas



"Baron O'Neill of the Maine, of Aghhill in the County of Antrim"

"The rights of the poor to the superabundance of the wealthy' is so far from being recognised that a starving man would be sent for seven years to prison for stealing a loaf of bread and a rich man sent to the House of Lords for stealing a nation's liberty".

JAMES CONNOLLY

Labour, Nationality and Religion (1st published 1910)

cont'd from page 1

The past year has witnessed the vicious intensification of the victimization of Irish revolutionaries and patriots and those who support the struggle for national liberation and the overthrowing of the repressive rule of British imperialism in Ireland. The increasing militancy of the fight has rendered the authorities both here and in Stormont panic-stricken and they hope that by making examples of a few they will frighten the many into submission. However, exactly the opposite has happened as the more people are repressed they more they rise up armed with a new and higher level of political consciousness.

Last autumn Patrick C. O'Sullivan and Conor Lynch were sentenced to seven years imprisonment at the Old Bailey for "attempting to acquire arms".

On 14th February Eamonn Smullen and Thomas Gerald Doherty were sentenced at Leeds for "conspiring together to buy arms". These sentences contrast sharply with the decision to drop the charges against the sixteen RUC thugs who murderously attacked men, women and children in their homes on 5th January 1969.

A noticeable feature of these trials is that the defendants have been refused a proper opportunity to explain the political reasons for their actions. Here again a popular myth is exploded as time after time men have had their right to free speech snatched from their lips at the whim of scab judges. Often the judge has said that the court is no place for politics. In reality he is saying that it is no place for working class politics and he quickly imposes the politics of his master, the bourgeoisie, onto the proceedings, using the argument that the court is a neutral organ existing over and above society, when in fact it is one of the most important components of the state machinery of the capitalist system designed and conducted to meet that system's every need.

Two important lessons must be learned. One is that the only correct and constructive way to conduct the defence case in such trials is to use revolutionary politics to attack reactionary politics. If it is thought that by taking the politics out of the defence it will help either in terms of conviction or sentence this is a mistake for the only thing a revolutionary has to fight with is his politics.



Samuel Devenney's funeral in Derry - murdered by the R.U.C.

This is what British 'justice' really means. Support for the uniformed terrorists who shot up and burned out fourteen thousand Irish working class people during the past. Where will British democracy, freedom and justice strike next?

Justice is a class question and there can thus be only two kinds of justice: justice for the imperialists to carry out their exploitation of workers; and justice for the working class which can only be attained with the revolutionary overthrow of their class enemy, the imperialists.

The second lesson to learn is that our class enemies are highly organised. Whilst historically their days are numbered as the imperialist system of which the courts are a part is subjected to the hammer blows of the national liberation movements across the globe, aided by the socialist countries, it would be folly were we not to organise to hasten its departure from the stage of history once and for all.

It is absolutely essential in the case of Ireland to build a mass organisation in

I.N.L.S.F activities

Central London Branch Meetings.
Every Sunday evening 7.30pm.
Marquis of Clanricarde, Southwick St.,
off Sussex Gardens.
Paddington or Edgware Tube Stations.
3 minutes from tube stations, 8 from
Marble Arch.
Forthcoming programme of political
education classes:

Sunday 8 March, "Nationalism and Socialism".

Sunday 15 March, "Sum up the Experience of this day's INLSF rally and demonstration".

Sunday 22 March, "The Role of Women in the Revolutionary Struggle".

Sunday 29 March, "People's War Invincible Weapon of Irish National Liberation".

Sunday 5 April, "Ireland as part of the Worldwide struggle to destroy the imperialist system and build socialism".

These meetings are open to all friends and supporters of the struggle of the Irish people.

Revolutionary literature will be available.

I.N.L.S.F services for workers

The INLSF offers the use of the following political services: 1. Research into companies, profits, assets, company directors, interlocking directorships, links between imperialist firms etc. etc. (As most people have little time for this sort of work this service can be most useful) 2. Legal services for cases that fall within the scope of the statement of aims of the INLSF (anything from being beaten up on a demonstration by the police to being thrown out of digs) Politically sympathetic solicitors and barristers are available. 3. The supplying of revolutionary literature from the INLSF Literature Bureau.

Britain to give every possible assistance, in whatever form the struggle and conditions of the time demand. To sit back idly mouthing abuse at British imperialism suits it fine. To confine politics to chats in the pub suit it even better. To rouse the working class in Britain and to win it to the side of the Irish people does not suit it. To the contrary, this is the last thing that the ruling class wants to

cont'd page 9.

"We cannot conceive of a free Ireland with a subject working class;
We cannot conceive of a subject working class with a free Ireland." James Connolly



The Watchword of Labour

Oh! hear ye the watchword of Labour,
The slogan of they who'd be free,
That no more to any enslaver,
Must labour bend suppliant knee,
That we on whose shoulders are borne,
The pomp and the pride of the great,
Whose toil they repay with their scorn,
Must challenge and master our fate.

Chorus:

Then send it aloft on the breeze, boys
That watchword the greatest we've known,
That labour must rise from its knees, boys,
And claim the broad earth as its own.

Aye! we who oft won by our Valour,
Empire for our Ruler and Lords,
Yet knelt in abasement and squalor,
To the thing we had made by our swords,
Now valour with worth will be blending
When answering Labour's command,
We arise from our knees and ascending,
For manhood for freedom take stand.

Chorus:

Then out from the field and the City,
From workshop, from mill and from mine,
Despising their wrath and their pity,
We workers are moving in line,
To answer the watchword and to ken,
That labour gives forth as its own,
Nor pause till our fetters we've broken,
And conquered the spoiler and drone.

Chorus:

Music available.

by *James*
Connolly

INLSF RALLY and DEMONSTRATION

SUNDAY, 15TH MARCH 2.30PM. TRAFALGAR SQUARE
BRITISH IMPERIALISM AND ITS AGGRESSOR TROOPS OUT NOW!

INLSF REVOLUTIONARY EXHIBITION

COVERING CLASS STRUGGLE IN IRELAND DURING 1798-1970
CAMDEN STUDIOS EASTER SUNDAY AND MONDAY 29/30TH MARCH
11 TO 10PM. BOTH DAYS

INLSF meeting in Coventry

On wednesday 4th. February the INLSF, by invitation of the socialist society at the Lanchester College of Technology in Coventry, held a meeting to condemn British imperialism in Ireland and organise solidarity with the Irish people's fight for self-determination.

The talk was attended by students and workers, some from the car factories, and was followed by a serious discussion during which British imperialism was constantly attacked and the heroism of the Irish people fully recognised.

Many facts and figures of exploitation were given and it was stressed that the working class must exercise leadership at all times.



INLSF general secretary demands British imperialism and its aggressor troops get out of Ireland now!

At the conclusion of the meeting several people gave their names and addresses and agreed to sell the PRESS and asked to be kept informed of INLSF activities.