

The

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ANOTHER EUROPE IS POSSIBLE!



THINK GLOBAL - ACT LOCAL!

With the 26 county administration taking over the EU presidency in 2004 it reaffirms Ireland's roll within the EU. For Republican Socialists resistance to the European superstate is now focused on Ireland as it prepares to amalgamate ten new states into it's grasp. The IRSP, at it's inception was opposed to the type of European superstate that now exists. That opposition has not changed. We believe that there are no real benefits to the working class of this or any other european country as a result of membership of the EU. Labour laws will be affected as well as restrictions on asylum seekers which will reaffirm the very real perception of a fortress Europe.

Bertie Ahern has said there will be a two speed Europe. We couldn't agree more, a divided Europe already exists. A Europe not divided by nationhood but by the inequalities that exist between the rich and poor. A Europe of the haves and have nots. There is already an Ireland of the haves and have nots and Bertie is happy to see the gap between

them widen throughout the EU during Ireland's presidency.

We believe that this year is an opportunity for workers throughout the EU to show their opposition to Bertie's two tier plan. We see the need not for the amalgamation of ten new states into the EU but for working class people throughout Europe and beyond to unite and fight against the injustices that are spreading as a result of Globalisation and the Neo-Liberal agenda.

While we can look outside Ireland and see issues such as Globalisation and people feel justified in protesting against the oppression that this brings it must be borne in mind that there are very real issues closer to home that our class in Ireland must fight against.

There is a greed that is representative of both the 26 and 6 county administrations and is shameful to say the least. Members of both Leinster House and Stormont are unashamed in their money grabbing ways. The newly elected politicians in Stormont are currently receiving over £4million per year despite the fact that the place has not opened it's doors. But this has not stopped the politicians grabbing as much of

the action as they could get.

The Dublin administration is no better. Whilst child poverty in the 32 counties is at an all time high Bertie decided to host a massive informal think tank to celebrate their recent ascension to the throne of presidency of Europe they recently held what was described as a lavish banquet in Galway squandering thousands of Euros of the peoples' money so they could pig out in the best of locations with the best of food yet only yards away locals are scrimping by on their meagre hand-outs from the state welfare system. Galway's Raddison, Corrib Great Southern and Ardilaun hotels hosted this get together. This cost the Irish people over €100,000. Food served to the hungry EU delegates included suckling pig, salmon, lobsters, Galway Bay prawns and pheasant followed by lavish deserts washed down with the finest of wines. Activists protesting against this obscenity were targetted by the apparatus of the state and were arrested and assaulted. This is just a taste of things to come as Ireland prepares to host many more European summits that double as greedfests.

We believe that another Europe is possible. Change can be brought about but only with workers increasing pressure and resistance by organising in an anti-imperialist broad front locally and globally. Change starts in our homes, schools and workplaces and on the streets of our towns and cities. **JOIN WITH US - ACT NOW!**

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THE VOICE OF IRISH REPUBLICAN SOCIALISM!

The Starry
Plough

The Starry Plough or An Camchéachta was first established in 1975 as the national newspaper of the Irish Republican Socialist Party.

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If you would like to highlight an issue of concern in your area and would like to have it published in the pages of The Starry Plough then get in touch at the address above or contact a local IRSP representative, The Starry Plough is your paper.

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E d i t o r i a l

End of the
Peace Process

J o h n M a r t i n

Political Secretary of the IRSP

The year 2003 was the year that the so-called 'Peace Process' came to an end. For at least the past 10 years both the British establishment and the Southern ruling class had coaxed, cajoled and bribed, with all sorts of promises, Republicans to give up, not only the then current armed struggle, but their weapons and to accept the prevailing ideology of neo-liberalism and welcome capitalist globalisation. The announcement of the PIRA ceasefire coincided with the first use of the phrase 'Celtic Tiger' highlighting the links between politics and economics. The increasing involvement of United States politicians, policemen and personalities in the Irish peace process was not accidental. Money from both the USA and Europe was poured into the North, ostensibly to stabilise the peace process and help marginalised communities to raise themselves up.

Indeed within the marginalised communities some good has been done. But once the sting of armed struggle has been removed and republicans are safely ensconced as part of the establishment, (and be under no illusions when Provisional Sinn Fein took their seats in the Stormont executive they clearly became part of the establishment) then the need to placate the marginalised will slowly disappear.

The overtaking of the SDLP by Provisional Sinn Fein and its electoral success in the Free State has sent alarm bells ringing within the Southern establishment. Already the signals have gone out amongst the Free State establishment to attack PSF and move away from the cajoling phase. Michael McDowell using his knowledge as Justice Minister has launched stinging attacks on the 'criminal' activities of the PIRA. When a Sinn Fein TD protested in the Dail he was told in no uncertain terms by Bertie Ahearn, An Taoiseach, that Sinn Fein had to grow up and accept the democratic rules. This at a time when the PIRA itself was saying there is crisis in the peace process and that both the British and Irish Governments had not lived up to their side of the Good Friday Agreement.

Well did they really expect the Brits or Free Staters to live up to commitments or promises?

If so they were wrong. The IRSP said at the start of this whole process-never trust the Brits. In this we have been proved 100% correct. To watch the lies that the Blairite Government has come out with on issues from Iraq to education is to watch naked self-interest in action. That is what motivates both the British and Irish capitalist governments- their own self interest- their own desire to be returned to power at the next election in order to keep the world safe for Capitalism. The PIRA decommissioned arms three times- that was not enough for the Brits or the Unionists. How many hoops have republicans to jump through? Surely it is time to call a halt to the constant negotiations and collaborations with the Brits and Free Staters. The failure of the Fianna Fail/ Progressive Democrats Coalition to grant Christmas parole to Dessie O'Hare has just shown how the free Staters treat republicans- with contempt.

The leadership of the Republican Socialist Movement has acted in good faith in accepting the will of the Irish people as expressed through the referendum in 1998. We persuaded the INLA to call a cease-fire. We encouraged our ex-prisoners to engage in dialogue with who ever. We encouraged a re-examination of past events and sought to understand the views of others. We accepted finance for running ex-prisoner projects because we did not want to see our own movement disadvantaged compared to other republican groups. We engaged in dialogue with a wide range of individuals and groups representing many diverse opinions.

None of this has compromised our politics. We are today as fully committed to the Workers Republic of James Connolly and Seamus Costello as we were before the INLA ceasefire. We still stand by the Republican ideal. We stand four square for the liberation of the Irish Working class from Imperialism and Capitalism. We have opposed as we always have the Imperialist politics of the USA and have rejected and opposed their war on Terrorism. We stand resolutely with anti-imperialist and socialist forces world-wide. We remain committed republicans, socialists and internationalists. We care not for the endless delegations to discuss how the so-called peace process can move forward. It is dead. Gone. Finished with. Over. The whole peace process was a con job. An illusion. A scam. The winners were the middle and upper classes. The losers were the people in the ghettos where sectarian attacks continue 10 years after this whole charade started.

It should now be clear to all that the fundamental question facing all of the people on the island of Ireland is not the peace process but the class question-who rules and in whose interests? That is the question that we as republican socialists need to put before the people and how we do it can have a fundamental effect on the future of this isle. We sincerely hope that all those who share some if not all of our objectives can forge a common platform, a broad front, a unified republican socialist front that can begin to win back some of the gains that the so-called peace process lost us.

IRSP Slam Bradley Comments As
Cant and Hypocrisy

The Starry Plough spoke to IRSP representative and member of the Ard Comhairle who rounded angrily on Denis Bradley over comments he made to the BBC following the shooting of an alleged teenage drug dealer in N. Belfast.

In his comments to the BBC the former priest and political activist turned Policing Board deputy had said: "The attack was animalistic.

It won't stop young people doing what young people do," he said. "All it does is make the young person probably worse than what he or she was before. That's cant, and, more than that it's rank hypocrisy coming as it does from Denis Bradley", The IRSP's Terry Harkin said. "Where was Denis in 2003 when the INLA and IRSP exposed the use of, what was then, a young boy as a paid agent of the PSNI?

"I reached out to Denis then on behalf of the Republican Socialist Movement and the boy's family, I phoned his office repeatedly, leaving detailed messages with his secretary, over a three week period to ask him to help this boy and all I got was one, very short message on my answer service." "If Denis and the other agencies that should have provided support to this young man and his family had acted when he was

being abused by the state and not waited to pontificate when something detrimental happened to him, then we would have seen a much different outcome. It's not as if nobody knew about the case, Sky News ran a 15 minute segment every hour over a 24 hour period on him early last year, it's still available on the Internet.

"Countless column inches and at least three TV interviews have

been done on this case in the last 12 months alone. So people knew, and Denis knew, what was going on with this young guy, why are they only crying foul now? and why did they not help him when they could?"

"If Denis Bradley want's use his position as Number 2. on the Policing Boards to comment on this case, would it not be more fitting for him to be asking the Police Ombudsman why no report has been published into the Recruitment, Employment, Payment and Exploitation of this boy as a state spy a year after the complaint was originally made?"

Action taken
against
Ardoyne
thug neces-
sary' - INLA

The following is the text of a statement supplied to the Republican Socialist Publicity Bureau:

"It was with great reluctance the North Belfast Irish National Liberation Army took punitive action against Ardoyne RUC/PSNI informer, thug and hood (named individual) for persistent and long term attacks against his own community.

"We would take this opportunity to set the record straight following unfounded allegations by his family in the British gutter press unfortunately repeated by some Irish newspapers who should know better than to print unfounded allegations.

"(named individual) apart from his final punishment was neither abused nor tortured. If his family think that somehow he is above any responsibility to the local community for his actions let this be a salutary lesson."

Bloody Sunday Commemoration

Annual Bloody Sunday
Commemorative March & Rally 2004

Sunday February 1st
Assemble: Creggan Shops
Derry 2pm

For more Details: irsp@irsm.org



The Barron Report

Mr Justice Henry Barron's report into the 1974 Dublin and Monaghan bombings has been criticised for its failure to reach any definite conclusions about collusion between British intelligence and the loyalist bomb teams that carried out the attacks. Isn't that a surprise?

While the report found no evidence of high-level collusion between British intelligence, the RUC and loyalist paramilitaries in the attacks, which killed 34 people, it said it was "likely" that collusion had occurred. The failure of the British to release relevant documentation and the loss by the Justice department of all its files is an amazing coincidence!!

Others may be reluctant to say it but the IRSP always held the view that there were British agents working not only within loyalist groups but also within the Garda Special Branch and within the justice department itself.

The report also criticised the Irish government of the time for its failure to investigate the bombings properly. Let's be clear about this.

At the time of the bombing the Free State Intelligence services saw as the main threat to the State institutions the Official IRA, despite the fact that that organisation had been on a ceasefire for two years. What they really feared was the social and economic policies that radical sections of that movement were pushing.

These radical elements broke away and formed the

IRSP at the end of 1974. Only six weeks after the bombing the Garda ran down the investigations, the Government failed to follow up evidence from the Brits and a clamp down was launched, not on loyalist but on republicans with the introduction of the Heavy Squad and torture and beatings of suspects becoming routine within the Garda.

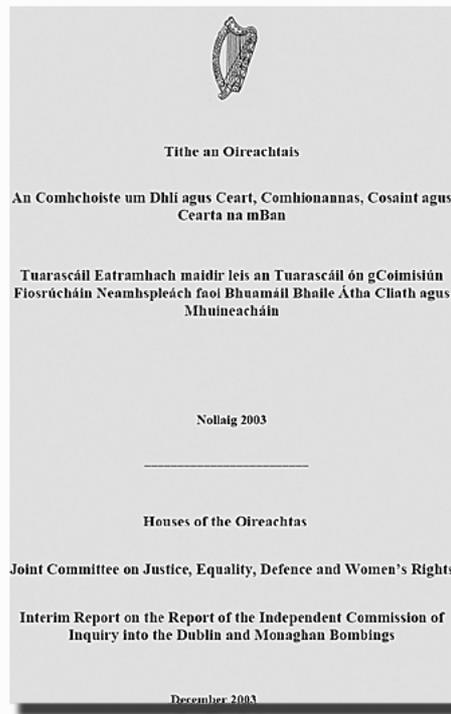
The victims of the bombings were working class folk. They held no high office, had no powerful relatives and were insignificant to the Fine Gael / Labour coalition. The Free State bourgeois abandoned the victims and their relatives.

Many of the loyalists involved in the bombings were members of the RUC and the UDR. The Barron report fails to recognise that the intelligence agencies were the key players in the North and contrary to Barron's claim only one loyalist involved had been interned and that was on a separate charge.

The rest walked the streets of Portadown.

If there is any lesson to be taken from the Barron report it is that while nationalist politicians of all persuasions pay lip service to the solving of the national question when push comes to shove they defend their own class interests over that of the citizens of the state.

There is only one class capable of solving the national question and that is the Irish working class. It is only their force, their strength, and their mass potential that will shake us free from imperialism.



The recent Barron Report into the Dublin and Monaghan Bombing

Support Urged for "BOSTON 3"

The IRSP has urged people to get behind the campaign for the release of three Derry men currently being held by the United States authorities for allegedly entering the US under false statements.

The three, Don Brown, a former RSPOW, David Curtis and Damien McCafferty have been held now for over three months and have been repeatedly moved throughout the prison system in the US.

They were on their way to a wedding in Boston when they allegedly gave false statements to immigration control on entering the US and were subsequently arrested.

An IRSP member who knows the three personally commented "They could face up to twenty five years each if found guilty and their families are obviously very distressed at their predicament. We demand their immediate release from this nightmare situation. The IRSP are calling for maximum public solidarity with the men and their families during this difficult time.

Campaign Website:
<http://www.freeboston3.org>

Loyalist Violence Continues

Loyalists riot and wreck part of the jail- loyalists attack the graves of dead republicans in Milltown cemetery- loyalists attack catholic houses in Ligonell-loyalists causing widespread chaos in Belfast with hoax bomb scares some of which were deliberately placed in nationalist areas- and the media soft pedal in the reporting of all these events.

This, all in a week that the DUP say they will not negotiate with Sinn Fein because of their armed wing, and are supported by the British Government in this stance.

While the political pressure is all on the PIRA to disarm and disband, the great and the good- the media and the Brits, the business classes, and the unionist bourgeoisie choose to either ignore loyalist violence or soft talk it.

But despite the best efforts of the spin-doctors, one cannot make a silk purse out of a sow's ear. A

pig is still a pig. A fascist is still a fascist. A racist is still a racist.

Jackie McDonald, UDA supreme, and the person, without whose approval, all of the above violent attacks by loyalists would not have happened, is allowed to appear on TV and attempt to justify the loyalist position. Fortunately he came across on the media as a pathetic thug trying to justify the impossible.

There is no justification for the continued existence of the UDA. There never was. It is a sectarian, racist, anti catholic, drug-dealing bunch of bigots who prey on the protestant working class. They are the product of a sectarian state.

They are the lumpen proletariat - the equivalent of the storm troops of Nazism. So long as the six county sectarian state continues to exist so will the scum of the UDA continue to thrive on fear and bigotry.

The Electoral Farce

The election to a non-existing Assembly in the North of Ireland has it is alleged come as a shock to the British Government. It should not have done so.

The Brits had discredited the political process by the almost casual way they had suspended the Assembly four times and then postponed the elections last May in a vain attempt to shore up David Trimble position.

It was only logical for unionists to swing towards the DUP in these circumstances.

Sinn Fein's remarkable success continues. They are now the largest nationalist party but in the process of moving towards the so-called 'middle ground' has seen them shed some of their republicanism.

The Gerry Adams leadership has seen an almost Blairite make over of Sinn Fein. There are

many parallels between 'New Labour' and New Sinn Fein such as the emergence of the Spin doctors, the emerging 'educated elites' who can work the system, the shedding of old ideological beliefs, the shafting of the traditionalists, the obsession with total control and the suppression of critical thinking.

This is now what constitutes politics today. Those of us critical of that, can no longer just sit on the sidelines and condemn.

Now more than ever we need to take our politics and policies to the people and become involved in every struggle of the people north and south of the border.

The pathetic vote the so called left candidates got shows how far divorced from the reality of working class life the left sects are. They do not uphold the banner of socialism. Rather they discredit it.

IRSP Ard Comhairle Statement On North Belfast Shooting

The IRSP, having looked into the circumstances pertaining to the shooting of a 14th year old in North Belfast, wish to place on record its disapproval and condemnation of this action.

We fully understand the pressures and circumstances leading up to the shooting.

Despite the best efforts of both local community groups including CRJ and the local Roman Catholic Church the family were unwilling to either exercise control over the young boy or call a halt to the totality of his anti-social behaviour, which terrorised the local community.

However experience of such punishments over the years has indicated that they are counterproductive.

We have been working to persuade people that there has to be alternative approaches to major anti-social and criminal activities in working class areas.

We will redouble our efforts to move people away from the use of rough justice.

Statement on behalf of the Ard-Comhairle Irish Republican Socialist Party John Martin, Political Secretary IRSP.

The War On Drugs

Drug abuse in Dublin continues to grow as the number of homeless addicts continues to swell the city's streets despite the Governments attempts to camouflage the ever-growing problem, a shocking new report reveals.

A Report published by the drugs and homeless charity, The Merchants Quay Project, states that the scourge of drugs has been growing at a rate of 30% a year since 1993 because of the severity of the drugs and homeless crisis in deprived working class Communities. The report estimates that 4000 drug addicts a year seek help for addictions to class A drugs, such as heroin and cocaine. The Merchants Quay 2002 Annual review for 2002 shows a huge 9% increase in drug addicts seeking its services. Nearly 700 new drug addicts have increased the numbers at its Health promotion unit over the last 12 months to 3,842.

The report was launched by Dr Diarmuid Martin, co adjutor Archbishop for Dublin and the Charities director, Tony Geoghan, who said the reviews findings has caused great concern because of the increased numbers in homelessness and drug addiction. "There is increased public concern at the high visibility of drug use and homelessness on Dublin streets and it is a clear indication of successive governments failure to implement policy that meets the needs of the most marginalised, he concluded by saying " In the hierarchy of poverty those with the greatest needs are been left behind . We are calling on Government to focus on targetting the limited resources available".

Reacting to the report Dublin IRSP Spokeperson John Murtagh stated that the report clearly demonstrates how social disadvantage in the form of drug use and the associated problems of HIV infection, home-

lessness, unemployment, crime and poverty have become wide spread in recent years. "This is no coincidence because we live in a system that has been grossly negligent to the needs of the People, because of poverty and inequality young people are used to seeing a bleak future mapped out for them and drugs especially heroin is on of the escape routes available to them especially when its available for as little as £10 a fix. Proper facilities must be provided in the areas most effected such as needle exchange and detox programmes with after care facilities as well as the social support required to recover from addiction.

He concluded by saying that the report released By the Merchants Quay Project clearly demonstrates that this Government has no long term strategy in dealing with the effects of drug abuse, so therefore are compliant in the suffering of those who live with the daily diet of addiction, misery, imprisonment and death in deprived working class Communities.

Much More Community Support Required

The IRSP have openly rejected attempts to made to threaten a Traveller family of 13 over the Christmas period.

Racist graffiti was dubbed on the outer walls of a newly built halting site in County Mayo over night prompting the Ward family to review their own security. Part of a wall was also demolished in the attack.

Due to the number of threats, the Ward family were forced to stay on at a run-down halting site over the holidays that has no washing, running water or play facilities.

The IRSP in a statement to the Starry Plough *"The thugs who carried out this racist attack do not represent the people of Charlestown nor will they intimidate members of our class in an attempt to destroy otherwise good relations in the area."*

"We welcome gestures of solidarity made towards the traveller community and the Wards in particular however much more community support is required in an effort to harness stronger community and cultural solidarity."

Anti Racist Network Rally At Belfast

The newly formed Belfast Anti Racism Network held its first public vigil outside Belfast City hall mid-December with an estimated 200 people in attendance from across the sectarian divide and many different ethnic background.

Members of various cross community groups and political parties, including the IRSP gathered to show their anger at the number of racist attacks and their continued support and solidarity for the growing ethnic communities within the six counties.

It was noted that many support organisations turned up representing over twenty ethnic minority support or solidarity campaigns. B.A.R.N will be organising awareness solidarity concerts from early on in 2004.

The Starry Plough will try to list these dates as soon as we get them. Readers are asked to make an attempt and turn out in support of locally planned B.A.R.N activities in their areas. Take a stand against racism.

Lundy's Day:

Apprentice Boys Agreement With Derry's Business Representatives

The so-called agreement between the Apprentice Boys and primarily the business community negates the views and wishes of the vast majority of the people in Derry, according to an IRSP spokesperson in the city.

The spokesperson said, "We will once again see banners representing groups such as the UDA,

UVF and LVF being flown throughout the city centre. We will see the usual aggressive security measures put in place. The agreement to hold the demonstration a couple of weeks earlier than usual is of no benefit to the working class people of Derry. It does nothing but displace the problem. The problem still exists.

"The decision in November/December 2000 by the BRG and business people in Derry to accept a compromise by the Apprentice Boys has been proven to be a gross mistake and any further ideas at compromising with blatant sectarian bigots should be stopped. The Apprentice Boys and their friends in the paramilitary PSNI will totally disrupt the city centre once again. The PSNI in the past few years were very abusive and drew batons on children on a number of occasions. One elderly lady was bashed on the head last year. The business people of this city are not interested in the working class residents of this

city. They are motivated by greed in the run up to their massive campaign of exploitation of workers during the Christmas period. This should be borne in mind when reports of compromise deals are relayed. The local business fraternity are only interested in their own profit. They are in league with the Apprentice Boys only because it is profitable for them to be so.

"The 'deal' was that the parade would be brought forward. This doesn't stop the annual disruption that occurs. The working class of Derry deserve better. The deal only shifted the disruption from one day to another, it didn't stop the disruption!"



Galway Racist Threat Condemned By IRSP

The Irish Republican Socialist Party and the Irish National Liberation Army has hit out at threats made against a Nigerian family now settled in Galway. The statement was issued following a report that appeared in the Galway Advertiser, which was then picked up and elaborated on in the Irish Daily Mirror.

The Nigerian family was in shock this week after they received an anonymous letter threatening to shoot them on sight unless they left Galway.

The letter, which bears a swastika and purports to have been sent by a well-known Northern Ireland paramilitary group, contains threats to kill all African people living in Galway unless they leave. The letter has since been passed onto the Garda. The man who received the threats, who did not wish to be identified, informed a local newspaper

that he has experienced several incidents of racial abuse since he moved to Galway with his family three and a half years ago.

"I have had people telling me to go back to my own country, but I never believed it would come to this," he said. The Starry plough was contacted by a spokesperson for the Irish Republican Socialist Party stating that: *"The letter purported to come from the INLA. It did not. We have been assured that that organisation takes both a dim view of racist threats and also the false use of its name to instil fear into people."*

"The IRSP wish to reassure members of ethnic minorities that they have nothing to fear from the Republican Socialist movement. However we have been informed by sources close to that organisation those who falsely use the name of the INLA do have something to fear."

IRSP: Condemn South Belfast Racist Attacks on Ethnic Community

Once more racists living in the Donegall Road area of South Belfast have attacked people because of the colour of their skin. Hua Long Lin was at home watching television when a man burst in and smashed a brick into his face. His wife was eight months pregnant. Outside the kerbs are painted red, white and blue and Ku Klux Klan graffiti and the 'Chinks out' notices adorn the walls.

A white protestant family told a community worker they couldn't offer a Chinese family friendship in public or they would be 'bricked' too. This is the fear that fed the Nazis in the drive to power. The Six counties holds the UK's record for the highest rate of racist attacks: 'spitting and stoning in the street, human excrement on doorsteps, swastikas on walls, pipe bombs, arson, the ransacking of houses with baseball bats and crow bars, and white supremacist leaflets nailed to front doors.' (The Guardian)

There has been at least one racist incident a day for the past eight months. Despite complaints to the police little has been done to stop the attacks. Many victims don't bother complaining any more. In loyalist working-class neighbourhoods there is pattern of orchestrated house attacks aimed at 'ethnically cleansing' minority groups. This is similar to the tactics used against Catholics when

the civil rights movement first started.

It is happening in streets run by loyalist paramilitaries, both the UDA and the UVF. Every Chinese takeaway owner already pays protection money and the UVF have forbid any more Chinese to live in the Donegall Pass area. Peace walls are graffitied with swastikas and signs that read 'keep the streets white'. 'The Village in south Belfast is a run-down network of loyalist terraces where unemployment is high, union flags sag from lampposts and almost every family has a link to loyalist paramilitaries.' (The Guardian)

In post-Good Friday Agreement segregation is the norm. Outsiders are regarded with suspicion. The siege mentality against 'outsiders' is rife. Attacks against pregnant Chinese women and new mothers have forced them out of their homes. Ugandan, Nigerian and Romanian families were also either burned out or forced out.

A six-foot plank was hurled through the front window of the home of a Pakistani woman who was eight months pregnant. The spot where she and her brother-in-law had eaten dinner 20 minutes before was sprayed with glass. They had moved into the house 12 hours earlier. There has always been a crossover of far right groups with loyalist Para

militarism, while small racist groups are said to respect the loyalists and style themselves as 'paramilitary groupies'. Combat 18 is written in marker pen near Chinese takeaways in the Village and groups such as the White Nationalist party have penetrated elsewhere, threatening one anti-racist activist. Johnny Adair while a glue-sniffing teenager was a member of a far right group.

A local estate agent said that he had told not to rent another house to 'Chinese, blacks or Asians'. Ten of his tenants were forced out last year. The tolerance of a culture of sectarianism has not only spawned violence against nationalists but is now spawning the evil of racism.

The IRSP expects nothing from the loyalist paramilitaries. We do not expect them to stop the attacks for they are behind them and tolerate them. However we do expect community workers trade unionists and republicans wherever they live to stand in solidarity with oppressed minorities. Racism while now mainly occurring in loyalist areas also exists in nationalist areas. We call on all to resist racism- but lets be clear about this. The only way to deter these racists is to beat them off the streets.

Belfast Central IRSP: Fascist Elements Behind Attacks

In the true spirit of sectarian hatred two pregnant women have been assaulted by a group of men during what police believe were a series of racially-motivated attacks in south Belfast.

Two Chinese families and one of African descent have since fled their homes following the attacks in the Lower Donegall Road area of Sandy Row late on a Saturday in December.

In one of the incidents, the gang broke into a house and assaulted two pregnant Chinese women and broke a man's nose by smashing him in the face with a brick. Windows were broken in two other houses in the area shortly afterwards. A Chinese family with week-old twins were in one of these houses.

The area concerned has recently seen a number of such attacks as well as graffiti praising Combat 18 a neo fascist British group based on ex British army squaddies. There is no doubt that elements of the UDA are also involved in these attacks.

Those who have seen progressive elements within the UVF's political wing should be aware that in the Donegall Pas area of South Belfast which is dominated by the UVF the local Chinese have been told that they will not be allowed to move anymore Chinese families into the area. Anymore who dare move in will be driven out by the UVF.

A spokesperson for IRSP cumann in Belfast Central has condemned these racist attacks in the Village area of South Belfast on Fascist Elements stating, "Racism is increasingly becoming a worry as our society becomes more multi-cultural. We in the IRSP condemn utterly the fascist elements who perpetrate such acts against our ethnic neighbours some of which have come here to seek asylum from their native oppressive regimes.

"It is time that these fascist gangs realise that these people are not the cause of the ills in our society. It is the system that we live in that has failed them.

"They must start to question the status quo and direct their anger and disillusionment towards the real evils in our society, the corrupt capitalist class.

"Quality of life will not improve for working class loyalist on the Donegall Pass no matter how many pregnant Asian women they brutalise."

Republican Socialists Condemn National Slave Labour Awards

The Fight For a Decent Living Wage

The Irish Republican Socialist Party has condemned a leading Temporary Employment Agency for what it called the build up to Irelands equivalent to the 'National Slave Labour Awards'.

After nominating Derry's best 'temp' worker, Grafton Recruitment is planning to award the best temporary worker at a national level ceremony, later this year.

A spokesperson for the IRSP in Derry hit out angrily at the announcement stating "Temporary employment means nowadays a regression of many years of workers' struggle for a proper wage and working conditions. Temporary employment means no holiday or sick entitlements, an uncertainty due to temporary contracts that doesn't allow workers to organise any type of future, as they never know just how long they are going to be employed for.

"Temporary employment suits the bosses down to the ground as they have total impunity of dismissal at any time. That's

why they pay a certain amount of money out to the recruitment company and that's why the temporary worker often works for far less money than the rest of the workforce who do the same job. That's nothing to celebrate or to be happy about.

The spokesperson concluded saying "Our Party finds it offensive and sickening in the extreme at the fact of what passes for a decent job these days is now being legitimized in the form of a 'National Awards for Slave Labour' for members of our class who find it difficult enough to access a decent job with a decent days wage!

"Work is a right of each and every citizen. The IRSP therefore called upon the city council, trade unions and other political representatives in the city come out and oppose with us the growth of this modern day slave trade and to make sure that any employment being offered in the city meets the decent standards which its citizens fought for and deserve!"

TEMPORARY
EMPLOYMENT
AGENCIES



Legal Slave Trade: Temporary Employment Agencies

GOT A STORY?

email: plough@irsm.org

65 WORKERS KILLED IN THEIR WORK PLACE IN 2003

Figures released by the Health and Safety Authority in the 26 counties indicate that 65 people were killed in work-related accidents in Ireland in 2003.

This figure represents an increase of three on 2002 when 62 workers were killed while trying to earn a living.

The Authority said the most common type of fatal accident in the workplace this year was falling from a height, which accounted for 14 deaths, or 22% of the total.

The Authority said underlying trends show that since 1999, there has been a 17% drop in the injury and illness rate at work, even though an extra 180,000 people were at work.

An IRSP spokesperson responding to the release of the

figures described them as "dire".

He said, "To have one death in the workplace is one too many. Bosses are taking shortcuts in relation to health and safety implementation and in the process are playing with the lives of the workers.

"The building industry is one of the worst culprits for cutting safety corners and it is our intention to highlight this in the coming year. These workers are doing a valuable job and deserve every safety precaution to be taken to protect them whilst at work. The bosses, while profiting from the workers labour, are obliged in law to offer the highest safety standards but the law is being flouted all over the country in the name of profit.

"We are calling on workers who have concerns in relation

to safety to make their concerns immediately known to their union representative. If you are not satisfied then contact the Health and Safety Authority directly. Their contact details are below:

Health and Safety Authority
10 Hogan Place
Dublin 2
Ireland

Telephone + 353 1 614 7000
Web: <http://www.hsa.ie/>

Give Us What We're Entitled

Industrial action by members of NIPSA looks set to continue in 2004 as several thousand workers participated in one-day strike action mid December.

Trade union representatives at NIPSA have stated that due to the growth in support and solidarity which its members received during its first industrial stoppage in years. Now it plans to request that its members across the six counties to go one step further and support increased stoppages, walk-outs and rallies.

NIPSA is demanding that the NIO 'cough up' money owed to its members since the beginning of last year instead of any NIO imposed pay deal as its "members would loose out on an annual cost of living increase".

One NIPSA member who participated on a picket line on Belfast told the Starry Plough that "the failure of management to begin talks will undoubtedly see an escalation of industrial action in the new year which could continue until such a time when they give us what we're entitled too".

Unity For Strike Action

"Never before has teachers' unions been so united" was the view from a primary school teacher working currently in a Tyrone.

Co-ordinating the first series of possible half-day strikes ever between the four main teachers' unions are NASUWT and INTO who both voted accepting the need for industrial action. However members of UTU and the ATL stopped short of accepting an actual walk-out from their schools.

Despite this representatives of the four teachers' unions stand by their claims that strikes will begin from January.

The classroom campaign of disruption is said to also include boycotts of classroom assessments, meetings and administration etc.

The teacher added by saying "We have been continually told that this part of Ireland is part of the so-called United Kingdom and we are all equal but we know that only applies to certain issues and for teachers' here it doesn't mean equality in our wages. Teachers' here are paid far less than those in Britain!"

Deaths at work = Industrial Terrorism!

UDA "CEASEFIRE" A SHAM

It has been reported that the UDA is considering ending their supposed ceasefire which has been in place for eleven months

It is said that five of the UDA's six 'brigadiers' are in favour of ending the group's 11-month ceasefire.

Only the south Belfast supports a policy of maintaining the ceasefire, which was declared last February.

The UDA has not denied it was behind two days of bomb hoax disruption around Belfast, on Thursday and Friday 15th and 16th January.

And sources in the group disclosed to journalists that more "activity" can be expected, over the coming weeks.

The South Belfast commander was reported as saying he was "fighting a losing battle" to maintain the ceasefire, which the UDA called so that they could regroup after the 2002 feud.

An IRSP spokesperson in Belfast described the UDA speculation as "expected". He said, "The UDA has lowered the level of attacks against nationalists but they haven't stopped completely. Every so often attacks were still taking place. They have recently even raised their level of attacks against anyone who is not a white protestant. Many racist attacks recently have been attributed to the loyalists in general but the UDA in particular. So it is our view that their ceasefire was never fully in place to begin with.

"The IRSP will be watching with interest to see what exactly the UDA are up to."

SUNDAY RAG ATTEMPTS TO CREATE TENSION

A Sunday rag recently tried their previous attempts at discrediting the IRSM.

This paper has a well documented agenda against the IRSM and this week, 18-1-04, alleged that members of the IRSM were involved in all sorts of anti-community activity while at the same time writing that the INLA had "taken over" the Ardoyne area of N Belfast and that the PIRA were planning to take out the leader of the INLA in the area.

They named an alleged INLA member, using a nick-name, and made serious allegations against him including murder, extortion and drug dealing.

An IRSP spokesperson described the report as pure fabrication. "This newspaper in the same issue made reference to two former members of the IPLO and alleged that they were members of the INLA despite alledging in the SAME article that these two were involved in the murders of INLA volunteers John O'Reilly and Ta Power. That says enough about the journalistic integrity and honesty of this publication."

International Symposium Against Isolation

Speech delivered At The International Conference On Political Prisoners
Held in Florence, Italy December 2003

What follows is the actual speech as delivered by Ard Comhairle member Willie Gallagher.

Firstly as an ex-political prisoner who has served a total of 18 years in prison from 1975 until 1993 I would like to express my solidarity to all political prisoners throughout the world, particularly those who are enduring isolation and torture and especially to the political prisoners in Turkey whose courage and dedication are an inspiration to all of us. As someone who has experienced every aspect of prison life during the present conflict in Ireland which included physical and psychological brutality, long and regular periods of solitary confinement, forced starvation diets and various protests including a 50 day hunger-strike in 1978 when I 20 years of age I will always feel a great affinity with all political prisoners throughout the world. Therefore I would like to thank the organisers of this Symposium for giving me the opportunity to speak here today and express my personal solidarity and the solidarity of the Irish Republican Socialist Party and of Irish National Liberation prisoners currently imprisoned in Ireland.

The isolation of political prisoners is nothing new to people who know what it is like to live under political oppression. In Ireland the British have used this tactic for over 200 years with the sole purpose of not just breaking the spirit of captured freedom fighters and their families but of the overall struggle for freedom itself.



IRSP Ard Comhairle Member: Willie Gallagher

Prison struggles have been part and parcel of Republican resistance since the imprisonment and death of Wolfe Tone in 1798. Republican political prisoners have a long and honourable history of fighting back against British brutality within the prisons which was clearly demonstrated in 1981 when ten Republican prisoners died on hunger-strike. Their deaths eventually smashed Britain's criminalisation policy.

The signing of the so called Good Friday Agreement did bring about the release of the majority of political prisoners in Ireland in 1998. However it also brought about the

ending of political status for any further political prisoners captured after the signing of the GFA. The British, with the endorsement of all political parties who supported the GFA, including Provisional Sinn Fein, felt free to deny anti-GFA Republican prisoners the rights that our comrades battled hard for and died for. Once again Republican prisoners embarked on protests as outlined by Marion (Marion Price ex-political prisoner from the IRPWA) in her speech yesterday and the prisoners did indeed win a victory of separation from pro-British death squad loyalist prisoners. Their victory this year,

against all odds, is a reflection of their resilience and commitment to the cause of national liberation in Ireland. The fact that political status was traded away as part of the empty promises known as the Good Friday Agreement is nothing short of criminal. The IRSP are opposed to the GFA and we fully and actively supported the prisoners in Maghaberry. It was our own experiences with prisoner isolation and our response to it that led us to support the prisoners of the DHKC on hunger-strike in Turkey. In all there were hundreds of prisoners on hunger-strike in Turkey seeking the same rights that Irish revolutionaries gave their lives for in 1981. We salute the courage and dedication of our Turkish comrades and wish them a speedy victory.

In like manner the IRSP and INLA prisoners wish to extend our solidarity to Basque political prisoners, to political prisoners in Chile, Puerto Rico, the United States, Palestinian political prisoners and all political prisoners throughout the world. And that is why we join you today, each of us, who have had experiences of prison isolation, criminalisation, torture, abuse and dehumanisation through the prison system in our own nations, cannot look upon the struggles of others elsewhere in the world against similar evils and remain unmoved.

As someone who has went through prison isolation and a hunger-strike I know the importance of International solidarity therefore I would encourage all here today to join forces in exposing and combating the torture of political prisoners and prisoners of war throughout the world. What we need is a strong unified international response. So in conclusion we in the IRSP join with you all today in demanding an end to prison isolation and torture of political prisoners.

In unity let us find strength. Through that strength let us find victory. Long live the solidarity of those who struggle for justice.

Resist Privatisation of Water

P e t e r U r b a n

Water has become a scarce resource in the world today. A soaring world population has brought about an expanding of agriculture that now sucks rivers dry. Lakes and rivers are contaminated with industrial pollutants; climate change, largely resulting from the accumulation of green house gasses from industry in the atmosphere, is wreaking havoc with the weather; even ancient aquifers, some millions of years old are being tapped into to meet increased demand for water.

Scientists agree that the world faces a tremendous water crisis. They predict that by 2025 at least 40% of the world's population will face shortages of water from available natural resources. There are already 26 countries said to have populations greater than can be adequately supplied by their water resources. Many experts believe that water will increasingly become a source of international conflict, even war. The Middle East in particular is already showing major tensions over water.

Capitalism has responded in its usual way, by declaring water a commodity that is, an economic good subject to market transactions. Seeing an increasing demand looming on the horizon, some large multi-national corporations have begun to stake claim to water resources, as in the past was done with petroleum resources. Those engaged in this effort concede that the pricing of water will be a painful adjustment for humankind, but capitalists stand always ready for humanity to suffer such adjustments, if in the process they enrich themselves. Water is already a \$400-billion global business, but at present only 10% of water resources are privatised. With national governments of the leading imperialist nations lending their support, a vigorous effort to privatise the world's water supplies is now taking place. Indigenous rights are being trampled, national sovereignty weakened, and access to water is being restricted. A globalised trade in water is being created and the people of the world are to be reduced to the consumers of this product.

Dr Ismail Serageldin, World Bank Vice-President, has said that the 21st century's wars will be over water. To respond, the World Bank adopted a policy of water privatisation and 'full-cost water pricing'. A 1992 paper by the World Bank outlined the importance of pricing to force consumers to conserve. This was echoed in a 2000 collective declaration from Nestlé and Unilever (the world's first and third largest food corporations), with Heineken, ITT, and the global water companies DVH, Azurix, CH2M Hill, and Suez Lyonnaise des Eaux stating:

"Water is an economic good and its economic value should be recognised in the allocation of scarce water resources to competing uses. While this should not prevent people from meeting their basic needs for water services at affordable prices, the price for water must be set at a level that encourages conservation and wise use."

The privatisation of municipal water services has a horrible and well-documented record. Customer rates have been doubled or tripled while corporate profits rise as much as 700%; corruption runs rampant while water quality drops; overuse is promoted to increase profits, while customers who can't pay are cut off. In the developing world, after privatisation, those who can't pay die. The transfer of government-managed water systems to private firms is taking place in Argentina, Colombia, Mexico, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Côte d'Ivoire, Madagascar, Morocco, Niger, Senegal, Tunisia, Britain, Australia, France, Germany, the Netherlands, the Czech Republic and Hungary, just to name a sample.

In Bolivia, in 1998, the World Bank wouldn't guarantee a \$25 million loan to refinance water services in Cochabamba, Bolivia's third-largest city, unless the government sold the public water system to the private sector. The utility was turned over to a subsidiary of a conglomerate led by Bechtel Corporation. Immediately, in January 1999, the company announced the doubling of water

prices, which meant for most Bolivians that water now cost more than food. For those earning minimum wage or unemployed, water bills accounted for close to half their monthly income. The World Bank also declared that none of its loan could be used to subsidize water for the poor. Even from community wells required permits to access and peasants had to buy permits to gather rainwater on their own property. Finally, in April of 2000, hundreds of thousands marched to Cochabamba to protest the privatisation. The government backed down and ordered Bechtel out of the country after revoking its water privatisation legislation. In France, private companies have been prosecuted for providing water that's polluted and unfit to drink. A French Government report revealed more than 5.2 million citizens received "bacterially unacceptable" water. French cities with private water charge 30% more than public water companies.

Since the privatisation of water services in Britain under Thatcher, prices have risen by as much as 450%, with an average increase of 67%. Thousands who couldn't pay their bills have had their water service cut off. Dysentery in Britain has now increased six fold, which prompted the British Medical Association to condemn water privatisation. In one instance, a water company even began billing a rural resident who was serviced by a well, arguing that the rain falling on his property was making its way into the storm drainage system and therefore he should pay a fee.

Working people of Ireland's occupied six counties must resist this criminal trend towards the privatisation of water. The lives and well being of every working class person in the six counties depends on it. If privatisation of water succeeds, capitalism will have succeeded in reducing every resource of nature except the air we breathe to an economic commodity.

The overthrow of capitalism, driven by the quest for ever greater profit, and its replacement by socialism, driven instead by human need, has become an even more urgent undertaking for the survival of humankind. Ending the horrific assault on the environment throughout the world and sustaining the availability of such vital resources as food, energy, and water require that the world's political economy be re-built on a new model, and it is the purpose of the IRSP to struggle to accomplish these goals by struggling for a 32-county Irish Workers' Republic.

VIVA ZAPATISTAS:

SOLIDARITY WITH THE EZLN ON THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THEIR ARMED RISING

The International Department of the Irish Republican Socialist Party issued the party's first statement of 2004 for the purpose of expressing solidarity with the Zapatista movement in Chiapas, Mexico. New Year's Day 2004 is the tenth anniversary of the EZLN armed uprising, which took the Mexican government and Chiapas officials by surprise and ultimately focused the eyes of the world on the oppression of Mexico's indigenous peoples and the revolutionary movement whose new approach to politics caused their rising to be called "the first post-modern revolution."

IRSP spokesperson Peadar Baile said: "The Irish Republican Socialist Party wishes to express its solidarity with the Zapatista National Liberation Army on the tenth anniversary of its armed uprising in 1994. In a year that the Mexican ruling class had sought to be noted for its entry into the North American Free Trade Agreement, the Zapatistas instead focused the eyes of the world on Mexico's lack of democracy, that nation's continued exploitation by imperialism, and the severe oppression of the indigenous peoples within Mexican society.

"Like the people of Ireland's occupied six counties, the people of Chiapas were forced to take up arms because the ruling class had closed all other avenues that might have been used to redress the wrongs suffered by the impoverished indigenous peoples of Chiapas. The EZLN's unilateral suspension of offensive military actions within six months of having launched its war against the oppressors of the people of Chiapas demonstrated their humanitarian ethos, but it seems to have been treated by the Mexican ruling class as though it were an expression of weakness.

"We in the IRSP understand the growing frustration that must exist in Chiapas today, when ten years after throwing down the gauntlet, most of the problems confronting the people there in 1994 remain in place today. Recognising this, we want the Zapatistas to know that you have our sympathy and solidarity. These are small gifts to offer, in the face of so much that is wanting in Chiapas, but we understand how



Chiapas: Viva Zapatistas

important it can be to a people in struggle to know that others are cheering them on. The IRSP support the struggle of the EZLN, whether it remains peaceful or they are compelled to resume a military offensive."

In concluding the statement, the spokesperson said: "We in the IRSP recognise that, whether in Ireland or Mexico, a national government which cedes its sovereignty to a powerful neighbor loses the legitimate right to rule, a people deprived of social justice must seek it though any means necessary, and a system of exploitation must be forced to give way to one that puts the needs of the masses above all else.

"Accordingly, we send the EZLN our heartfelt solidarity and best wishes for the coming new year and salute them for ten years of defending the working masses of Chiapas and of Mexico as a whole. Your struggle is our struggle; your victory is a victory for us as well."

Message Of Solidarity From IRSP:

To The National Democratic Front of the Philippines

In December the International Department of the Irish Republican Socialist Party sent greetings of solidarity on the occasion of the anniversary of the founding of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines in 1971.

It read: We in the IRSP are just celebrating our own anniversary, having been founded on December 10th of 1974.

We recognise that the New People's Army of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines has been the leading force in the fight for popular democracy and social justice in the Philippines since its founding, led by the Communist Party of the Philippines. We recognise that this struggle began in opposition to the fascist Marcos regime and against

US imperialism, which continues to dominate and exploit the Filipino people, as it has since 1899, immediately following their liberation from Spanish colonialism. We applaud that this struggle continues until the present, seeking the liberation of the working masses of the Philippines so that they can establish their own destiny.

As a nation which long languished under British colonial rule and which is now partitioned between six counties under military occupation by Britain and 26 counties under a neo-colonial regime which fosters the exploitation of the Irish working class by the imperialists of the US, Britain, and other western imperialism, we both understand and support the experience of the Filipino people. Unlike our present experience, however, we understand that the working people of the Philippines suffer under extreme conditions of oppression and exploitation, often receiving only a dollar a day harvesting sugar or coconuts for absentee landlords and multinational corporations, with 60 percent of your people living below the poverty line, and 55 percent of your nations arable land being used for growing export crops. We in the IRSP feel that it is important that all organisations engaged in struggle against imperialism, capitalism, and exploitation express their solidarity with others fighting these same enemies, for in unity we find strength. Congratulations on your anniversary, comrades, and our hopes for the success of your struggle, the defeat of US imperialism, and the liberation of the Filipino working people.

Beir Bua! Until Victory!

North America: Immigration Service Raids Anti-Union Wal-Mart Chain

Last month federal immigration agents raided sixty stores of the Wal-Mart chain across the United States. An estimated 250 immigrant janitors were arrested in the raids, many after finishing their night cleaning shift. Many of these workers are now in removal proceedings, that is, the government is seeking to deport them. No action was taken against the employer, however, despite immigration law that permits fines of up to \$5,000 for each illegal immigrant found employed.

While constantly attacking undocumented immigrant workers, little or no action is ever taken against employers and it is widely recognised that illegal immigrants are a vital source of cheap labour to many American industries, especially in the agricultural and service sectors.

A WORLD TO WIN!

Palestine: Solidarity With PFLP

The Irish Republican Socialist Party sends solidarity greetings to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine on the occasion of the party's 36th anniversary. Our own organisation has just celebrated its 29th anniversary on the 8th of December, and is proud to continue to represent the militant expression of the Irish working class in seeking national liberation and socialism, just as we believe the PFLP continues to represent those intertwined and inseparable objectives for the Palestinian working class. We continue to support the just and democratic perspective of the PFLP, that a two-state solution to the struggle of the Palestinian people is not a viable option, just as we refuse to consider accepting the partition and continued occupation of our own nation, resulting, as it does, in an unviable two-state formulation.

Likewise, we share with the comrades of the PFLP the recognition that only by overturning the system of capitalism and replacing it with socialism can those oppressed by the forces of imperialist exploitation hope to achieve a true expression of national sovereignty. We have said before and we reiterate now that the PFLP represents the most advanced section of the Palestinian nation and is the representation of the interests of the working people of Palestine, no matter what their national origin. It is the programme of the PFLP which today offers a way forward to the defeat of Zionism and imperialism, the national liberation of Palestine, and the victory of the Palestinian working masses over the exploitation of imperialism and capitalism. We salute your courage in the face of relentless opposition and your steadfastness in defending the interests of the Palestinian nation and the working class of Palestine, who comprise the vast majority of that nation.

Czech Union: Unions Demand A Different Sort of Christmas Bonus

Labor unions representing retail clerks in the Czech Republic demanded this year that stores stop playing Christmas carols incessantly or pay additional compensation for the annoyance to workers. Workers said that shifts had become unbearable in some stores, which play the same song all day long. The retail clerks unions asked for two days off as possible compensation, or approximately 18 Euros instead of the leave.

The Czech workers were not the only ones who had enough of their employers' saccharine holiday cheer, however, as retail clerks unions in Austria lodged similar complaints against stores there.

South Africa: Airports Strike Victory

A three-week strike by the members of the South African Transport and Allied Workers Union (SATAWU) against the airports there ended victoriously in mid-December. Workers will receive an increase of 8% that will be back paid from September this year. They will also receive a night shift allowance of 3.75 Rand per hour and an entry level of 3000 Rand. Regarding the victory SATAWU said, "One of the successes of the strike was our court victory against industry bosses who tried to interdict solidarity action. This victory lays a precedent and a basis for continuing unity in action of aviation workers."

North America: Military Raid On Union Offices

Early December in Iraq, American troops with armoured cars raided the offices of the Iraqi Federation of Trade Unions (IFTU) in Baghdad. The soldiers generally ransacked the offices, threw black paint on the windows and arrested eight union officials, though they were later released unharmed.

Unable to read them, the soldiers even tore up posters condemning the ongoing military attacks against the occupation forces. The British foreign office minister told the House of Commons that he knew nothing about the attack on the union offices. However, it is known that the US regime is strongly anti-trade union. The IFTU and its twelve constituent unions didn't even exist until the fall of the Baathist regime. However, Iraq has a long tradition of trade unionism. As far back as 1959, the international May Day march in Baghdad attracted 1 million people in a nation with a population of only 12 million.

Irish Republican Socialist Movement



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Volunteer Neil McMonagle

Hundreds of people came out in Derry on 11th November to witness the unveiling of a new memorial to INLA Volunteer Neil McMonagle.

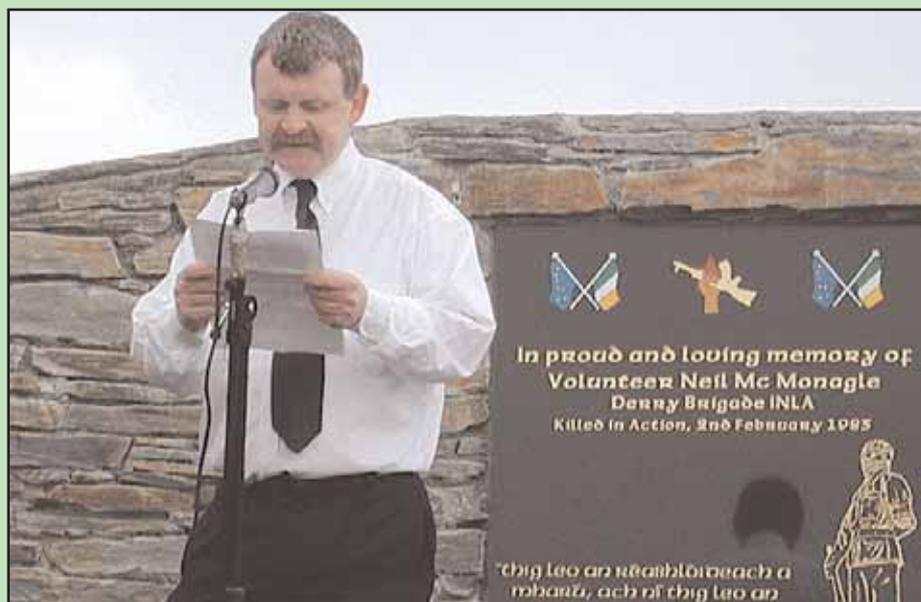
The march assembled beside the Carnhill Resource Centre before making its way along Racecourse Road, down Bradley Pass and then up to Leafair Park where the new memorial is located close to the spot where Neil was killed by undercover British SAS in 1983.

The huge turnout is testament to the high regard in which Neil is still held in this local community and this was emphasised in the McMonagle family statement which was read at the unveiling by Eileen McLeod, Neil's sister. She thanked everyone for their commitment to building the new memorial but also urged those present to also remember Neil's political struggle.

Other contributors included Gerard Murray of Belfast Teach na Failte Memorial Committee, Liam O'Comain a former friend and comrade of Neil's and a speaker on behalf of the INLA leadership.



ngle Remembered in Derry



An Historical Look At Cultural The Icon Ché Guevara

L i a m O ' R u a i r c

Ernesto Guevara (1928-1967) was one of the most remarkable historical figures of the twentieth century. He is a cultural icon (just think of Madonna exploiting his image in her latest album), and while many have T-shirts and posters with his effigy, few actually know what he stood for. His writings, his dedication and commitment, his self sacrifice continues to inspire all the oppressed fighting imperialism.

This January marks the 45th anniversary of the Cuban Revolution. Ernesto "Che" Guevara (1928-1967) personifies more than anyone else (with the exception of Fidel Castro) that revolution and all the hopes it gave birth to. Everybody is familiar with the famous photographs of Guevara by Alberto Korda (with the beret), Rene Burri (with the cigare) or Freddy Alborta (lying dead). Today, for most people, the "Che" is at just symbol of revolt and a cultural icon (just think of Madonna exploiting his image in her latest album), and while many have T-shirts and posters with his effigy, few actually know what he stood for. Republican Socialists have the greatest respect and admiration for Che Guevara and the achievements of the Cuban revolution. To commemorate the 45th anniversary of the Cuban Revolution, the Starry Plough evaluates the ideas of the Che.

Guevara joined Fidel Castro's guerrilla forces in the 1956-1959 struggle against the right-wing US backed Batista dictatorship in Cuba. It is in that context that he became an outstanding guerrilla strategist. His ideas were later systematised by his French companion Regis Debray in a famous book: "Revolution within the Revolution" -the bible of "Guevarism". Che Guevara bases his book on Guerrilla Warfare: A Method (1963) on a number of key arguments. The first is that popular forces can win a war against an army with guerrilla tactics. What has been done in Cuba can be done elsewhere, whatever the odds. The Cuban model is not an exceptional case, it can be universalised. Guerrilla will give political leverage. "To have a guerrilla force gives prestige. It makes it possible to raise one's voice and to impose oneself on the stage of power" says Debray. The second argument is far more controversial. One does not have to wait for the right conditions to be present before starting the revolution, the insurrectionary nucleus (foco) can contribute to making them appear. Guerrilla has thus a decisive political role, it is a "focal point", it functions as a catalysing agent. "It is the 'small motor' that sets the 'big motor' of the masses in motion" (Debray). It will act as a stimulus to existing struggles and will intensify the political crisis. Waiting for the "right time" and the "right conditions" is an opportunist excuse to delay the actual start of the fighting until an ideal moment which never comes. "If that had been our way of thinking, we would never have initiated a revolutionary process. It was enough for the ideas to take root in a sufficient number of men for revolutionary action to be initiated and through this action, the masses started to acquire these ideas, the masses acquired that consciousness." (Fidel Castro) Revolution do not happen, they are made. This is why "the duty of a revolutionary is to make revolution" (Che). Minimal resources, little initial popular support are no reason for not starting the fight. The role of the vanguard is

to contribute creating the conditions needed for the seizure of power "and not to await a revolutionary wave that will appear from the masses." (Che) As Castro said in 1967: "Whoever stops to wait for ideas to triumph among the majority of the masses before initiating revolutionary action will never be a revolutionary." (Castro) What distinguishes the "true revolutionary" from the "false revolutionary" is precisely this: "One acts to move the masses, the other waits for the masses to have a conscience already before starting to act." (Castro) One does not have to first wait until people become revolutionary or have the perfect political platform and then start the fight, rather starting the fight first is the best way to learn to become a revolution

ary. Guevara's third argument is that in the underdeveloped countries of Latin America, rural areas are the best battle fields for armed struggle. Why? Because the bulk of the population lives in rural areas. The country side, rather than the city is the terrain most suitable to people's war. It is the "weakest point", as rural areas are far more difficult to control by the central government, and the guerrillas can easily hide and move around. Fourth, the peasantry rather than the industrial working class constitutes the base of the guerrilla. It has the highest potential force for revolution. Che's final argument is that the guerrilla group does not need to be subordinated to a political party. The revolutionary struggle should be directed by those actually doing the fighting rather than a central party organisation based in the cities. The armed struggle of the guerrilla against imperialism is capable of creating by itself, on the long run, a vanguard capable of leading the people to socialism. The guerrilla plays the role of the vanguard, it is the nucleus of the revolutionary movement. It is necessary for the guerrilla to take over the political functions of the party. "A guerrilla force cannot develop on the military level if it does not become a political vanguard." (Debray) Those were the central tenets of Guevarism on the revolutionary struggle.

Practice has proved that most of these ideas were mistaken. First, the question of Cuban exceptionalism. Castro/Guevara/Debray were wrong to believe that what had worked in Cuba could also work elsewhere. The guerrillas were able to succeed in Cuba due to very specific conditions that do not necessarily exist elsewhere: exporting the Cuban model from Bolivia to the Congo proved a real failure. Secondly, if Castro/Guevara/Debray had a point that one did not have to wait for the right time and the right conditions to start the fighting, they fatally underestimated the risk of the guerrilla foco ending in isolation with no support from the mass of the population, ultimately leading to the defeat of the guerrillas. This is what Guevara realised too late; a few weeks before dying he wrote in his diary: "We failed to recruit one single peasant." In Bolivia, Guevara failed to see the importance of connecting the foco with the industrial working class (which was quite militant) and had little knowledge of the local conditions. Thirdly, Castro/Guevara/Debray overestimated the importance of the country side. Guevara was also wrong in thinking that urban warfare was a mere by-product of rural guerrilla activity. It doesn't make sense at all to concentrate on rural guerrilla in countries like Argentina, where the majority of the population lives in urban areas. Finally, the army proved to be no substitute for the functions of the political party. The death of Che Guevara in 1967 symbolised the failure of the foco strategy. Today, the Castro regime is no longer printing dozens of thousands of copies of "Revolution within the

and talented member of the IRSP as well. Even were this not the case, however, the IRSP would continue to demand his release. Fintan's participation in the demonstrations against the US military's use of Shannon during its war with Iraq should not have resulted in his being treated as a criminal. Rather, he should be recognised as a defender of Irish sovereignty and Irish neutrality, as should all those who protested and continue to protest the US presence in Shannon.

Revolution". Already in the early 1970s, by endorsing uncritically Salvador Allende's strategy in Chile, Castro indicated the end of an era. In that sense, Cuba today has broken with one of the central principles of Guevarism.

Guevarism is not just a strategy to seize power, it is a way to rule a country. Once Fidel Castro was in power in 1959, Che served as President of the National Bank and as Minister for Industry. Between 1963 and 1965, Cuban Communists had a major debate regarding the problems faced by the Cuban economy. As Minister of Industry, Che made an important theoretical and political contribution. Che Guevara exposed his economic ideas in his essay "Socialism and Man in Cuba". Traditionally, Communists believed that they had to set up a socialist economy first, and once that was successful, a true socialist mentality would develop in the workers. So the priority is industrial development, productivity, and material incentives can be used to reach that aim. Che disagreed. The idea of rewarding individuals with material incentives to boost production serving collective ends is a contradiction. This will give rise to pro-capitalist tendencies and ambitions. He argued that it was impossible to build a socialist society with capitalist methods. "Pursuing the wild idea of trying to realise socialism with the aid of the worn out weapons left by capitalism (the commodity as the basic economic cell, profit making, individual material incentives, and so forth), one can arrive at a dead end...To construct communism simultaneously with the material base of our society, we must create a new man." (Socialism and Man in Cuba) Productive forces should be developed by socialist methods. The emphasis should be on the development of a revolutionary consciousness rather than material incentives or economic efficiency. He believed that "in a relatively short time, the development of conscience does more for the development of production than material incentive." (Budgetary System) As Castro said in 1968 the slogan is: "Creating wealth with political awareness, not creating political awareness with money or wealth." To achieve this, economic planning must do away with the law of value (profitability) and people have to work for moral incentives rather than material ones (promotion of voluntary work etc). Guevara's point is that if everybody works just to make more money rather than for the well being of society, and if economic decisions are based on profitability rather than social utility then there is no real qualitative difference with how people behave within a capitalist society. For Che, "There are no other alternatives: either a socialist revolution or a make believe revolution." Socialism is more about the creation of a "new individual" than the growth of the productive forces. Whatever the utopianism and the asceticism of his proposals, Guevara's great contribution is that economic production cannot be sep-

arated from the production and reproduction of communist social relations and consciousness. The economic base of socialism will only be successful if developed in parallel with conscious political and ideological struggle against individualism, etc. It is thus not hard to understand why Cuba generated such enthusiasm during the 1960s. (see for example Jean Paul Sartre's account of his stay in Cuba) Here was a society that was trying to do away with economic profitability and material incentives, and was engaged in creating a "new man". However, the difficulties faced by the Cuban economy from 1970 onwards prompted a shift in policy towards a more orthodox soviet-type line. The official Cuban policy today is hardly to create a "new man" but to survive amidst extremely difficult conditions.

Guevara resigned of his official positions in 1965 and went to create new guerrilla fronts against imperialism. A foreign policy of armed revolution goes hand in hand with a domestic policy of development through moral incentives. In 1965, Che declared in Algiers: "There are no frontiers in this struggle to death. We cannot remain indifferent in the face of what occurs in any part of the world. A victory for any country against imperialism is our victory, just as any country's defeat is a defeat for all. The practice of proletarian internationalism is not only a duty for the people who struggle for a better future, it is also an inescapable necessity." In October 1966, he opened a new guerrilla front in Bolivia. He died trying to create "two, three, many Vietnam" (1967). His internationalism was remarkable. He concluded: "Wherever death may surprise us, let it be welcome, provided that this, our battle cry, may have reached some receptive ear, and another hand may be extended to wield our weapons, and other men be ready to intone the funeral dirge with the staccato chant of the machine gun and new battle cries of war and victory." Guevara failed to extend the revolution to other countries and set South and Central America ablaze. This later signaled a shift in Cuban foreign policy. However, even if these are no longer the days of the Second Declaration of La Havana or OLAS, the Cuban government has had a remarkable internationalist policy, for example sending troops in Angola and other African countries (playing a crucial role in the defeat of Apartheid). It has also sent 50 000 doctors to work for free in 93 countries and give a free university education to over 1000 third world students a year.

Guevara was fully aware of the extreme difficulties of building socialism, in particular the scarcity of consumption goods and their poor quality. People famously complained that they couldn't understand how a country that eradicated illiteracy and infant mortality produced such dreadful tooth paste! However, the achievements of the Cuban revolution remain impressive. Figures from the 2003 United Nations Report on Human Development show that in spite of siege economy and war conditions, Cuba has achieved first world health and education standards in a third world country. There is one medical doctor for 170 people, in the rest of Latin America, the proportion is of one doctor for 613 people. Cuba spends per inhabitant twice as much on health care and education than the rest of Latin America. In those countries, the ten percent richest people earn 46 times what the poorest 10 percent earn. In Cuba, the proportion is five times. A quarter of Latin Americans have to survive on two dollars a day or less. In Cuba less than two percent do. Its infant mortality and literacy rates are outstripping those of the US, and its class sizes are a third smaller than in Britain. To compare it with its neighbour, Haiti, where half the population is unable to read and infant mortality is over ten times higher. Those facts are crucial for the ideological battle because they show that socialism can be possible.

Ireland in support of efforts to spare the British government from having to continue to defend itself from republican and republican socialist paramilitaries engaged in armed struggle in the occupied six counties.

The great majority of the population of Ireland--its working women and men--deserve a government whose priorities are aligned with the interests of Ireland and the masses of its people, instead of the interests of those nations whose multinational corporations feed like parasites on the wealth created by Irish labour.

The IRSP called upon the Irish government to immediately release Fintan Lane and cease the harassment of those demonstrating against American imperialism in Ireland. Moreover, we call upon the Irish government to ensure that its actions are in the best interests of the majority of the Irish people, regardless of whether this coincides with the interests of the world's leading imperialists.

US Military Out Of Shannon Fintan Lane Now Released

The Irish Republican Socialist Party has been informed that Fintan Lane has been returned to Limerick Prison for his participation in demonstrations against the US military's use of Shannon Airport in violation of Irish neutrality. The IRSP's International Department takes this opportunity to add its voice to all those calling for Fintan's release and for an end to the American usurpation of Irish sovereignty.

Though it has been many years, we in the IRSP have not forgotten that Fintan's father, Jim Lane, was once the chairperson of our party and that Fintan was an energetic

The Irish government's decision to allow US war planes to use Shannon Airport reflects the profound contradiction inherent in the partitionist Dublin regime--the very entity which should be asserting and defending the sovereignty of the Irish nation and its historic neutrality instead acts in slavish promotion of the interests of the imperialist nations which dominate its economy.

The surrender to US imperialist pressure is akin to the Irish government having actively promoted a constitutional change surrendering its claim to the entire island of

Republican Socialist Movement Turns Twenty Nine

Statement Issued By The Irish Republican Socialist Party



The 10th of December 2003 marked the 29th anniversary of the founding of the Irish Republican Socialist Party and the Irish National Liberation Army.

Born out of a split in the Irish Republican Movement's Official wing, just five years after the Provisional wing had left the movement, the Irish Republican Socialist Movement was founded to restore to the Irish political landscape the vision of James Connolly; the perspective that the Irish national liberation struggle and the struggle for the liberation of Irish working people through the overthrow of capitalism and the construction of socialism were two, inseparable parts of the same fight.

Immediately upon the founding of the new movement, it came under attack by the Official IRA, providing the a baptism in blood. These attacks served to foreshadow a history of--as activist Bernadette McAliskey was later to state--having endured the most violent attacks on its membership of any in Irish history. These included the assassination of the IRSP's founding chairperson, Seamus Costello, by the OIRA in 1977; the murder of its second chairperson, Miriam Daly, and leading activists Ronnie Bunting and Noel Lytle by the SAS in 1980; the deaths of Patsy O Hara, Kevin Lynch, and Michael Devine on hunger strike in 1981, and a long list of others who fell at the hands of British occupation forces, and any number of reactionaries and counter-revolutionaries various stripes .

In the late 1980s this legacy of brutal assaults reached its most devastating affect, when the 'Irish People's Liberation Organisation', a collection of members of various factions earlier expelled from the IRSM, with nothing in common other than their hatred of the Irish Republican Socialist Movement, launched a series of attacks that left several

members of the IRSP dead, more wounded, and the organisation in disarray.

By the early 1990s, the IRSM was barely alive, having lost members to the violence, others from intimidation, and still others from the despair at the carnage left in its wake.

Under the charismatic leadership of Gino Gallagher, however, the movement regained its footing and its spirit, forged a collective leadership able to weather additional attacks against the movement, and began to rebuild. Despite Gallagher being assassinated in 1996, his influence on the movement helped it to survive, while barely breaking its resumed stride.

More recently, the IRSM has adjusted to the INLA having undertaken a cease-fire in August 1998, in recognition that the working people of Ireland were demanding an end to violence in their communities and that the time for the the strategy of armed struggle was had ended for the present.

The IRSP continues to represent the long and proud tradition of revolutionary socialism within the Irish republican community, a tradition reaching back to Fintan Labor and Jeremy Hope and embracing JP McDonnell, James Connolly, Jim Larkin, Peadar O Donnell, Frank Ryan, and Mick Price. It continues because there remains a need, a need to express the revolutionary aspirations of Ireland's working women and men, a need to bring an end to the partition of the Irish nation, and a need to overturn the system of capitalism which robs the nation of its full sovereignty and the masses of its working people of the enjoyment of the nations wealth, which they alone have created.

James Fintan Lalor

Peter Urban

Fintan Lalor was one of the first Irish people to call for radical land agitation and among the most militant. Lalor rejected the feudal legacy of the Conquest and sought to overturn all titles to land holdings and a return to the common ownership practiced in Gaelic society. He was a major influence on both Michael Davitt and James Connolly. Davitt said of him, "There was no real Irish revolutionary mind in the '48 period except Lalor's."

The eldest of 12 children, James Fintan Lalor was born on 10 March 1807 in Tenakill, Abbeyleix, County Laois. His father, Patrick, was a mid-size farmer of comfortable means. From birth, Lalor suffered from a spinal disease that resulted in chronic ill health his entire life and left him hunchbacked. His infirmity contributed to his becoming an avid reader at an early age. He attended school at prestigious Carlow College, but had to leave after only one year, due to ill health, and thereafter was primarily self-educated. His father was politically active and this was a major influence on Lalor. Patrick Lalor was a follower of O Connell and active in the Catholic Emancipation campaign. He was prominent in the Tithe War, a campaign to abolish the taxes Catholics and Nonconformists were forced to pay to the Church of Ireland. After Emancipation was won, Patrick went on to support Repeal campaign, to reverse the Act of Union. In 1832, he ran for Parliament against Sir Charles Coote, a landlord, won the seat, and was a Westminster MP until 1835.

Fintan Lalor recognized the desperate circumstances of Irish tenant farmers and from an early age gravitated to their cause. William Conner, who, though himself a landowner, advocated lower rents and governmental regulation of tenant conditions and tenant/landlord relations, initially influenced him. However, Lalor rejected the Repeal campaign, seeing it as incapable of addressing Ireland's real problems, those of the tenant farmers. His opposition to the Repeal movement was so great, he wrote to British Prime Minister Robert Peel, in 1843, offering action against O Connell's movement, if Peel would agree to regulate land holdings. Peel never responded. His hostility to the Repeal Movement, caused him to clash with his father and he was ordered out of his father's house, in 1845. He moved to Dublin, but when his health failed again, he was forced to return home the following year.

The Young Ireland movement had split from O Connell's Repeal movement in July 1846 and formed a new organization, originally called the Irish Confederation, but is better known as "Young Ireland". Lalor began writing for Young Ireland's newspaper The Nation. He gained respect within Young Ireland, despite most of its members disagreeing with his views on the importance of the land question. Lalor said of them in 1848, "They wanted an alliance with the landowners. They chose to consider them as Irishmen, and imagined they would induce them to hoist the green flag. They desired, not a democratic, but merely a national revolution."

As the plight of the tenant farmers worsened due to the potato blight, which resulted in "the Great Famine," Labor saw an opportunity in the tragedy. Again Lalor pressed for rent strikes to bring the catastrophe home to the landlords, who continued to exploit the starving rural masses. This time, he won the support of fellow Young Irelanders Mitchell and Devin, though others in the organisation who were landlords, such as William Smith O'Brien, opposed this attack on their class interests. This issue ultimately split the organisation.

Lalor believed that in order to free Ireland from the negative consequence of British colonialism, more was required than the abstract liberation of the "nation". Like Connolly who followed him, Lalor recognised that national liberation was meaningless unless the working masses on the land were liberated in the process. Lalor also came to realize that Irish national liberation would require armed struggle. He called for 'moral insurrection' to oppose rents and forced evictions and when the British tried to forcibly put down this 'sedition', he called on the Irish people to employ physical force in response.

In a June 1848 letter to the Irish Felon, Lalor stated that "the entire ownership of Ireland, moral and material, up to the sun, and down to the centre, is a vested right in the people of Ireland; that they, and none but they, are the land-owners and lawmakers of this island; that all laws are null and void not made by them; and all titles to land not conferred and confirmed by them; and that this full right of ownership may and ought to be asserted and enforced by any and all means which God has put in the power of man." Lalor stated his goal as "to repeal the Conquest...the whole and entire conquest of 700 years."

In 1847 Lalor attempted to establish a Tenants' Association and again agitated for rent strikes. His efforts were not widely accepted and little came of his agitation at the time. However, his continued writings in the Irish Felon led to his arrest and imprisonment in Newgate Prison. He was in prison during the failed 1848 Young Ireland rising and because of this, he avoided transportation, which resulted for many other Young Irelanders. Lalor was released from prison in November 1848 due to poor health and immediately set about attempting to organize another rising, this one planned for September of 1849. At the last minute he tried to call it off, however, realising that his forces were inadequate. Despite this, a comrade of his, Joseph Brennan, did lead an unsuccessful attack on the police station at Cappoquin. Lalor died soon afterwards, on 27 December 1849, and was buried in Glasnevin Cemetery.

Legitimate Protest Attacked

The Irish Republican Socialist Party would seriously question the heavy handedness of Garda officers against hundreds of anti-war protesters at Shannon as it is without doubt nothing more than Police State tactics against legitimate protest.

As the war on innocent Iraqis continues, so too does our opposition in Ireland to the imperialist forces who wage that war and their lackeys in Leinster House. Bertie Ahern and the 26 County Administration have ignored the will of the people by allowing US planes into Shannon Airport for refuelling. US troops on their way to the war effort in Iraq have been seen openly in military fatigues strolling around the airport complex and beyond while their planes are refuelled.

The anti-military action was a well-organised peaceful form of protest representing many differ-

ent groups with various political outlooks nationally and yet we have all been subjected to the intimidating use of Bertie's bootboys. It is every imperialist country's duty within the New World Order to silence and incriminate each sign of rebelliousness or defiant political opposition to achieve a 'peaceful' society in which to impose the new mandates and rules of the imperialist superpowers. The tactics the people of Ireland have witnessed at Shannon at first hand and on their TVs shows that Bertie is fulfilling his role.

The IRSP totally condemns the illegal, immoral and unjust imperialist war by the USA-inspired alliance against the people of Iraq. This is an imperialist war waged for both strategic and material interests. For republican socialists our message is clear:
**US & Brits OUT OF IRAQ!
OUT OF IRELAND!**



Shannon Militarised: Legitimate Protest

www.angelfire.com/space/derryirsp

DERRY
IRSP
WEBSITE
MAKES
TOP TEN

The website of the IRSP in Derry has made the top ten in the Derry News list of Derry related web sites. The list compiled by Derry News reporter Alan Healy also features the Cain web service, The Undertones, Derry City FC and Derry City Council.

Alan Healy describes the IRSP site as follows, "I'd like to make it clear that this choice was made on pure aesthetic value alone. After trawling through the rest and almost losing the will to live, the IRSP site was a breath of fresh air.

"It looks good and is easy on the eye - and boasts more facilities than a Bel Air gym, with the main draw being the discussion forum where users' posts are updated faster than hungry chimps raiding a banana factory.

"Make no mistake, this site is huge and attention to detail is everything. Check out the prisoners mural section featuring a superb mural of the Irish legend Cu Chulainn.

"Whatever your political leanings, this site is worth a peek"

Is Britain Neutral?

Liam O'Ruairc
Belfast

The North is not 'bad' enough to justify an active policy of withdrawal. Those factors account for a certain confusion and indecision in the British state's policy towards the North.

Republicans and the Left have usually analysed the British state's presence in Ireland (so-called 'British Imperialism') in terms of selfish economic, political or strategic interests. However, this analysis rests on shaky ground. First, the British state does not benefit economically from its presence in the North of Ireland. It is in fact a net financial loss.

The second argument is that the British state remains in Ireland because withdrawal would mean the beginning of the break-up of the United Kingdom. This argument can be criticised on the grounds that the British government sees the province as a place apart and different from the rest of the United Kingdom, conceding even that it would agree to Irish reunification if a majority of the population in the North wished so. In the age of inter-ballistic missiles, the strategic importance of the six counties is very limited, especially after the end of the cold war. In ideological terms, the province is of no significance to the British identity, there is no 'Jerusalem' in the North. So the British state is telling the truth when it says that it "has no selfish economic, political or strategic interests in the North".

But does that mean that the British state is effectively 'neutral' or even 'benevolent', that because it has no economic, political or strategic interests in the North it could join the ranks of the 'persuaders' for Irish unity? How should we analyse the role of the British state in Ireland?

Since the days of Home Rule, the 'Irish Question' has been source of troubles for the British state. Thus since 1921, the political class has avoided as much as possible to get involved in the affairs of the North.

Irish affairs are source of problems and troubles, so the imperative is to avoid as much and as long as possible any direct involvement in the affairs of the province. It is thus not surprising for example that between 1921 and 1968 Westminster politicians have only spent a day in the province. The six counties were not worth any trouble from Westminster's point of view, as the place represented no significant economic, political or strategic interest.

Had there been petrol in the North or had the six counties had a major strategic value things would have been different, and the British state would have played a much more active role. Significantly also, if the place did not benefit the United Kingdom enough for the British state to stay there forever, the six counties are not costly enough to justify immediate or medium term withdrawal. (Remember that the cost of running the province in 2000

in less than that of the British nuclear programme).

The North is not 'bad' enough to justify an active policy of withdrawal. Those factors account for a certain confusion and indecision in the



agement.

It is only because it had been forced to intervene, at the point of crisis in 1969, that the British state has had to form policies about the North. The imperative is to avoid getting stuck in the Irish 'quagmire'. The consequence of this is that there is no political will to confront the Unionists. The more the confusion and indecisiveness of British policy, the greater Unionist intransigence will tend to be.

In 1969, some British politician said, "the Unionists are the majority, and we cannot afford to alienate them". In theory, the British state might be 'neutral' on whether the North should be part of the UK, but in practice it will be objectively pro-Unionist as it operates on the existing balance of forces in the North, because if it has to choose between confronting the stronger element (the Unionists majority) or the weakest (the Nationalist minority), it will always choose to ignore the weaker element - better displease the minority than the majority. This explains why the British state will de facto uphold the Unionist veto and confront the Republican challenge.

A good illustration of the above argument is the British state's likely response to last week's elections, which saw a push for anti-agreement elements.

"The British government is set to resume its actively pro-unionist approach to the Good Friday Agreement. This will involve demanding further concessions from nationalists, and refusing to implement any parts of the accord to which unionists object. The Irish government, in its weakest position for many years, looks likely to continue to behave as if a junior partner in the peace process, allowing British officials to set the agenda while it concentrates on the EU presidency. Already there are indications that the British see the DUP's eclipsing of the UUP as an opportunity to push for the IRA to disband." (Sean Mac Cartaigh, 'British will dance to DUP tune', Sunday Business Post, 30 November 2003)

Tony Blair may not personally like the Unionists, but he has suspended the institutions, postponed elections and refused to implement many aspects of the Good Friday Agreement precisely because he "cannot afford to alienate the majority".

(The Starry Plough is interested in our readers' response to this and other discussion papers print within this publication. equally we would welcome readers' opinions on any articles.)

Recent press coverage of how two aid workers abused their positions to elicit underage sex whilst in Cuba brought to the fore a growing concern that we in the IRSP must now take a stand against. Sex tourism we feel is another yet more disturbing method of exploiting people of our class around the world. Unfortunately as in the case of the aforementioned perpetrators in Cuba it is not just the poor being abused but young children.

The effects of the global capitalist system as well as corrupt internal governments have left millions of working class people in several countries around the world living in object poverty. In Thailand the people have already suffered under a right wing Royal Government that has suppressed popular movements in the past with oppressive measures (52 killed in pro-democracy demonstrations in 1992) and through corrupt governance the majority of its population now face economic ruin. A recent downturn in the Thai economy has resulted in the inevitable job losses for its labour. A Thai Farmers Bank Research report for the first nine months of 1996 says 66 companies laid off more than 4,467 white-collar employees. Job losses in labour-intensive industries that power Thailand's export engine, like garments, footwear, jewellery and processed foods, are estimated to be far higher. Agricultural workers too face ruin as the Thai government consistently fail to raise subsistence to farmers. The outcome of this dire poverty is

disturbing. At an age when we would regard them as still being children, over a thousand young girls from northern Thailand are being lured every year into prostitution. Girls as young as 10 are being sold to the brothels of Bangkok, other Thai cities and overseas. In some places as many as 90 percent of girls have left their village to work.

They come from families in the "Golden Triangle" area trapped in a cycle of poverty and debt. Their parents are subsistence farmers or landless villagers with few work opportunities, and their traditional lifestyle and values are being constantly eroded by the influx of consumer goods.

Faced with these pressures parents come to

view their daughters as commodities that can be traded. Brothel owners have networks of agents combing the villages seeking out troubled families with daughters, who move in with tempting offers of money. So begins a cycle in which relatives, village headmen, police, government officials and business people all benefit from the girl's labour.

We in the IRSP demand an end to this abusive violation of the poor not only in Thailand but also in other countries with similar conditions in the Far East as well as Central America and the Caribbean. We support the exposing of wealthy western sex tourists who travel to these countries to satisfy their perversion for under-age sex in hope that they wont continue. However we know that this is unlikely. Therefore we must try

and eradicate the conditions that force these families to offer their children to prostitution in order to survive. A radical change of government within these countries to the full democracy of republican socialism will pull the workers out of their misery. There is some hope. On December 17 1997, a crowd of around 2,000 workers set fire to the Sanyo Electric Co. headquarters here over disputed bonus payments. The incident sent shockwaves through the Thai government and media and dented the confidence of foreign investors, especially those in Japan where the incident was portrayed as the end of peaceful labour relations in Thailand. Three months before the Sanyo incident, employees at the Japanese-owned Thai Suzuki Motors' motorcycle factory outside Bangkok locked management officials inside factory premises for several days. Labour experts argue that though there has been an increase in violent incidents and strikes and labour agitation, most have been spontaneous outbursts by disorganised, dissatisfied workers.

We call on the workers of Thailand as well as the rest of the affected nations to organise and continue to agitate. We call on them to realise the power of their labour and use it to smash the oppressive government. Only then will the symptoms of the capitalism like child prostitution be eradicated.

Polaitiocht

Sex Tourism

Tomas Gorman

Getting It All Wrong, Again!

Liam O'Ruairc
Belfast

Paul Williams is an "investigative journalist" working for the Sunday World tabloid. He wrote his latest book because over the last few years in Ireland "organised crime has seen a dramatic upsurge which seems certain to continue." This alarmist book presents 21st century Ireland as some kind of 1930s Chicago. In fact in the 26 counties the level of crime for the last 17 years has remained virtually static, and by international standards the murder rate is not high: in the year 2000 the homicide rate was 1.48 per 100 000 of the population compared to 1.97 in Sweden, 2.11 in Scotland and 5.64 in the USA. (Sunday Business Post 9.11.2003)

The book exaggerates, but does not investigate the roots of this alleged upsurge in crime. The author does not investigate whether there is an intrinsic connection between the neo-liberalism of the Celtic Tiger and criminality, or whether drug abuse has something to do with social and economic marginalisation. Williams does not explore the structural causes of criminality. Instead he proposes an "evil individual" theory of crime. The "Pimpernel", the "Viper", the "Colonel", the "Westies" and other godfathers around which the book is centred are blamed for crime.

How good is Paul Williams' investigation of the Irish underworld? A look at his treatment of the INLA paramilitary organisation (which occupies about the quarter of the book) should raise some scepticism as to the overall value of his journalism. For Williams the INLA is nothing but a "criminal rabble" with no cohesive approach to anything apart from criminal activity, a "flag of convenience for a collection of dangerous thugs".

The point his investigation is trying to make is that its members are "intrinsically involved in organised crime" and are using Republican Socialism as a cover for this.

The chapters on the INLA are full of factual inaccuracies, some of them quite astonishing. According to Williams, the founder of the organisation, Seamus Costello "styled the organisation on European Marxist terror groups such as the Red Brigades and the Bader (sic) Meinhoff" (93). There is no evidence of this.

Anyone with a minimal knowledge of the history of the IRSP/INLA knows that Costello wanted to build an organisation in the Left Republican tradition to which groups like the RAF are totally foreign. Williams comes with a most bizarre theory when blaming the killing of Costello on Belfast-based members of the INLA who wanted to seize control of the movement (93, 96). In fact, it is beyond doubt that, Jim Flynn, of the Official IRA, killed him.

For someone who presents himself as a serious investigative journalist, Williams makes serious factual mistakes. He makes the astonishing claim that in the post 1987 period "over thirty INLA members were murdered by former friends and associates" (106) Paul Williams should then supply the reader with a list of those thirty plus names, because they are nowhere to be found (in doubt check the most recent edition of Lost Lives).

The author also writes that during the 1996 INLA feud "most of the old GHQ faction remained loyal to 'Cueball' Torney" (119). Once again, he gets the facts wrong, because apart from a couple of individuals, the movement remained unified behind Cueball's opponents. Williams should go and check the official statements which were issued by the various people involved then.

When not getting the facts wrong, Williams sometimes simply invents them. He writes that when Veronica Guerin was assassinated "an official circular from the IRSP declared that Veronica Guerin had effectively got what she deserved."

They also sent a direct threat to other crime journalists in the country stating that they would receive the same treatment." (121) If this is the case, then he should produce this 'official circular', because there has never been such a circular issued by the IRSP.

The same goes for his statement that one year after their 1998 ceasefire, "in August 1999 the INLA declared that their war was officially over." (125) Again, there have never been any such statement either by the IRSP or the INLA.

On top of that, many minor details reveal the book to be sloppy. For example,

Williams writes that in 1998 the former leader of the IPLO was twenty-eight years old while born in 1960, and systematically spells "expatriate" "ex-patriot".

Finally, Paul Williams' prose is as crude and vulgar as his political analysis. For example Williams writes of a certain criminal that "he considered the INLA to be his own police force and if anyone wanted to fuck with him (sic) then they would be answerable to the thugs and thieves in the 'movement'." (114)

Such language and the fact that Williams gets basic facts wrong should create doubt as to the value and validity of his general argument. Compared to serious investigative journalism, such as for example Vincent Browne's investigations of the Workers Party and the Official IRA in Magill, Paul Williams' book constitutes good sensationalism but not very impressive analysis.

As to the actual remedies to organised criminality, Paul Williams is implicitly and explicitly calling for more resources for law enforcement agencies. The author notes that in 21st century Ireland "law enforcement is in a state of crisis", not because the erosion of civil liberties while evidence grows about members of the Garda abusing their powers, but because the government forgot its promises of more officers and more resources.

His book reinforces the media climate encouraging more drastic laws and tougher policing by exaggerating criminality. It is interesting to note that, as Vincent Browne reminds us, "by far the greatest piece of organised crime we have seen here in decades and which won for the perpetrators of that crime huge proceeds was entirely ignored by the Criminal Assets Bureau. This was the mega Dirt Tax fraud perpetrated by the big banks." (Sunday Business Post, 9.11.2003)

Yet, Paul Williams remains entirely silent on these "Crimelords". And the panic measures he calls for can only deepen the injustice and intensify the alienation on which crime grows.

Crimelords by Paul Williams (Dublin, Merlin Publishing, 2003)
£9.99, ISBN 1-903582-51-2

This is Republican Socialism!

The Irish Republican Socialist Party is an organisation created by and for working class people, to aid working class liberation in Ireland and internationally with others who share that common goal. The IRSP stands in the tradition of James Connolly, seeking an end to all forms of exploitation and the creation of a 32 county socialist republic, with the working class collectively owning the means of production, distribution, and exchange, as well as democratically administering society.

Socialism

The socialism we embrace is the kind that liberates, not enslaves. We strive towards a society that functions to meet human needs, not the need for profit. Our socialism is a means of liberating our class from all forms of oppression, whether economic, political, religious, cultural or social. It is a socialism that envisions our class controlling their own destinies and that of the nation as a whole.

National Liberation

The struggle for national liberation cannot be separated from the class struggle. Any attempt to isolate one from the other will result in failure. It is meaningless to speak of a free nation, if the overwhelming majority remain oppressed, and national sovereignty is lost through multinational corporate control of the economy just as much as by partition. At the same time, someone who refuses to challenge British imperialism in Ireland cannot claim to be fighting for socialism and the continuation of partition props up the divisions in the working class of Ireland that hold us back from our own liberation. We have no choice in whether or not we wish to consider the interconnection of the national and class questions, reality forces us to do so.

We define the national liberation struggle as that struggle which seeks to force a British military withdrawal from the occupied six counties. The destruction of the pro-British loyalist armed forces. The withdrawal of British political influence from all parts of Ireland. The ending the partition of the island of Ireland and the overturning of both the partitionist governments presently administering political affairs of Ireland. The gaining of collective economic control of the nation's resources by the nation as a whole and the eradication of any control or influence exercised by foreign capitalists over any aspect of the Irish economy. The recognition of a separate Irish cultural identity and the establishment of revolutionary 32-county socialist republic.

We aim to build a strong alliance in Irish society of our class in towns and cities, agricultural workers in the country-side, unemployed workers, working class refugees, linked as a movement internationally with other like-minded liberation struggles.

We firmly stand-by the struggle for a republic. On that we are inflexible, but our struggle for the republic is a means to an end. For us, the national liberation struggle is but an aspect of the struggle for socialism.

Loyalism & Nationalism

We distinguish between loyalism and Protestantism. We recognise the right of everyone to their own religious beliefs, provided they do not use these beliefs to oppress others. We have no quarrel with Protestant workers and welcome them to join us in struggle. However, we stand totally opposed to the political ideology of loyalism. Loyalism is a reactionary, sectarian and pro-imperialist ideology, with which we can make no compromise. We recognise that nationalism in the context of the Irish struggle is progressive, but we also recognise that nationalism can play a reactionary role. The national chauvinism of the Tories, National Front, etc. is counter-revolutionary and anathema to socialists. The nationalism of an oppressed country is vastly different from such reactionary jingoism. We support all struggles against imperialism throughout the world.

Class mobilisation

Only by mobilising our class north and south - Protestant, Catholic and Dissenter - can the goal of national liberation and socialism be achieved. Workers have distinct interests as a class, ultimately opposed to any other class, we must join together as a class to win control of society.

For a fighting union

As republican socialists, we take lesson from battles that have gone before us, in the community and in the workplace. We must reclaim our unions and organise the unorganised. We remain committed to the revolutionary industrial unionism of Larkin and Connolly. As republican socialists we see the creation of a fighting 'rank and file' trade union movement as something that still holds potential and we support the building of a revolutionary shop stewards' movement.

Equality

Our class faces daily, relentless assaults inflicted on us from many quarters and a constant onslaught of attempts to divide us. The IRSP oppose and fight against all forms of inequality and oppression, including that of women, travellers, lesbians, gays, or other sexual minorities, refugees, Africans, Asians, and any other oppressed sector of the working class. We oppose racism, Zionism, sexism, homophobia, national chauvinism, and anything else which divides our class. We support reproductive rights and unhindered access to contraception, including a woman's right to choose abortion. We are opposed to religious sectarianism and seek the complete separation of church and state and a secular society.

Our Earth

The increasing destruction of our environment is due to mismanagement of industrialisation and the inevitable product of a system, which puts profit before all else, that is, capitalism. The IRSP is committed to sustainable and renewable energy sources, preservation of the ecology and biodiversity of our planet, with protection of all species and the promotion of a healthy environment for all people and animal life.

Revolution not Reform

The IRSP believe that the present class system cannot be reformed out of existence. There exists no parliamentary road to socialism and the liberation of our class. We need to build an organised working class movement with the politics capable of leading the fight against capitalism. Our class are entitled to control over all the wealth of society and to obtain it through any means necessary.

If you agree with us, then we urge you to join the Irish Republican Socialist Party and help build a movement that can accomplish these aims and objectives. Be part of the Irish revolution!

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RSM Memorial Flute Band

This new flute band is based primarily between the areas of West Tyrone and Derry city. The band had it's first practice session during the first week of January 2004 and over thirty young people turned up to get involved. This was a very encouraging beginning to this new project and the committee members were impressed at the skills that have been made available to this new band

from experienced flautists and drummers. Some of those present are only beginning to learn their chosen instruments and will obviously take time for them to become accomplished musicians in their own right but there was experienced teaching ability also present and hopefully in the not too distant future this band will be on the march at various events across the country.

Christmas Draw Winners

Strabane

- 1st: Joey Hoynes, Camus Park
2nd: Colum McNicholl, Summerhill Ct
3rd: T. Friel, Euish Grove
4th: C Rielly, Ballycolman Estate
5th: B Rouse jnr, Lisnafin Pk

The RSM memorial Flute Band would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who bought and sold tickets and hope for your continued support for the new year.

Andy Gallagher, Secretary

As with any such venture this band needs funds for instruments and uniforms. It also needs members, both experienced and beginners so if you can help out then please get in touch with the IRSP in either Derry or Strabane and they will put you in touch with the band organisers.

Cuimhneam

Fallen Volunteers and political activists remembered

The staff and volunteers of the Irish National Liberation Army remember with pride our comrades whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Vol. Hugh Ferguson	Assassinated	20 Feb 75	Co. Antrim
Vol. Colm McNutt	Killed in Action	12 Dec 77	Derry City
Vol. Ronnie Trainor	Assassinated	15 Dec 75	Co. Armagh
Vol. Roddy Carroll	RUC Shoot-to-Kill	12 Dec 82	Co. Armagh
Vol. Seamus Grew	RUC Shoot-to-Kill	12 Dec 82	Co. Armagh
Vol. Neil McMonagle	Killed in Action	2 Feb 83	Derry City
Vol. Joe Craven	Assassinated	5 Dec 83	Co. Antrim
Vol. Thomas "Ta" Power	Assassinated	20 Jan 87	Co. Antrim
Vol. Mickey Kearney	Killed in Action	18 Feb 87	Co. Antrim
Vol. Gino Gallagher	Assassinated	30 Jan 96	Co. Antrim
Mary McGlinchey	Assassinated	1 Feb 87	Co. Derry
Dominic McGlinchey	Assassinated	10 Feb 94	Co. Derry
Hessy Phelan Murdered	Murdered USA	21 Jan 96	Derry City
Michael Montgomery	Died	1 Dec 84	Derry City

"When the freedom of our country and class has been won, let us guard it well, remembering it was paid for in the blood of those now dead. The building of the revolutionary party is the only tribute befitting our comrades."

The Ard Comhairle and Membership of the Irish Republican Socialist Party remember at this time our comrades who died in the struggle for a Socialist Republic.

Vol. Hugh Ferguson	Assassinated	20 Feb 75	Co. Antrim
Vol. Colm McNutt	Killed in Action	12 Dec 77	Derry City
Vol. Ronnie Trainor	Assassinated	15 Dec 75	Co. Armagh
Vol. Roddy Carroll	RUC Shoot-to-Kill	12 Dec 82	Co. Armagh
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Hessy Phelan Murdered	Murdered USA	21 Jan 96	Derry City
Michael Montgomery	Died	1 Dec 84	Derry City

"Whenever death may supound us, let it be welcome, provided that this, our battle cry, may reach some receptive ear and that other hands reach out to pick up our weapons, to entone our funeral dirge with the staccato of machine gun fire and new cries of battle and victory ever onward, Venceremos"

Republican Socialist POWs in Maghaberry, Portlaoise and Castlereagh remember with pride the volunteers of the Irish National Liberation Army who gave their lives in the struggle for Socialism.

Vol. Hugh Ferguson	Assassinated	20 Feb 75	Co. Antrim
Vol. Colm McNutt	Killed in Action	12 Dec 77	Derry City
Vol. Ronnie Trainor	Assassinated	15 Dec 75	Co. Armagh
Vol. Roddy Carroll	RUC Shoot-to-Kill	12 Dec 82	Co. Armagh
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Hessy Phelan Murdered	Murdered USA	21 Jan 96	Derry City
Michael Montgomery	Died	1 Dec 84	Derry City

"If you hoist the green flag and remove the English army...unless you set about establishing a Socialist Republic all your efforts will have been in vain".

Insertions:

If you would like to place an notice into Cuimhneamh then please contact the Starry Plough office with details as soon as possible before you want it to appear. Our contact details are on page 2. Family notices are especially welcome.

Republican Socialist Martyrs
MEMORIAL FLUTE BAND
- Belfast -

Are you 12 years and over and interested in commemorating fallen Republican Socialist Martyrs?

Then why not become involved in our new flute band?

We will train you in flute, drums or colour party.

For details contact:
Costello House, 392 Falls Road, Belfast.
Tel 90 238 321

Teagmháil

Contact

The Irish Republican Socialist Party has established Cummain in all major cities and towns throughout Ireland as well as Republican Socialist Committees in Europe, United States & Canada. Each IRSP cumann meets on a weekly basis to activate, educate and organise events locally such as public and political educational meetings, solidarity protests, pickets and demonstrations from community to workplace struggles. The Irish Republican Socialist Party has active Cummain, as well as individual members and supporters in the following towns and cities across Ireland, to contact and get involved with the nearest IRSP Cumann in your area write to your nearest contact address listed below:

Ireland: irsp@irsm.org

Armagh, Cork, Limerick, Newry, Galway, Sligo, Waterford, Wexford:

Email: irsp@irsm.org

Dungiven, Donegal, Letterkenny, Strabane, Derry:

P.O. Box 1981,
Derry, BT48 8GX.
Email: derryirsp@hotmail.com

Belfast Central, Belfast North, Lagan Valley:

392 Falls Road, Belfast,
BT12 6DH.
Tel. 028 90 321024

Fax: 028 90 330786

Bray, Dublin, Dundalk:

Email: dublinirsp@hotmail.com

County Down

Email: ardglass.irsp@tiscali.co.uk

Europe: irsp@netwizards.net

IRSP has members, supporters and contacts active in many working class campaigns and prisoner solidarity in towns and cities throughout England, Scotland and Wales, and across Europe, write to our International Department for further details on how you can actively participate.

IRSP International Department Email: irsp@netwizards.net

North America: irsp@netwizards.net

Irish Republican Socialist Committees of North America

2057 15th Street, Suite B, San Francisco, CA 94111, North America.
Tel./Fax: 415 861 1355 Email: irsp@netwizards.net

IRSC has members, supporters and contacts active in working class struggles and prisoner solidarity throughout United States, Canada and Latin America. Write for further details on how you too can actively participate.

IRSM Online & Other Links

Official IRSM Website:
<http://irsm.org/irsp/>

IRSM Statements:
<http://irsm.org/statements/>

Ex Republican Socialist POW Support Organisations:

Teach Na Failte (Strabane):
31 Patrick Street, Strabane, Tyrone
Tel/Fax: 028 71 884616

Teach Na Failte (Belfast):
392b Falls Road, Belfast, BT12 6DH.
Tel/Fax: 028 90238321

Prisoner of War Website:
<http://irsm.org/irspows/>

Solidarity with Turkish Hunger Strikers Committee (Dublin):
www.geocities.com/turkishhungerstrike/

Free Dessie O'Hare Campaign
www.irsm.org/irsp/free_dessie

James Connolly Society:
www.wageslave.org/jcs/

Larkspirit: www.larkspirit.com

Cork IRSP Online:
www.irsm.org/cumann/cork

Republican Socialist Discussion Forum
<http://irsmforum.proboards23.com/index.cgi>

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The Starry Plough is regarded as one of the premier political newspapers in Ireland. We are growing in circulation and standing with each new issue published but we need sellers in all areas of the country and beyond to help get our message across to the people.

If you can help then please contact us on:

plough@irsm.org

For National Liberation and Socialism!

irsm.org
Irish Republican Socialist Movement

An

The Starry Plough

Camchéachta



Pairtí Poblachtacht Soisialach na h-Éireann

STOP THIS



IMPERIALIST TERROR!

Many of us across the island of Ireland and beyond who view the televised 'War on Terror' have stood back and remarked to our friends and families that 'it looks just like what has been happening here!' -- Bloody Sunday, Operation Motorman, Internment, etc.

We listen and watch in utter disbelief as satellite television coverage flashes images of heavily armed troops raiding homes and gun battles in the streets. Then to listen to former British military personnel of various ranks openly narrating, justifying, even boasting of their terror tactics and tricks used by 'Crack Troops' who know their trade. Not surprising, in that they have learnt from years of oppression on the streets of Belfast and Derry. Tricks of the trade here, now being mirrored on the streets of Iraq.

Terror images of many innocent members of our class in Iraq being dragged from their beds in the dead of night by armed thugs, the destruction and wrecking homes, and lives, in their path. Justifying their terror

through the airways of a world media network they control.

From its inception, we have witnessed many sickening Bloody Sundays since the arrival of imperialist forces on the streets of Baghdad one year on. Similar to the slaughter, which took place on the streets of the Bogside and Ballymurphy. These war crimes inflicted on our class will equally receive no Saville inquiry, no justice for the hundreds cut down or for the relatives of those involved in such atrocities now left behind to pick up the pieces.

As we have witnessed horrendous plunder by imperialist forces in our own country. We are now witnessing the same rape of Iraq's natural resources, creating a free-for-all for big business, which is presently grabbing contracts, seizing their blood money! The fruits of allied governments' direct or indirect assistance to this onslaught, now live on our TV.

But what should be the attitude of Ireland's working

class to this 'War on Terror'?

The Irish Republican Socialist Party utterly condemn these acts of imperialist aggression and the role that the 26 County Administration has played, and continues to play, in it. We demand an end to the use of our land or air space to assist the oppression of the people of the Middle East countries or anywhere else.

While we shed no tears for captured dictators and warlords like Saddam or for the sectarian religious fundamentalists, as revolutionary Marxists who oppose the invasion and continued occupation of Iraq by imperialist forces, we fully support an effective and organised Iraqi working class resistance.

We say this while remembering how during WWI in an Ireland still occupied by British imperialist forces, republicans and socialists fought consciously under Connolly's guidance, organised not only to bring about the withdrawal of the occupying forces, but for the creation of an independent

socialist nation. In the weeks prior to war James Connolly wrote:

The Irish working class sees no abandonment of the principles of the Labour movement in the fight against this war and all it implies; sees no weakening of international solidarity in their fierce resolve to do no fighting except it be in their own country. (Irish Worker 31 October 1914)

It was the false internationalism promoted by the imperialists that Connolly was challenging then, much as we must do today. Bush and Blair tell us repeatedly that the use of their military might against the working people of this or that nation is justified Imperialist wars, such as the war now underway in Iraq, resemble any other colonialization war throughout history in regard to its political and economic targets. Therefore, we believe that any anti-war movement should not only oppose or criticise this 'war on terror', but also attempt to construct an anti-imperialist broad front. This broad front should be directed in such a

way as to transform the anti-war movement into a vehicle that will enable our class to attempt to fundamentally change the society in which we live.

Though it this attack on Iraqi working people must be opposed, it also must be understood that British imperialism will not be ultimately defeated in Iraq. If forced from Iraq, both American and British imperialism will swiftly reassert itself somewhere else upon the globe. We are not in a position to sound the death knell of US imperialism, but we are in a position to deliver a devastating blow to its closest ally, Britain. This is because the occupied six counties are not just another imperialist site of intervention for Britain, but THE SITE; the colonial territory where Britain has developed and tested its imperialist tactics for centuries. Forcing Britain from Ireland will bring about fundamental change in the capacity of Britain to intervene in the affairs of other nations around the globe and removing its British ally from US imperialism, leaves that monster all

the more isolated and weakened.

Any genuine Irish anti-war movement must mobilise from the perspective of an anti-imperialist movement. Accordingly, any genuine Irish anti-war movement must challenge the continued occupation and exploitation of Ireland by Britain, as well as the United States. That exploitation cannot only be ended, by ending the system of capitalism on the island of Ireland, as Irish capitalists are dependent on their imperialist elder siblings of the UK, US, and EU. If Irish anti-war activists sincerely seek an end to US and British imperialist attacks throughout the globe, their fight must begin at home. In Baghdad, the Bogside, and Belfast, republican socialists demand an END TO THE SLAUGHTER!

STOP THE IMPERIALIST TERROR!

Brits & US imperialism out of Iraq and out of Ireland!

(Further news on Iraq on Pages 11 & 12)

FOR NATIONAL LIBERATION & SOCIALISM!