

SOCIALISTS AGAINST



NATIONALISM

Socialists Against Nationalism, a pressure group which exists to oppose nationalism and promote class politics, in the Republic of Ireland. At present we comprise the Socialist Party, the British and Irish Communist Organisation, the Limerick Socialist Organisation and individual socialists. Others who agree with our aims are invited to support us.

WE BELIEVE

That the clear wish of the majority of people in Northern Ireland to remain citizens of the United Kingdom, must be respected. Two large scale military campaigns and numerous political campaigns, designed to overcome Ulster unionism have failed. Their only results have been to worsen the position of the Catholic minority in Northern Ireland, who were treated as a fifth column of Southern anti-partitionism; to disrupt any possibility of united working class politics in the Republic; to cause thousands of futile injuries and deaths and at times to present the threat of a full scale civil war.

WE DECLARE

That socialists must accept the present state boundaries in Ireland as a basis for developing socialist politics. The call for a 32 county Socialist Republic is nothing more than the old nationalism newly dressed in a socialist guise.

WE OPPOSE

The demand for the British Government to declare its intention to withdraw from Northern Ireland. We also oppose the demand for what amounts to the same thing, withdrawal by the British Government of its guarantee that the constitutional status of Northern Ireland cannot be changed without the consent of a majority there.

WE DEMAND

That the Government of the Republic should recognise as legitimate, the present constitutional status of Northern Ireland. To this end we demand that Articles 2 and 3 of the Republic's Constitution, which lays claim to Northern Ireland's territory be dropped. This is clearly required by the Helsinki Agreement, which was signed by the Republic in 1975.

NATIONALISM

Is invariably the ideology of the national ruling class. It unites capitalist and worker in common enmity to other peoples and obscures the conflict between their own class interests. De Valera's slogan succinctly expresses the effect that nationalism has had in the Republic: "Labour must wait."

Overcoming nationalism in the working class movement means removing a powerful obstacle to socialist politics and overall working class development. The struggle for full employment, for a proper system of health and social welfare and for increased working class power in society generally, could then proceed without fear of ever again being sidetracked into sterile anti-partitionism.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership is open to all those who support our aims and pay a yearly subscription of £2, (non-earners £1). Organisations may affiliate by paying a yearly subscription of £10.

Two members of each of the affiliated organisations compose the Steering Committee. It is intended to hold

a General Meeting this year at which a constitution will be proposed to the members. In the meantime the Steering Committee will co-ordinate activities. All members will be informed of developments through a newsletter. Political organisations which affiliate may claim equal representation on the Steering Committee with those organisations already affiliated.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Write letters to local and national newspapers in support of our policies; put forward resolutions in unions, at Branch and if possible at Annual Conference level, demanding the repeal of Articles 2 and 3 of the Republic's Constitution; organise public meetings of Socialists Against Nationalism; organise public debates with socialists and others who still hold the traditional nationalist viewpoint.

HOW TO JOIN

Write enclosing £2, (£1 for non-earners)
to: The Secretary,
Socialists Against Nationalism,
105 Silloge Road,
Ballymun,
Dublin 11.

Title: Socialists Against Nationalism
Organisation: Socialists Against Nationalism
Date: 1979

Downloaded from the Irish Left Archive.
Visit www.leftarchive.ie

The Irish Left Archive is provided as a non-commercial historical resource, open to all, and has reproduced this document as an accessible digital reference. Copyright remains with its original authors. If used on other sites, we would appreciate a link back and reference to the Irish Left Archive, in addition to the original creators. For re-publication, commercial, or other uses, please contact the original owners. If documents provided to the Irish Left Archive have been created for or added to other online archives, please inform us so sources can be credited.