

IRELAND



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AUTUMN 1981

ORDER END TO HUNGER STRIKE *says Sinn Féin The Workers Party*

A call to the Provisional leadership of Brady, O'Connell and Adams to order an end to the Long Kesh hunger strike has come from the Standing Committee of Sinn Féin The Workers' Party. "Only such an instruction, which everybody knows can be given today, can save more lives." It was not enough for the Provisional leader, Mr Gerry Adams, to tell the prisoners this. Neither is it enough to say that if they come off the hunger strike the people outside will understand. They must be given a firm directive. If the Provisional leadership want an end to the hunger strike they must tell the prisoners this.

END DIRECT RULE

Affirming the Party's policy of an end to direct rule from Westminster and the establishment of a democratic devolved government in Northern Ireland with civil rights of all citizens guaranteed by law, the Standing Committee stated that with the death toll rising within and outside the prisons it was now more urgent than ever that a compromise be reached.

IRON MAIDEN

It is naive to expect someone like Mrs Thatcher to have any comprehension of or compassion for the suffering of working people. She has clearly demonstrated not only in Northern Ireland but in Britain where her Government has made 3 million workers idle that she is the 'Iron Maiden'.

The tragedy is that many innocent people have already died outside of the prisons due to the intransigent attitude of both herself and the Provisionals.

END CAMPAIGN OF VIOLENCE

A commitment by the Provisionals to end their campaign of violence is an initiative no British Government — even one headed by a politician as arrogant as Margaret Thatcher — could afford to ignore.

Failure to compromise can only inflame sectarian feeling in which the main victims will be ordinary working people.

NO SYMPATHY

Sinn Féin The Workers' Party has no sympathy with any of the Provisionals. We know well the kind of monster that has been created by the Blaneys and the Haugheys. We do not forget the many victims of the Provisionals killed, maimed or terrorised.

Likewise we hold no brief for the State or sectarian forces which have contributed to the present polarised and explosive situation in Northern Ireland.

ONUS IS ON PROVISIONAL LEADERSHIP

What we are saying is that it is impossible to expect men and women who have spent the last five years in prison, isolated from the world and reality, to be able to act in a sane and reasonable manner. The onus is on the Provisional leadership to call a halt (a) to the hunger strike and (b) to their so called 'war of liberation' which in effect is nothing else but a war against Irish Protestants.

The demand must be made by all sections of society on the Provisionals to stop the killings and save the hunger strikers. We believe if this was done then even Mrs Thatcher's Tory Government would have no option but to make concessions on the question of prison reforms.

The Provisional Alliance of which the Provisional IRA is a major part was formed late 1969-early 1970 by dissident right wing nationalist elements who broke away from Sinn Féin as it was known then. now Sinn Féin The Workers' Party.

They were assisted in the formation by members of the ruling party in the Republic of Ireland, Fianna Fáil. The most prominent of these were Government Ministers Blaney, Boland and Haughey who enlisted the aid of some Irish Army Officers in their plot. Haughey, who became leader of Fianna Fáil and Prime Minister of the Republic 10 years later, was dismissed as was Blaney in 1970 and both were charged with importing arms illegally into the country for the Provisionals.

These charges were dismissed in Court but left a deep division in the Fianna Fáil Party, which still exists today. In many respects the Provisional IRA is the armed wing of the Haughey faction of Fianna Fáil. Blaney who runs an Independent Fianna Fáil Group has openly boasted of his involvement in founding and supporting the Provisionals.

H-BLOCK — THE SOCIALIST PERSPECTIVE

THIS ISSUE of Ireland magazine is devoted in the main to an analysis and description of the forces involved in the present Hunger Strike campaign. It is crucial that the Hunger Strike be seen as a part of the Provisionals overall strategy to divide the community and so create sectarian civil war and chaos. It is through this strategy of tension and fear that the Provisionals hope to "take over the State". For Sinn Féin The Workers' Party there is no alternative to our policy of Peace, Work, Democracy and Class Politics. We shall continue to oppose the policies of the Provisionals and the British Government until we have achieved our objective.

For the immediate future we state that we are not underestimating the gravity of the situation that peace and democracy in Northern Ireland are an absolute fundamental and require the support and commitment of the international community in opposition to terrorism and who are committed to the establishment, defence and extension of the democratic process.

IN THE H-Blocks of the Maze Prison, Northern Ireland, at the present time there are almost 400 prisoners on a protest. They are refusing to wear clothes issued by the Prison Authorities and for over five years now have been clad in a blanket. After three years the protest took another form when the prisoners decided to foul their cells with excrement and waste food. All of the prisoners have been convicted in what are termed Special Courts with no juries. It is very probable that some prisoners are falsely imprisoned, either through forced confessions, or having been deliberately framed. It is also clear that many of the prisoners are guilty of some of the vilest crimes ever committed in Ireland. All of the prisoners belong to either the Provisional IRA and the ultra-'left' organisation the IRSP/INLA. Each of these organisations claims to be fighting for a political objective and that therefore their members are entitled to a Special Status in prison.

This status, which had been in existence in Northern Ireland prisons prior to 1976, was withdrawn by the British Government and since 1976 the organisations have been attempting to mobilise mass pressure on the British Government to concede Political Status to persons convicted since 1976. They failed over that five year period to secure any meaningful support, attracting at most a couple of thousand to various demonstrations.

Decided

In October 1980 the organisations in question decided on a Hunger Strike. Seven prisoners were selected and they embarked on a hunger strike to the death in late October. When the hunger strike began there was naturally an increase in the support of the prisoners demands and also many attempts at various levels to defuse the situation and end the hunger strike.

Hunger strikers

On December 1, 1980, the seven male hunger strikers were joined by three female prisoners in Armagh Prison.

Having failed to generate any significant support after six weeks with the seven male hunger strikers, the Provisionals decided that the addition of women on hunger strike would generate this support.

Settlement

Late December 1980 when it seemed one of the hunger strikers would die and when it appeared that the protesting prisoners had accepted terms of settlement of their dispute with the prison authorities, the hunger strike was called off. The apparent settlement did not last long and soon pressure was mounting among the prisoners and from the Provisional leadership outside the prison: Gerry Adams, a Trotskyist from Belfast, Danny Morrison, a Trotskyist from Belfast, Rory Brady right wing Nationalist from Longford and Dave O'Connell right wing Nationalist from Cork. They were joined by a number of Roman Catholic clergy, Fr. Piarais O'Duill from Dublin. Fr. McManus from the United States, and it is believed that Bernadette Devlin McAlliskey was also part of this pressure group.

COLLUSION

AT CERTAIN periods of time over the past ten years it is generally agreed that the British Army allowed the Provisionals certain freedom of movement in which they could operate. The purpose of such policy by the British is difficult to evaluate. But one particular instance of collusion between the British Army and the Provisional IRA occurred in October 1975 when the Provisionals embarked on a murder campaign against members of our Party in Belfast. Seven members of the Party and a six year old girl, daughter of a member, were murdered by the terrorists and almost thirty members wounded. All these murderous assaults took place in all parts of the city of Belfast at a time when British Army checkpoints were numerous and well manned. However, during the two hour period in which the attacks occurred the Provisional murder gangs were able to roam freely throughout the City. There is no doubt that these murderers had the full co-operation of the British in what both saw as the elimination of a common enemy.

Bobby Sands who was the prisoner nominated by the Provisionals to act as their spokesman came under the most severe pressure because he had been the person in 'authority' who had accepted the December terms. He began a new round of hunger strikes during which he was elected M.P. in a bye-election to the Westminster Constituency of Fermanagh/South Tyrone. The British Government refused to concede any of the prisoners demands and Bobby Sands died after over 60 days on hunger strike.

The election of Sands and his subsequent death aroused a good deal of emotional sympathy and support for the protesting prisoners and for the hunger strikers in particular.

Opportune time

The death of Sands came at a most opportune time for the Provisionals, the calling of a General Election in the Republic. The Provisionals nominated some hunger strikers and protesting prisoners in a number of Constituencies. They stood on one issue "Help Save the Lives of the Hunger Strikers". Under such an emotional slogan and situation it was hardly surprising to any person with any knowledge of similar emotional situations in the past that the Provisional candidates polled an average of 3,000 votes and had two candidates elected, Doherty(now dead) in Cavan-Monaghan and Agnew in Louth. Both of these constituencies are on the border with Northern Ireland. One interesting fact emerged after the election; the Provisional leadership of Adams, Brady and O'Connell had made a deal with the family of Agnew in Louth promising that if the family supported the election campaign, Agnew would not be instructed or allowed take part in the hunger strike. In the constituencies where the Provisionals stood the bulk of their votes and the two seats they won came from Fianna Fáil.

Bourgeois Nationalist

This is not so unusual given that Fianna Fáil is the major bourgeois nationalist party closest to the Provisionals in ideology and class composition. Since their foundation in 1969, the Provisionals have received most of their support, political, moral and financial from the leading elements and membership of Fianna Fáil. (See pamphlet: *The Provisionals — Agents or Dupes of Imperialism — An Analysis* published by the International Affairs Bureau, Sinn Féin The Workers' Party, December 1975. Available from The Bookshop, 30 Gardiner Place, Dublin 1. £1 (\$2) incl. p&tp).

Since the death of Bobby Sands ten other hunger strikers have died and it seems, at present, that more will die before the deadlock is broken. The British Government under Mrs Thatcher has consistently refused to negotiate or concede victory to the prisoners, if anything the British Government attitude has hardened considerably since December 1980. Various bodies, international and national, political and religious, have attempted since December to formulate proposals which would be acceptable to both sides. Each attempt has failed even though the protesting prisoners have made major concessions and changes to

their original demand which was for political status. It is clear that the Provisional leadership, Adams, O'Brady and O'Connell have led the prisoners into a cul-de-sac and are not prepared to order an end to the strike which they as their leaders could do. They are prepared to let more prisoners die and also to be responsible, with the violence that follows the death of each hunger striker, for the deaths of many more innocent people. Since the death of Sands over 50 people have died as a result of violence outside the prison.

See "Charlie Haughey" Page 4.

Members of the Provisionals give the fascist salute at the funeral of hunger striker Raymond McGreesh, May 21, 1981.



Orchestrated campaign

It is clear that there is a very well orchestrated campaign being conducted by the Provisionals, using such slogans as 'Don't Let Them Die', ignoring the fact that it is the Provisionals own organisation which can alone decide whether the hunger strikers die or not. Another threat which is being widely used is that when hunger strikers die, then other people will die either in riots, bombings or shootings. This threat of death to more innocent people is an indication of how desperate the Provisionals' organisation is and of their disregard for life. It is very regrettable that some serious and principled organisations and people, at home and abroad, have allowed themselves to be manipulated into giving this campaign support.

Democratic forces

A number of organisations in Ireland which the Provisionals claimed, in public statements, as supporting their H-Block Campaign have issued denials of such support. Among these organisations are the Irish National Teachers Organisation, The National Youth Council, The Local Government and Public Service Union, Amnesty International. We would urge you to give your support to the democratic forces in Ireland who are struggling against terrorism on one hand and against the British Government's denial of democratic rights on the other.

Various forces

We give in the following pages an account of the various forces involved for we believe that there is a danger of many people and organisations becoming involved and making statements without being aware of all the facts. As we state in the last part of our document: "The only sane and reasonable demand that can be made today is for peace. If enough pressure was exerted on the Provisionals and all the other terrorist organisations, of whatever persuasion, to cease their activities then within a short time it would be possible to mobilise and organise people for political struggle. The ending of their activities would open the way for action on a large number of issues; democracy, the ending of sectarianism, the major

problem of unemployment, the cut-backs in Health and Social Services, the removal of all repressive legislation, a campaign for Civil Liberties including the abolition of the Special Courts and the eventual release of the vast majority of people in prison."

Charles Haughey

The election called by Charles Haughey, Leader of Fianna Fáil one year before the Government term of office expired was a disaster for Fianna Fáil. They lost six seats and this with an enlarged parliament. One other fact worth noting is that wherever candidates stood who were not nominated by the Provisional organisation but who had little else but support for H Blocks and hunger strikers, candidates from such diverse groups as the ultra leftist Peoples Democracy, and I.R.S.P., some independents and two candidates of the Communist Party; all these candidates failed dismally.

THE PRESENT HUNGER STRIKE campaign is, in many respects, the logical and inevitable outcome of the Provisionals' activities over the past ten years. To understand what is involved and how today the Provisionals have staked all they have on the hunger strike, one has to note how much they have declined in activity, support and credibility.

Members of the Provisional leadership have stated 'in private' that their primary concern is that the H Blocks issue *might* be resolved, as they feel that their overall struggle was not going anywhere. The period 1972-1975 which was the high point of their whole existence and activity when such slogans as United Irish Republic, 1972, Year of Victory, 1973, Year of Liberation 1974, Year of Freedom 1975 began to change to 'we cannot be defeated' or 'it will be a long hard struggle' indicated that among the Provisionals some had seen the writing on the wall and were seeking new 'methods' and means of organisation, hence the elitist cell

structure. They were clearly losing whatever broad mass support they had. The H-Blocks issue was their last serious rallying point and they decided at a meeting in 1979 to play this card — the hunger strike — at the first opportunity.

Provisionals

The only remaining issue then that the Provisionals could hope to mobilise people around or hope to win any support for, is that of prisoners. All of the periods of Irish history in which there have been prisoners held in British or Irish prisons in this century or the last, have always ended in a campaign for prisoner release.

It has always been relatively easy to mount a prison campaign in the absence of any other activity. One important fact of today's Provisional campaign is the almost total backing it is receiving from the Roman Catholic Church. The involvement of the clergy in many areas has secured the support and sympathy of many thousands who would not normally be involved in any Provisional activity. This Roman clergy involvement in particular in the Six Counties is deriving its main thrust from the discontent and discrimination which the Catholic population suffered under the old Unionist regime.

Right wing

This emotional support has naturally affected the rest of the country where the old right wing nationalistic ideas still hold sway. Fianna Fáil, who are the major representatives of this ideology and who use it to maintain their power and influence, have been the main political supporters of the H-Block prisoners and the hunger strikers.

There is also of course division within Fianna Fáil on this issue, particularly among the Lynch/Colley wing of Fianna Fáil against that of the Haughey wing. Haughey, now that he is Leader of Fianna Fáil has to be careful in what he says and does. This is one reason why he will use people like Síle De Valera and Members of the Irish Parliament like Dr. Bill Loughnane, to keep the impression alive that Fianna Fáil is still a Republican Party and concerned about:

1. Catholics and Civil Rights in the North.
2. The rights and lives of prisoners who are in jail for "fighting for Ireland".

Major feature

It has always been a major feature of Fianna Fáil policy, since the Party was founded, to be very verbally Anti-British. De Valera was a master at this game but it looks like Haughey will bid fair to outdo him. There is no official line from Fianna Fáil Executive on H-Block. Haughey naturally hopes to get the best of both worlds by letting his wild bunch do their own thing in supporting the Provisionals and on the official side saying and doing nothing. It is ironic that many Provisional supporters or members do not seem to know or appreciate that Fianna Fáil, as the Government of the Republic during the forties and fifties, took harder and more determined measures against Republican Organisations than any British or Unionist Government ever did. They hanged, or shot about twenty men and imprisoned thousands and also allowed three to die on hunger strike in the 1940s. The hunger striker, because of Irish history and the effect hunger strikers such as Terence McSwiney and Thomas Ashe have had, is a very powerful weapon. It affects all parties on the Nationalist/ Republican/Socialist side. Support comes from the most backward and reactionary elements as well as from what would on the surface appear to be progressive forces. In this regard the Labour Party has not adopted any position of support in this hunger strike but there is within the Labour Party a very vocal and at times influential ultra-left tendency who make the running on this issue. This group would be ignored by the bulk of the leadership who would not want to engage in any confrontation with this tendency.

★ *Speaking at a Provisional meeting in South Armagh Maoliosa O Hanlon from Monaghan said "We should not try to separate love of God from love of country. The social philosophy of the Provisionals was based on the, Papal Encyclical Mater et Magister."*

Ireland's political parties— who condemns the Provos?

A list of political parties and their position on H-Block Hunger Strike would read:

FIANNA FÁIL: Divided but in the main as the hunger strikers' condition worsens the majority would be in support on an emotional level. It is unlikely that the majority of TDs would get involved in a public way, most would be giving private support.

FINE GAEL: Would not favour it at all except for some local Councillors and supporters. Garret FitzGerald would have the backing of all his Party in opposing any concessions to the hunger strikers.

LABOUR PARTY: The Party policy is to oppose the demand of the Provisionals for Political Status. There is though a very vocal ultra-left faction within the Labour Party which consistently seeks to involve the Party in support for Provisional or ultra-leftist activities. There would also be, among rural deputies, councillors and members, emotional support for the Provisional Hunger Strikers.

SINN FÉIN THE WORKERS PARTY: Opposes the Provisional demands and every aspect of Provisional activity. In some rural areas there would possibly be an emotional response in support of Hunger Strikers.

THE S.D.L.P.: in the North mirrors Fianna Fáil in its composition of membership, strong rural base, right wing Catholic Nationalist, showing two faces, an official Party line either ignoring or denying support to Provisionals and on the other hand unofficially lending aid and comfort to the Provisionals.

Communist Party

The attitude adopted by the Communist Party is perhaps, in Irish Nationalist terms, possibly the most

difficult to understand and the most bizarre. The Communist Party has adopted over the past few years a policy of conditional support for the Provisionals. They have moved nearer and nearer to an ultra-leftist position: all crimes/blame is laid at Britain/Protestant feet, these are the reactionaries, the Provisionals and their allies are the goodies, the progressives. The Communist Party has taken the side of a right wing Nationalist organisation which is at times manipulated by the ultra-left, an organisation which has no popular support among the Irish people and which, apart from the emotional support that the hunger strike generates, is in the main detested and reviled by the mass of the people who do not want anything to do with the aims and activities of the Provisionals.

Fail to see

It is possible that in some strange way the Communist Party believes that by lending support to the Provisionals, their campaign and their prisoners, they can assist in indicting the British Government internationally for their violation of Human Rights, their denial of democracy in Northern Ireland and their continued refusal to play any meaningful role in combating sectarianism and helping the two communities in Northern Ireland to come together and so finally end the deep division among the working people, and eventually unite the country. What they entirely fail to see or realise is that Britain can be indicted for all of these crimes and even some more, such as the Prevention of Terrorism in Britain Act, The Payment of Debt Act, false confessions, torture etc., without getting involved in any way with the Provisionals or the ultra-left.

PROVISIONAL IRA ARE PRESENT DAY FASCISTS

It is necessary and important that the Provisionals and their allies be seen in the same context as the Red Brigades in Italy, the Baader Meinhof gang in Federal Germany, ETA in Spain, the Neo-Nazis of France and Italy who recently carried out acts of terrorism in Bologna and Paris. It is known, for instance, that some links have been established between the Provisionals and British Fascist Organisations. A Conference of European Fascists held in Belgium some time ago was attended by representatives of the Provisionals.

Media

The media in the Republic have given more coverage than necessary to the H-Block campaign. Many of the reports and articles are influenced by Provisional supporters/sympathisers/ultra-left Trotskyists: people like Eamonn McCann, Brian Trench, John Mulcahy, Mary Holland, Paul Gillespie, Proinsias MacAonghusa, Tim Pat Coogan, Vincent Brown, to name the most prominent. Others include Ed Moloney, Paddy Prenderville, D. Breathnach, Andy Pollak, T. McGurk, Jack Holland.

Backward elements

The Gaelic League is dominated as is the Gaelic Athletic Association by the same backward rural elements that make up Fianna Fáil/Provisionals/SDLP. The Catholic Church has always occupied an important position within these organisations. In the Gaelic League it has been relatively easy over the past years for Provisionals and/or their supporters to win seats on the Executive. People like S. MacStiofain, former hunger striker, now in the process of being rehabilitated with the Provisionals. Ite Ni Choinnaidh, former Provisional, now IRSP.

Maoist

Because of the killing of three Gardai (Irish Police) last year, 1980, by Provisional/ultra-left Maoist gangster elements, the GAA are having to make their position clear.

Up to this the GAA could be like Fianna Fáil, encouraging the Provisionals from the sidelines and passing pious resolutions about violence without having to put their money where their mouths are. Because of the killings they have had to adopt a much stronger position and it would seem that it will be only a matter of time before the main/leading Provisionals are isolated in the GAA.

The aims and activity of the Provisional IRA has a lot in common with that of Fascism. The cry of the Fascists in Spain "Long Live Death" and the bestial and obscene activities of the Nazis are being echoed in Northern Ireland. It is essential that this assessment of what the Provisionals and their supporters represent and which is understood by the vast majority of the Irish people be clearly appreciated by everyone.

Polarisation

To amplify and underscore this crucial fact it is worth quoting Fr. Denis Faul, Roman Catholic Chaplain in the Maze Prison. He stated in a recent (August 1981) radio interview: "One must remember all the time that there are 1,000 Catholics in a British Prison run by Protestant warders" — not a mention, one notices, of the reasons why these men and women are in jail. In a number of letters to the press, Fr. Faul continues to spread and heighten sectarian tension and religious polarisation with such statements as are quoted above. When one takes into account the fact that Fr. Faul is one of the few people that the prisoners get to see and hear, it is hardly surprising then that most of the prisoners see themselves as being engaged in a religious or Holy War. (Shades of the Ayotollah).

Authority

Given the importance, respect and authority that Roman clergy have among their church members, a

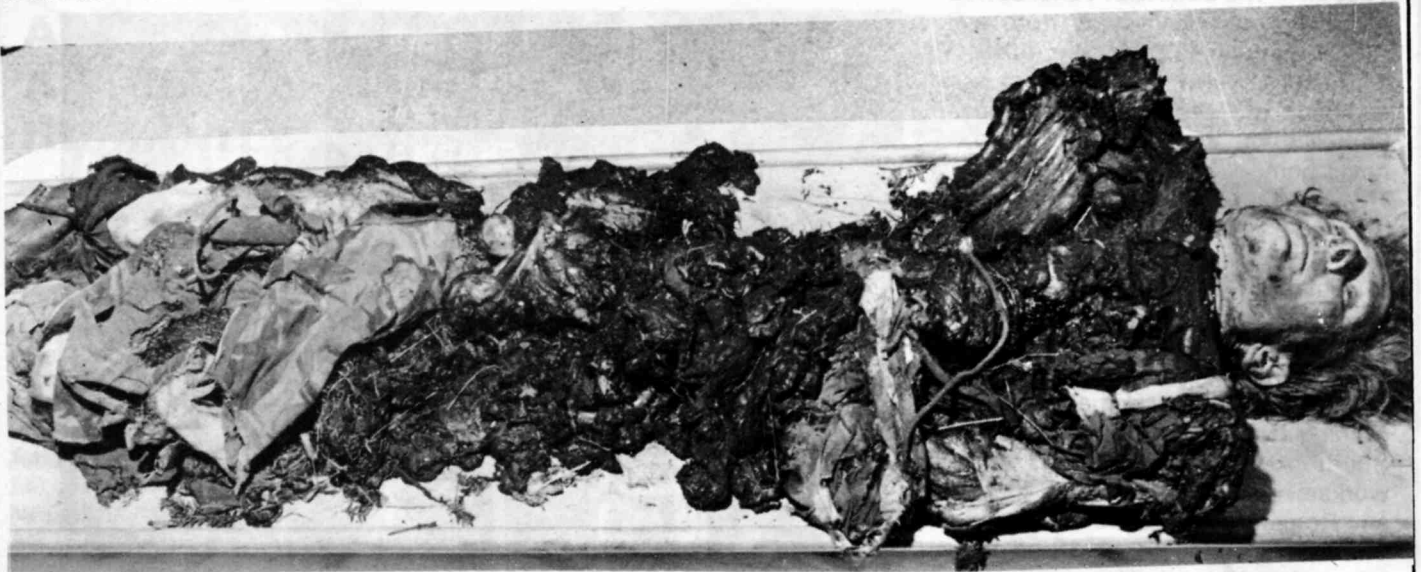
tremendous responsibility is on such clerics as Fr. Faul and his companion Fr. Murray to act in such a way that the situation is improved not worsened. It is therefore worth mentioning that a number of Roman clerics, too few unfortunately, have taken a strong stand against the Provisional objective, Fr. Mullen, Strabane, is the most outstanding.

If there is a heavy responsibility on the Roman clerics such as Faul and Murray, there is a greater responsibility on the part of their superiors.

Roman Catholic

Cardinal O'Faich, who is the head of the Roman Catholics in Ireland, has himself been guilty of statements and speeches which have helped to incite sectarian feelings and further polarise the communities in Northern Ireland. His statement after the death of hunger striker Raymond McCreech that the British Government would be faced with the wrath of the Nationalist population unless they changed their policy on clothes and work, has been taken up by the Provisionals and is now used by the Provisionals as a war cry at public meetings.

The Rev. Ian Paisley, leader of the Free Presbyterian Church, has done more than his share towards dividing the community and the promotion of sectarian hatred and killing. Every week in *his* church he or one of his ministers delivers a speech formerly heard in pre-Reformation days, attacking Roman Catholics and stirring up among his followers fears for their life, liberty and freedom of religion. He is another churchman who has learned the lesson of Hitler and Goebbels well, play on the fear and ignorance of people, one sect against another. It has never occurred to any Christians in Ireland to ask themselves the question posed in the song by Dominic Behan "How odd for God that Pape and Prod must worship each alone".



An innocent victim of the Provisionals' horrific terrorist bombing campaign

Civil War

It has been stated by the leaders of the Provisional Alliance on many occasions that in the final analysis the only 'solution' is to have a civil war and so involve the armed forces of the Republic in what they call a doomsday situation. They are matched of course on the Unionist side by the same illogical and insane thinking.

In Northern Ireland outside of the SDLP there is the open Provisional Front, the Irish Independence Party, which accepts totally the Provisional line. They are relatively small and have no real influence.

Opposition

Among the Unionist Parties there is agreement in opposition to the Provisionals. There is after that various degrees of disagreement in many areas, some like Paisley stirring up bigotry and violence and seeking to cast all Catholics as Provisional supporters. Paisley has, through a combination of religious/political fear, succeeded in capturing the leadership of the majority of Protestants. He has provided the Protestant population with an apparently strong confident voice and policy. He has been totally ruthless in his bid to capture this control and is responsible for inciting and encouraging Protestant para-militaries to engage in terrorist

acts in the Republic and Northern Ireland. Until the Official Unionist Party decides to take Paisley on and fight him, not on ground of his choosing, but on their terms, he will retain this control. Enoch Powell is no match for him and all Powell seems intent on doing is to push the policy of integration with Britain. This policy would have some support but would not be a viable policy in the long term just as the concept of an independent Ulster is a non-runner.

The Alliance Party has consistently opposed the Provisionals and is clear on the need to defeat terrorism. They do not have any support among working class people, their support comes mainly from the middle class.

Immediate

It is the Protestant paramilitaries who constitute the most immediate danger arising from the deaths of hunger strikers and if there is a violent reaction to the deaths. The UVF has over the past year been dealt very severe blows by the Police. It was never a large organisation but was effective for a while in carrying out terrorist activities. It is the UDA which had and retains a mass following from which the main Protestant reaction comes. They have formed special squads separate from the main organisation

to carry out acts of terror. They originally embarked on an indiscriminate campaign killing Catholics and blowing up pubs and Churches. Over the past year they seem to be acting more selectively and effectively in assassinating prominent Provisional/Ultra Left supporters without having any of their members arrested or charged. It is possible, but at this point in time unlikely, that they would be receiving some information and support from within some sections of the security forces.

Accident of birth

But for an accident of birth many of the people who are in the H-Blocks for one side would be there for the other. The people for instance who set off numerous car bombs without warning in Belfast on what is now called Bloody Friday (July 21 1972), killing 9 people and injuring 130; the gang that left 'no warning' car bombs in the village of Claudy, Co. Derry on July 31, 1972, killing 9 people and injuring 31; the gang who left an explosive bomb connected to a diesel/petrol canister in the La Mons Hotel, County Down on February 17, 1978, burning to death 12 people and leaving 23 horribly burned, are no different to the Loyalist gang than ambushed and shot dead three members of the Miami Showband

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who were travelling back from a dance in July 1975 or the other notorious Loyalist gang who for a number of years preyed on Catholics who had the misfortune to travel home via the Shankill Road. This gang butchered 19 people in the most horrific way from 1972 to 1977 — 11 people were charged and convicted of these murders and 106 other charges.

On January 5, 1976, Provisional IRA terrorists stopped a busload of workers returning home in the evening at a place called Kingsmill in South Armagh. They lined the workers up and asked were there any Roman Catholics among them, one man stepped forward and he was ordered to go. The remaining 10 workers who were Protestants were then coldly and brutally machine gunned to death. One man survived this attack. Their crime was that they were Protestants: The names of the killers of these workers are well known but they have not been brought to trial; they are now living in the Republic of Ireland.

Dreadful area

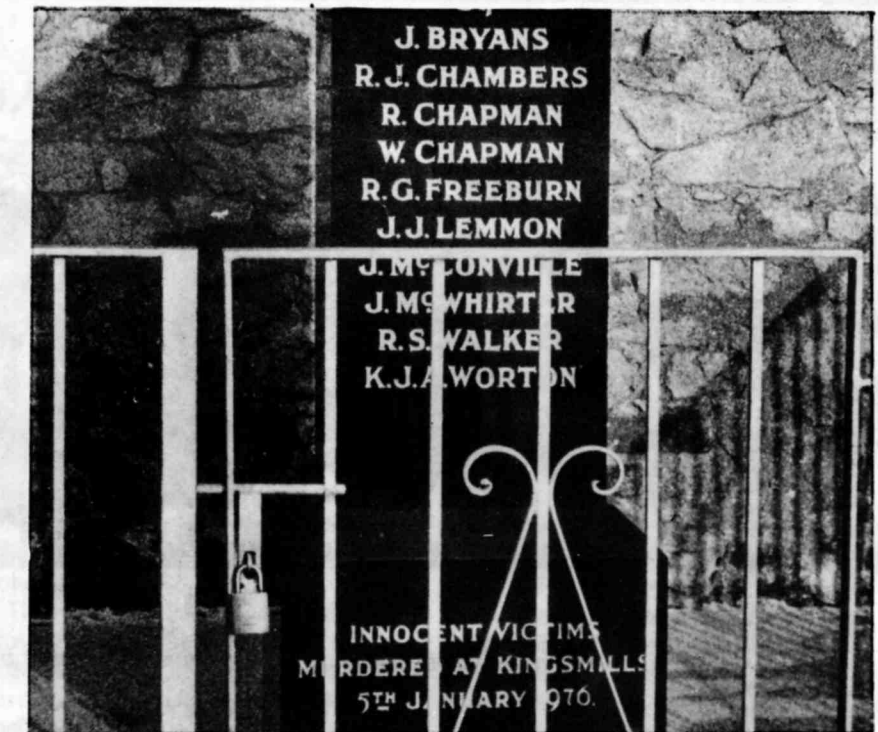
On the other side of the coin there is the dreadful area which became known as the Murder Triangle around Portadown in which over 50 people were murdered. From 1972 to the present 58 people have been killed in the area known as the Murder Triangle: almost half of those killed have been civilians. In the past few years the RUC have succeeded in solving 50% of these killings.

Sick society

Just these few instances will give an idea of the kind of sick society Northern Ireland is and of how easy it is for terrorists to give their activities the cloak of a religious/political cover. Throughout all this period of time the State forces have not helped the situation, in particular the killing by British Paratroopers of 14 people in Derry, in what is now called Bloody Sunday, January 1972, provides the Provisionals and their allies with material to attempt to justify their own terrorist activities.

Plastic bullets

The use by the British Army and the Royal Ulster Constabulary of plastic bullets also contributed to death



The memorial to 10 workers from South Armagh — victims of the Provisionals' murder campaign.

and injury. Some innocent people have been killed by plastic bullets and the situation is made much worse when the British Home Secretary Mr. Willie Whiteley refuses to allow British police to use plastic bullets against rioters in Britain. Here again it is one law for the British and another law for the Irish.

Reasonable demand

The only sane and reasonable demand that can be made today is for peace. If enough pressure was exerted on the Provisionals and all the other terrorist organisations, of whatever persuasion, to cease their activities then within a short time it would be possible to mobilise and organise people for political struggle. The ending of their activities would open the way for action on a large number of issues; democracy, the ending of sectarianism, the major problem of unemployment, the cut-backs in Health and Social Services, the removal of all repressive legislation, a campaign for Civil Liberties including the abolition of the Special Courts and the eventual release of the vast majority of people in prison.

The key factor in all of this is, of course, the Provisionals deciding to cease their terrorism. Such a

decision would in effect be only recognising what is a reality — except for the sporadic bombing or shooting, they have ceased. What is required by them is a formal declaration of this fact so that the British Government cannot hide behind the Provisionals' 'war' in order to excuse their actions and/or divert people from the real issues that workers face in a capitalist society.

Religious civil war

We would reiterate the policy which is encapsulated in our slogan — Peace, Work and Democracy — which represents the only viable alternative to what is posed by other forces, whether it be the British Government Policy of Direct Rule, which is a denial of democracy, or the policy of the Provisionals which is to plunge the state into a Religious Civil War.

Peace and democracy

We are not underestimating the gravity of the situation when we state that peace and democracy in Northern Ireland is the absolute fundamental and requires the support and commitment of the international community in opposition to terrorism and who are committed to the establishment, defence and extension of the democratic process.

ENDS

ARMS RACE A THREAT TO HUMANITY

At 8.15 pm on August 6, 1945, an A-bomb was dropped on Hiroshima. Up until then Hiroshima had not suffered from the bombing that had taken place in most other large cities in Japan, not because it was a religious city but rather because the American military wanted to be able to assess the full effects of the A-bomb. There were an estimated 240,000 casualties.

NAGASAKI

At 11.02 on August 9th, 1945, the Nagasaki Atom Bomb came out of the skies. Cored with plutonium, it detonated as planned more than 1,000 metres above the city, now bustling with early morning life. An estimated 70,000 people died instantly, following on the 240,000 who had died three days previously at Hiroshima. In the months afterwards scores of thousands died in and around both cities from blast injuries, burns and radiation. The effects are still being felt today with genetic malformations appearing in the children and grandchildren of the 'lucky' ones, those who survived, often seemingly unscathed.

NUCLEAR WARHEADS

Today there are more than 40,000 nuclear warheads in the world. Their total explosive strength is probably equivalent to about 1 million Hiroshima bombs, or more than three tons of TNT for every man, woman and child on Earth. The flight time of a land based missile is now about 30 minutes. A submarine launched missile takes less. Thus, even maximum warning time would give no chance to evacuate our cities today. A one megaton explosion — still even today a relatively 'small' device, exploded over a city of 4 million people — would immediately kill half a million people and injure another half million. In a highly centralised urban area, those figures would probably be doubled.

UNITED NATIONS

These statistics are among the facts and assessments contained in a comprehensive study on nuclear weapons recently carried out by the Secretary-General of the United Nations with the assistance of a group of twelve experts drawn from a wide representation of non-nuclear-weapon states.

IRISH CAMPAIGN

The Irish Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament marked the 36th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and



Picture drawn by atom bomb survivor, Yasuko Yamagata. From the book "Unforgettable Fire".

Yasuko Yamagata
About 8.00am August 7, on the street in front of the former Hiroshima Broadcasting Station. Since I was at school in Ujina I had been exposed to radiation separately from my parents. The next morning at 7.30 I started from school toward the ruins of my house in Nobori-cho. I passed by Hijiya. There were few people to be seen in the scorched field. I saw for the first time a pile of burned bodies in a water tank by the entrance to the broadcasting station. Then I was suddenly frightened by a terrible sight on the street 40 to 50 meters from Shukkeien Garden. There was a charred body of a woman standing frozen in a running posture with one leg lifted and her baby tightly clutched in her arms. Who on earth could she be? This cruel sight still vividly remains in my mind.

Nagasaki with a number of commemorative events throughout Ireland, including tree planting, street protest and a fast. In Dublin, a wreath was laid at the Hiroshima memorial cherry tree in Merrion Square by Mrs. Kakuko Okamura, a Japanese member of Irish CND who planted the tree on Hiroshima Day last year.

BEST MEMORIAL

"The best memorial to the hundreds of thousands who died in the Hiroshima bombing is a determined commitment by Ireland to world peace and disarmament", Sinn Féin The Workers' Party said in a statement marking Hiroshima Day.

"Every Irish citizen concerned at the growing threat of world nuclear war must be prepared to defend Ireland's neutral and non-aligned status.

"The arms race poses a terrible threat to the future of humanity, and the billions wasted on weapons of mass destruction should be spent instead on food, health and education," said the statement.

their will. It even opposed the cherished Catholic call for guaranteed quotas for Catholic places in government in the north (an idea even the British flirt with), and insists instead on the importance of the democratic principle of majority government. Instead of union of sovereignty, it calls for increased economic cooperation between the Republic and the north.

In the Republic, its vigorous arguments and attractive presentations are drawing considerable support from young workers, enough to frighten the Irish Labor Party thoroughly. If the crash comes and high unemployment and a steep drop in the standard of living hit the Republic, SFWP could make great headway.

From the USA magazine *The New Republic*

The parlous state of the Irish economy and the government's preoccupation with rural problems has led to the growth of the Sinn Féin Workers' party, a significant development in all-Ireland politics. SFWP seeks state control of the economy in the interests of the urban worker.

The SFWP combines its economic attack on Anglo-Irish capitalism with a campaign for greater civil liberties and recognition of women's rights.

The Party acknowledges the impossibility of forcing one million northern Protestants into a united Ireland against

Letters to the Editor



EMBASSY OF THE LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

Dear Comrades and Friends,

With great gratitude we acknowledge the receipt of IRELAND. It is a very interesting magazine regarding the movements and activities of working class people, who fought, fight and struggle for their human rights and freedom to be and have a sovereign and independent country of their own in the new era, the era of peace, independence and stability.

Please accept our heartfelt and sincere gratitude for your co-operation. Wishing your Party further success and looking forward to further fruitful co-operation.

T. Sengphachanh,
Embassy of the Lao People's Democratic Republic,
London,
England.

NETHERLANDS

Many thanks for sending me IRELAND. Congratulations with the election victory of Joe Sherlock. Next time you will have more Dáil seats! I enclose a small donation to your IRELAND fighting fund.

Hans Spyker,
Netherlands.

BRITTANY

It is with great delight that the Union Democratique Bretonne Political Bureau learnt about the election of a Sinn Féin The Workers' Party member to your National Parliament.

In our point of view, this success clearly proves how important is your struggle for Peace, Work and Democracy for the future of Ireland and her working class.

Jean-Christophe Cassard,
Chariman International Affairs
Bureau,
Union Democratique Bretonne.

USA

Congratulations on the success of Joe Sherlock winning a seat in the Dáil (National Parliament). Things are looking more positive despite the blood bath and hunger strike of the Provos. Enclosed is \$100 donation to your work. Wishing Sinn Féin The Workers' Party all the best for the future.

Frank and Delma Houlahan,
Philadelphia, USA.

USA

Today I received IRELAND, Autumn 1980 issue. I especially liked Page 3 — Tomas Mac Giolla's 'A Question of Class'. I will xerox it and pass it on to some friends.

Kevin Coleman Joyce,
Dorchester,
Mass., USA.

GREECE

We want you to know that we stand by your side and follow your noble struggle with the greatest of interest. The working class of Greece well understand the struggle against British Imperialism and world Imperialism generally. We believe that the decisions of your March 1981 Congress will advance the struggle of your people and are confident that victory will be yours in the end.

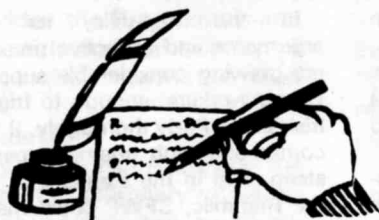
Emmanuel Pitharoulis,
President United Trade Union,
E.S.A.K. Greece.

GREECE

Dear Comrades,
Regarding Sinn Féin The Workers' Party 1981 Congress we would like to extend many apologies for a late reply to the invitation sent to us. The invitation to the 1981 Congress was not received until April, this most likely due to the delay in postal services that has been noted these last months.

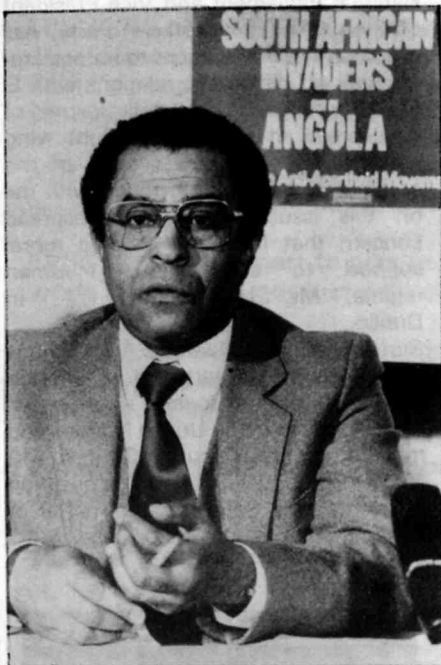
As a Solidarity Message was not able to be sent, we wish you every success in your activities in the struggle for independence for the Irish people.

Angeles Diamantopoulos,
Responsible of International Relations of Central Committee,
Communist Party of Greece,
(Interior).



*Let's hear your view
Write to the Editor
IRELAND MAGAZINE
30 Gardiner Place,
Dublin 1, Ireland*

SFWP APPEAL FOR ANGOLA



The President of Sinn Féin The Workers' Party, Tomas MacGiolla, and the party spokesman on international affairs, Sean O Cionnaith, had talks in Dublin on September 5th with Luis Jose de Almeida (above), Ambassador of the People's Republic of Angola in Paris. Sinn Féin The Workers' Party is the only party in Ireland which has fraternal links with the M.P.L.A. — the Workers' Party, Angola's ruling government party.

Sinn Féin The Workers' Party has launched an appeal for aid to help the three southern provinces of Angola which have been devastated by the South African invasion. The decision was taken in response to a request for aid by the Angolan government.

The Party also expressed its serious concern at Irish Shipping's heavy involvement in charter trade with the apartheid regime of South Africa. "The very nature of the trade could mean that the Irish Government could be seriously compromised if a semi-state body like Irish Shipping found itself inadvertently carrying military supplies to South Africa," said the Party's spokesman on International Affairs, Sean O Cionnaith.

Donations for the Angolan appeal should be sent to: **Angola Relief Fund, International Affairs Bureau, Sinn Féin The Workers' Party, 30 Gardiner Place, Dublin 1.**

In 1976 Sinn Féin The Workers' Party launched a similar appeal for medical aid for Angola and several thousand pounds was collected for the project.

IRISH-AMERICAN PROTEST

The Irish Republican Clubs of North America in a telegram to President Reagan and Secretary of State Haig "condemned the attacks of the Zionist Government of Israel on Lebanon and Iraq, and the consequent murder of Lebanese, Iraqi, French and Palestinian nationals. We similarly condemn any attempts by the American Government to protect the Zionist Government of Israel from the deserved condemnation of world opinion, and demand that all military aid to that Government be stopped immediately."

IRISH PROTEST TO ISRAEL

The bombing of Beirut by Israel warplanes in July was condemned by Sinn Féin The Workers' Party.

"Hundreds of innocent men, women and children were killed in the Israeli raids," Sean O Cionnaith, Sinn Féin The Workers' Party spokesperson on International Affairs, told a meeting of the Party's Dublin North West Constituency Council. "This is an act of international savagery," he said.

Pointing out that Irish troops of the International United Nations Peacekeeping force were at daily risk from the Israeli-backed Haddad Militias, Mr. O Cionnaith said that only a settlement of the just demands of the Palestinian people could bring real peace in the Middle East.

"Criticism by the United States of Israeli excesses was sheer hypocrisy," said Mr. O Cionnaith. "The truth was that Israel could not survive one week without the political, military and financial backing of Washington."



IRELAND

International Magazine of SINN FÉIN THE WORKERS' PARTY

Published quarterly

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.....
Sinn Féin The Workers' Party, International Affairs Bureau,
30 Gardiner Place, Dublin 1, Ireland.

Break with El Salvador demand

JOE SHERLOCK, Member of the Irish National Parliament and Vice-President of Sinn Féin The Workers' Party, has called on the government to immediately break off diplomatic relations with El Salvador following on the disclosures of widespread murder by the right wing ruling junta. "A cross section of the community has been in touch with me on this issue. There is widespread concern that Ireland is lending moral support to this vicious inhuman regime," Mr. Sherlock stated in Dublin.

Sinn Féin The Workers' Party has written to the Department of Foreign Affairs asking that Ireland's permanent representative at the United Nations and member of the Security Council Mr. Noel Dorr, be asked to raise the question of events in El Salvador as a matter of extreme international importance.



A wreath was laid at the US Embassy in Dublin in memory of the victims of repression in El Salvador and in protest at US Government support for the junta.



IRISH GREETINGS TO

The International Affairs Bureau of Sinn Féin The Workers' Party in a solidarity greeting to the Tenth Congress of the Spanish Communist Party, expressed congratulations and best wishes for success in its deliberations.

PCE CONGRESS

"We are confident that the best traditions of the Spanish Communist Party, of concrete analysis of Spanish society and building a strong party capable of leading the Spanish working class and people on the road to socialism will be deepened and strengthened by your debates.

"We reaffirm our solidarity with your Party and all the peoples of the Spanish State in the face of military adventurism and ultra-'left' and right-wing terrorism."

STOP THE ARMS RACE

IN recent months there has been a significant increase in the stock piling of weapons of mass destruction. These weapons — Cruise and Pershing missiles and the Neutron Bomb — are many thousand times more powerful than the atomic bombs which devastated Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945.

MILLIONS of dollars are spent every day on the production and development of armaments while at the same time millions of the world's people starve to death, die from curable diseases and go through life unable to read and write.

NUCLEAR weapons may well kill the starving, the sick and the illiterate, but they will never end hunger, disease and illiteracy.

EVERYONE has a part to play in ensuring that a secure future in a world of peace is not just a dream but a reality.

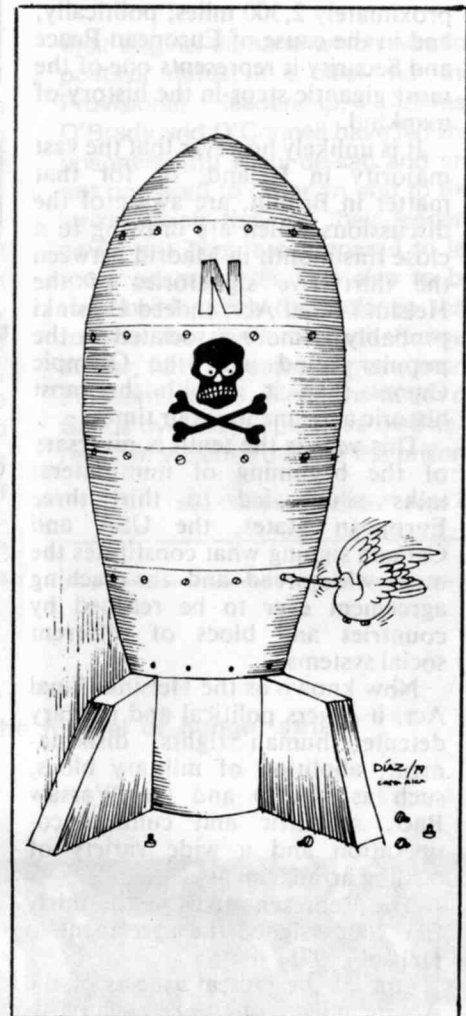
NUCLEAR war is not something which is fought out between Super powers. It will effect everyone. It will effect this country and the people who live in it.

IMMEDIATE steps must be taken to reduce the number of nuclear weapons in the world, replace their development and deployment with constructive dialogue between nations and divert the massive expenditure they entail into solving the world's problems.

THERE IS NO REAL CHOICE — SURVIVAL OR SUICIDE?

Irish Democratic Youth Movement
Youth Section, Sinn Féin The Workers' Party
30 Gardiner Place, Dublin 1

Copy of a leaflet distributed by the Irish Democratic Youth Movement in Dublin.



The following letter has been sent to the President of the USA by the President of Sinn Féin The Workers' Party.

“Dear Mr. President,
We in Sinn Féin The Workers' Party are appalled at your decision to manufacture and stockpile neutron bombs for use in Europe.

This terrible new weapon, which destroys people by intense radiation while doing relatively little damage to property, represents a major and deadly escalation of the arms race. It is also clear that when your Pentagon generals speak of its use in “theatre” nuclear war, the theatre they have in mind is Europe.

As a neutral and non-aligned country, Ireland has a particular interest in the struggle for world peace and disarmament. On behalf

of Irish workers and their families, I appeal to you to reconsider this potentially fatal decision to commence manufacture of neutron bombs.

Apart from the real and growing threat which the arms race poses to the very survival of humanity, there is the obscene waste of resources on weapons of mass destruction while millions starve around the world, or live in conditions of abject poverty, disease and illiteracy.

Even your own US budgetary measure cut back on social welfare programmes for the elderly, poor and sick is because of alleged lack of funds. Yet you now propose to spend billions of dollars on new armaments when the US already possesses the capacity to destroy the world many times over. What kind of priorities are these?

Finally it is idle to talk of a ‘Soviet threat’ when every major development in nuclear terror weapons has come from the West. Although the Soviet Union does not yet have the neutron bombs there can be no doubt that they will act to counter this latest intensification of the arms race.

If the US is really interested in world peace and disarmament, as you claim, why does Washington not ratify the Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty — already signed by the USSR and awaiting ratification by the US for the past two years?

Sincerely

Tomas Mac Giolla,
President Sinn Féin The Workers' Party,
30 Gardiner Place, Dublin 1,
Ireland.

FROM Helsinki to Madrid is approximately 2,300 miles; politically, and in the cause of European Peace and Security it represents one of the most gigantic steps in the history of mankind.

It is unlikely however that the vast majority in Ireland, or for that matter in Britain, are aware of the discussions which are drawing to a close this month in Madrid between the thirty-five signatories of the Helsinki Final Act. Indeed Helsinki probably is more associated in the popular mind with the Olympic Games than it is with the most historic agreement of our times.

This year is the tenth anniversary of the beginning of multi-lateral talks which led to thirty-three European States, the USA and Canada signing what constitutes the most widespread and far-reaching agreement ever to be reached by countries and blocs of different social systems.

Now known as the Helsinki Final Act, it covers political and military detente, human rights, disarmament, abolition of military blocs, such as NATO and the Warsaw Pact, scientific and cultural co-operation and a wide variety of trading arrangements.

The Representatives of the thirty five states signed the agreement in Helsinki 1975.

One of the critical aspects of the Act included a pledge by each participating State that the text of the Act would be published in each State and information about all its contents made as widely known as possible.

While this has happened in the Socialist countries and in some of the Western European countries, particularly Finland, both the British and Irish governments have made almost no efforts to acquaint their populations with a real knowledge of what the Agreement entails.

Indeed it is no exaggeration to state that in shaping the Helsinki Final Act there was genuine concern that all the peoples of the signatory states would see and understand that this was not only a far-reaching and comprehensive set of provisions to enable peaceful co-operation between governments but also to create friendship and mutual trust between the peoples themselves.

To that end a non-governmental body embracing all the member states was established with headquarters in Brussels — The International Committee for European Security and Co-operation. The Irish affiliate is known as the

From Helsinki to Madrid

Originally printed in WORKERS LIFE the monthly magazine of SFWP

Des O'Hagan

Committee to Promote the 1975 Helsinki Agreement.

The International Committee through its Secretariat seeks to express public opinion's interest and expectations as to the overall implementation of the Helsinki Final Act and particularly at this time with regard to the talks in progress in Madrid.

General Secretary of the International Committee Robert De Gendt, Belgium, reported to the national delegates on July 4, as to the progress of the Madrid talks and the discussions which the International Secretariat had had with government representatives in Madrid.

The Secretariat was received by fifteen countries, five NATO, five non-aligned and five Warsaw Pact; unfortunately Ireland was not among the neutral or non-aligned countries which met the three-man delegation.

De Gendt in his comprehensive outline of developments both preceding and during the Madrid talks stressed the growing awareness of the signatory countries, including the NATO bloc, for the necessity to ensure that the Madrid conference would be fruitful. Undoubtedly difficulties and gross misunderstandings had to be overcome and a relatively new concept was emerging in the course of the discussions — confidence building measures.

During discussions the Irish delegates from the International Committee suggested that a major step in this direction would be the holding of an all European mass-media conference, having the theme of "European Disarmament and the Media". Quoting from the appeal of the USSR Supreme Soviet, June 24, the Chairman of the Irish

Committee to Promote the Helsinki Agreement asked, "How are the lessons of history to be learned by the peoples of Europe? How is the will to be forged to ensure that there will be no war in which there will be no winners and no losers?"

The Soviet document had outlined in the clearest possible terms the desire of their people not to see the world engage in another and more catastrophic war, "History has taught a stern lesson. The peoples have paid too big a price for the failure to prevent war, to avert in time the threat which hung over the world. A repetition of the tragedy must not be allowed. Everything must and can be done to prevent another world war."

The Irish delegates also stated that a vital passage in the Soviet appeal must be made known to all the citizens of Western Europe: "The Supreme Soviet of the USSR solemnly declares: the Soviet Union does not threaten anyone, does not seek confrontation with any state in the West or East. The Soviet Union has not pressed and is not pressing for military superiority. It has not been and will not be the initiator of new spirals of the arms race. There is no type of weapon it would not agree to limit, to ban on a mutual foundation by agreement with other states." (Italics added).

In a wide ranging discussion on the problems facing both the Madrid talks and the Committee for European Security and Co-operation all delegates stressed the growing dangers to world peace arising in particular from the efforts by the United States to block discussions on the key problem of medium range rockets or Euro-rockets as they are now called. However the debate also took into



The policies of Ronald Reagan and Margaret Thatcher pose a serious threat to peace in Europe.

consideration a variety of other critical issues such as the world-wide economic crisis, the need for extensive confidence building measures, regional disarmament and in particular the development of nuclear free zones.

The sense of urgency in the present situation and the need to ensure that the Madrid talks concluded positively was raised again and again by speakers from both East and West. The delegate from the German Democratic Republic felt that there was a growing movement for peace and resistance to the nuclear arms race. In the last analysis he was convinced that public opinion would have to be heard and in particular on the question of a European Disarmament Conference.

Taking up a number of themes which had been touched on by various speakers, the Bulgarian delegate pointed out that the present international climate was reminiscent of pre World War II. This danger had to be stressed on every possible occasion. And in a slightly critical tone he asked were

the activities of our movement in line with the seriousness of the situation in the world.

There was a real need, he felt, for more frequent exchange of views and also to reactivate our influence on public opinion irrespective of the outcome of the Madrid talks. Moving a comprehensive series of proposals the Bulgarian delegate called for activities to ensure that the European Disarmament Conference took place, closer links with other movements already active on such issues as the neutron bomb, and greater attention to the concept of a Nuclear Free Mid-Europe.

On the question of Nuclear Free zones the delegate from the Finnish National Committee for European Security presented a resume of the work being undertaken to establish such an area in Northern Europe. Finland, the Western country most identified with the Helsinki Final Act in an appeal to the Heads of Government that participated in the CSCE has called for "national security efforts to be directed

towards supporting the strivings of all peoples for mutual security."

The International Committee spent some time debating the text of the following communique which the Secretariat stressed should be distributed as widely as possible.

"At its meeting in Brussels on July 3/4 the enlarged Secretariat of the International Committee for European Security and Cooperation examined the overall situation in Europe and the continued climate of tension which it considers to be at a dangerous level.

Faced with the perspective of a renewed spiral of the arms race, the Secretariat considered that it would be serious if it did not seize the opportunity which it now had to halt the deployment of medium range missiles in both Eastern and Western Europe by opening up serious negotiations between now and the end of the year. The Secretariat was pleased that, as of now in many countries, large currents of public opinion, alert to the danger, were confronting their governments with their responsibilities.

In view of the state reached in the work of the Madrid meeting on Security and Cooperation in Europe in the eight months since it began, the Secretariat hopes that the outcome will be substantial and particularly that it will not adjourn without deciding to convene a conference on *Disarmament in Europe* in the near future. This would clearly show its desire to pursue the process begun in Helsinki.

The Secretariat adopted a plan for future action and draft initiatives to mobilise public opinion in favour of these important negotiations for the future of détente."

Canon Raymond Goor, (Belgium), President of the International Committee for European Security and Cooperation, in summing up the workings of the meeting and the various contributions underlined the fact that in a world such as ours which has an enormous destructive capacity, national security — equal security for all — must be sought by all possible means; political, military, social, economic, cultural. "Confidence building measures which already constitute a point of departure must include a political commitment to stop the arms race in Europe", he stated.

It is expected that the International Committee will meet again in October to review the results of the Madrid Conference and plan the movement's activities for the coming year.

Noel Power describes an historic night in Mallow



Joe Sherlock, Sinn Féin The Workers' Party's first member of National Parliament with party president Tomas Mac Giolla being interviewed by an Irish Television journalist as he enters the Dáil (National Parliament) buildings.

Sinn Féin The Workers' Party supporters were jubilant and justifiably optimistic as the count reached the final stages in Mallow. "There's no way he can be stopped now" was often heard but more seasoned campaigners were more cautious. They had seen their hopes dashed before. It wasn't until the votes of the eliminated Fianna Fáil candidate Mortell were distributed that it could be calculated accurately that it was then impossible to stop Sherlock winning the seat.

John Kelleher, his hard-working Director of Elections, was seen to relax. The breakthrough had been made.

Joe was as cool as ever but obviously tired from a battle which he had fought relentlessly for ten years. Jubilant supporters embraced him, hundreds of hands were shaken and other party workers joined in congratulations as they bowed to his dedication and commitment to the people.

I saw a small boy come with a piece of a cigarette packet looking for Joe's autograph. He got it and Joe's telephone number.

The formal count was to continue for

over an hour until 2 am and the many old people who came to cheer their Joe should have been in bed. One was heard to say: "Would they ever say that Joe is in and let us all go home."

As the count came to a close the red and green bedecked SFWP supporters began to chant: "We want Joe, we want Joe". And an old lady hoisted an embroidered banner *Sherlock Victorious*.

In the midst of the cheers and counter cheers I heard the returning officer "...Sherlock and Carey Joyce elected..."

The hall erupted and the chant of "We want Joe, we want Joe" was only interrupted to allow young Myra Barry, Fine Gael, who topped the poll, to thank the returning officer and his staff. She passed the mike to Paddy Hegarty but he sensed the impatience of the crowd and handed it on to Sherlock.

The confident strong voice rang through the hall: "I make only one promise to the people, I will justify your confidence in me." And then to shouts of approval, his well worn phrase, "Let there be no doubt about it." The victory Joe

Sherlock said must be recognised as historic both for the people and Sinn Féin The Workers' Party; the result would see a change from the old politics and a better service for the constituency of Cork East.

The formalities were over and Pat Hurley, a piper from Cork, led the cheering crowd bearing Joe Sherlock to the steps of the town hall, the old lady's banner fluttering proudly in the night breeze.

Although early morning, most of Mallow was there and above the cheering and hooting cars Joe appealed for calm and quiet. Joe then addressed himself to the Party supporters and members in a different way from his brief speech at the count.

"We are now entering national politics and we must give a great commitment to the working class. We have won them away from parties who never should have had their vote in the first instance," he stated.

"We have only begun the real fight on the road to a socialist republic," and his voice echoed round the square as we reluctantly headed home.

LEADING IRISH TRADE UNIONISTS BACK SINN FÉIN THE WORKERS' PARTY CANDIDATE

Tom Moore, Chairman of the Newry Trades Union Council and member of the National Executive of Sinn Féin The Workers' Party contested the recent Fermanagh/South Tyrone By-Election. His candidature was publicly endorsed by leading Irish Trade Unionists: David Wiley, President of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions; Paddy Devlin, Northern Ireland Regional Officer of the Irish Transport and General Workers Union; Tom Gillen, Northern Ireland Committee of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions and Lord Bily Bleese of Cromac, formerly a leading member of the Northern Committee of I.C.T.U. Other signatures to the public endorsement were Paddy Joe McLean, Chairman of the Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association (N.I.C.R.A.) and Socialist (Belfast) Member of the Westminster Parliament, Gerry Fitt.

Tom Moore saw his 1,132 votes as a "sign that a considerable number of people are prepared to stand up to the hate-mongers and opt for a non-sectarian socialist alternative".

Title: Ireland, Autumn 1981

Organisation: Sinn Féin The Workers' Party

Date: 1981

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