

# NO TO EXTRADITION!

One of the Issues, which has been most frequently promoted as a matter of 'controversy' in the news in recent weeks, has been the question of whether the 'Free' State government is going to formalise the new extradition agreement on schedule in December or not.

What is the significance of the series of statements and counter-attacks between the British and Irish governments over the question?

On the one hand, there have been the reproaches expressed by the Irish 'Republic' for the 'slowness' of the British government to undertake measures which would 'contribute to overcoming the sense of alienation of the minority' in the north, such as reforming the Diplock courts. Some such reform to 'give the minority confidence in the judicial system in Northern Ireland' was the British government's part of the bargain in the Anglo-Irish Agreement 'process'.

On the other hand, the British government has countered with expressions of impatience about alleged signs of 'reluctance' of the Irish government to ratify the new extradition agreement under the European Convention for the Suppression of Terrorism, demanding fulfilment of the Irish end of the Anglo-Irish Agreement 'process' (in any case a mere charade, 'patriotic resistance' to placate public opinion, as the British government well know).

So .... now we know what these bourgeois politicians - both British and Irish - are talking about when they enthuse about 'the totality of relationships on these islands' and this 'unique relationship between Britain and Ireland'!

Apparently we Irish have reached such a 'turning point in our history' with this Anglo-Irish Agreement that now, after 800 years and more in which ensuing British ruling classes and governments have held Ireland under bondage and repeatedly crucified her people, it has become a matter of 'political controversy' as to who is to blame for 'holding up the solution of the problems in Ireland', i.e. whether it is the British government or the Irish people!?

Turning point indeed. Turning truth on its head more likely!

'Spirit of Freedom' calls on the Irish people (and the democratic people of Britain and abroad) to expose and denounce this new crime which is being perpetrated against our long-suffering nation - the imposition of these reinforced measures for extradition, aimed at giving the British government a completely free hand to drag before their courts any citizen of our country who they choose to accuse of 'terrorism', i.e. patriotic resistance to illegal foreign colonial occupation of the north of our own country.

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This political 'controversy' over extradition of recent weeks, however, is a storm in a tea-cup when compared to the British government's ruthless exploitation of the suc-



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cession of recent events to intensify the pressure on the Irish people to accept extradition - such as the O'Grady kidnapping, the capture of an arms shipment allegedly en route for use against the British occupation, the killing of eleven people at the Poppy Day commemoration in Enniskillen etc.

It does not matter what happens in Ireland, it does not matter who is to blame, the British government are sure to try to make Irish people feel 'guilty'. According to them, all events in Ireland connected with the patriotic struggle, even wrongly connected, somehow serve to disqualify the Irish people from the right to govern themselves, the right to solve their own problems in their own country.

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## HOW CAN WE EXPECT PEACE FROM THE TWO SUPERPOWERS? THEY ARE THE ENEMIES OF PEACE AND FREEDOM!

It has recently been announced that Ronald Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev will hold a summit in the U.S. on December 7th at which they will sign a treaty for "the total elimination of U.S. and Soviet Intermediate-range and shorter range missiles".

The occasion for this summit will undoubtedly be used by the chieftains of the two imperialist superpowers to represent themselves as holding the fate of the world in their hands and to encourage the peoples of the world to place their trust and confidence in them. Far from actually having anything to do with decreasing the danger of war these occasions are

designed to disarm the opposition of the world's people to the two superpowers and their aggressive military blocs NATO and the Warsaw Pact, and to undermine the struggles against their war preparations. As such they actually increase the war danger.

It was a common saying before both the First and Second World War that when those who are preparing for war are shouting peace and disarmament the loudest then the people should watch out. It is no different today.

When one looks at it, the logic being presented to the public with

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But how can this be?

Who are these hypocrites who denounce arms shipments who are themselves constantly shipping arms and troops to Ireland to keep down our nation, who themselves are perhaps the third or fourth biggest international arms exporters, the inciters of many local wars, participant in preparations for world war in which - to use their own phrase - 'life as we know it' could be wiped out!

What guilt should the Irish people feel about the O'Grady kidnapping that should impel us to accept the rights of the British government to have a free hand to extradite our citizens? Just because some criminal gang should carry on their criminality in the name of some 'patriotic struggle' does not make the Irish nation responsible. But in any case it was certainly **not** some crime against Britain or the British people in any case, but against Irish citizens. So how can the fact that this crime took place "strengthen the urgency of the introduction of extradition", as the British 'Northern Ireland' secretary, Tom King, claimed?

Why is it being said in the bourgeois press that, since the Enniskillen tragedy, the opposition parties in the Dail have dropped their previous alleged 'reservations' about supporting the introduction of extradition in the Dail? Leaving aside the issue that it was these very same parties which, when in government, signed the European Convention for the Suppression of Terrorism and themselves

scheduled implementation of extradition for this December, the fact that a bomb goes off in Enniskillen under British rule in 'Northern Ireland' has absolutely nothing to do with justifying extradition from the 26 county Republic of Ireland, despite the frightful tragedy that many ordinary civilians were killed and injured.

The Constitution, Bunreacht na hEireann, states quite clearly that the Irish Republic is constituted by 32 Counties, the whole island of Ireland. The fact that 6 counties still remain under illegal foreign colonial occupation is itself one of the greatest crimes against our nation and in violation of our constitutional rights (and, incidentally, in violation of international law and the rights of nations under the United Nations' Charter).

Why should there be any co-operation with the foreign government which commits daily this violation and this crime? Why - just because an event which is tragic happens in the occupied north - should the southern nominally independent Republic now be bound to extradite our citizens (citizenship being open to Irish people north as well as south) to a foreign jurisdiction, which even at this moment in a considerable number of cases, such as the Birmingham Six, Guildford Four and Maguire Family, has incarcerated many innocent Irish people on the basis of cynically and deliberately concocted evidence, in the spirit that 'they were guilty because they were Irish', as the people put it.

**Spirit of Freedom' calls on the Irish people and all democratic people everywhere to OPPOSE BRITISH IMPERIALIST PROMOTION OF HYSTERIA AGAINST THE IRISH PEOPLE AND THE JUST PATRIOTIC CAUSE OF IRELAND!**

Although a patriotic organisation has publicly taken responsibility (and indeed correctly expressed regret) for the Enniskillen bombing, apart from other rather suspicious aspects of the incident which remain to be cleared up (such as the 'failure' of the British forces to clear that particular building, the premature explosion of the bomb by whatever cause), one thing is clear - that no such event could have taken place were it not for the fact of foreign occupation.

But this is the point. As long as any Irish people take up struggle for the freedom of our country - a struggle which is not only legitimate, but a matter of our patriotic duty - the British imperialists and the national traitors who collaborate with them are going to try to make political capital out of any issue, such as the O'Grady kidnapping or the Enniskillen tragedy, to put pressure on Irish people to feel guilty about things which they are quite innocent of in any case, and feel that their own nation's cause has been somehow compromised and debased itself.

This pressure by British imperialism is simply to enable them to continue their illegal occupation of part of Ireland and domination of all our nation's affairs 'in perpetuity', to use Mr King's phrase in welcoming the Anglo-Irish Agreement, on the basis that Irish people lose all self-confidence in defending their rights to their own sovereignty, the freedom of their nation and their rights to re-unification.

It is British colonial occupation of the north and partition of a living nation which is the real crime in Ireland. And the solution of the problems in Ireland does not begin with Irish people feeling so remorseful that they accept this new criminal violation of our sovereignty - extradition. The Irish people as a nation have nothing to feel remorseful about, because we have done nothing wrong, and certainly cannot be blamed for some isolated individual acts. The end of crime in Ireland begins with the withdrawal of British colonial occupation and all imperialist interference from Ireland. □

**Meeting**  
Organised by Spirit of Freedom

**NO TO  
EXTRADITION !**

Speakers from :  
Spirit of Freedom Committee  
Communist Party of Ireland  
(Marxist-Leninist)

**DUBLIN :**  
Wed. 25th Nov. - 8pm  
CLARENCE HOTEL  
(near Capel St. Bridge)

**CORK :**  
Thurs. 26th Nov - 8pm  
CARPENTERS' HALL  
Father Matthew Quay

**MEETING**

**DENOUNCE  
LENIHAN'S  
PROMOTION  
OF EMIGRATION**

**DUBLIN**

Wednesday 18th Nov. - 8 pm  
CLARENCE HOTEL  
(near Capel St. Bridge)

**CORK**

Thursday 19th Nov. - 8pm  
CARPENTERS' HALL  
Father Matthew Quay

Speakers from : Voice of the Youth and  
Communist Party of Ireland  
(Marxist-Leninist)

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regard to these arms limitation talks, agreements, etc., between the superpowers, is that the source of the danger of another and even more catastrophic world war is the arms race. It follows therefore that if the arms race can be curtailed and the level of armaments reduced, then the danger of war is lessened. This is in fact not the case. The arms race is merely a symptom of a fundamental conflict between the two superpowers, namely their imperialist rivalry for markets, sources of raw material, areas for investment of capital, etc., on a world scale. While this remains in place, indeed while the world imperialist system remains in place the danger of war will remain with us.

While a great deal of hullabaloo has been made in the media about the proposed "INF Agreement" (the "technical details" of which have yet to be worked out and never may be) critics of it have correctly pointed out that the proposed treaty deals with only a tiny percentage of the nuclear arsenal of the superpowers, to say nothing of their vast conventional arsenals including chemical and bacteriological weapons, and that furthermore the plutonium will be merely reused in other types of nuclear weapons. They have also pointed out that numerous "arms control" agreements have been signed by the two superpowers in the past, not one of which has in any way served to reduce the murderous arsenals of the superpowers, but merely set new limits of arming, and which they break whenever they feel like it anyway. While promoting this new proposed agreement, for example, as a step for peace the U.S. was generally going ahead with the testing of the new Trident 2 missile, a further violation of the Salt II agreement.

It is clear that it is the two imperialist superpowers who are in contention for world domination, that it is they who have filled the land, seas and skies of the world with their weapons of mass destruction (and are now venturing into Outer Space) and it is they and their aggressive military blocs NATO and the Warsaw Pact who pose the danger to the peace and security of the world's people. There can be no cure expected from the gods of plague.

## FREEDOM, VINDICATION AND COMPENSATION FOR THE BIRMINGHAM SIX!

On Monday, November 3, the appeal began in London of the six Irishmen known as the 'Birmingham Six' against their unjust conviction in 1974 of causing 2 explosions in Birmingham pubs which killed 21 people.

From the very earliest days it became common knowledge, backed by a mass of evidence, that these 6 men are totally innocent of the crimes and were simply railroaded amidst a climate of hysterical anti-Irish propaganda whipped up by the British imperialist media in the wake of the bombings. Indeed so widely acknowledged is the complete innocence of the six (who have served 13 years in jail!) that it is in fact a further crime against them and their families that they were not immediately released on the authority of the British Home Secretary, pending their vindication and compensation for their wrongful conviction and imprisonment.

The case being presented at the appeal on behalf of the men is widely known: savage treatment at the hands of the police who tortured confessions out of some of them over an extended period before handing them over to prison warders who inflicted further brutal assaults; totally bogus and unscientific forensic evidence by police scientists; etc.

'SPIRIT OF FREEDOM' joins all democratic public opinion in once again demanding the complete vindication, and compensation with their release of these six Irish men. A gross injustice has been done to these men and terrible sufferings inflicted upon them and their families and it must be rectified.

At the same time it would be totally wrong to allow this appeal ordered by the British imperialist Home Secretary to be presented as a matter of 'true British justice finally winning out', or as simply a matter of 'a few corrupt police officers', as some are trying to do.

Firstly, it is clear that the case has only got as far as an appeal because of a persistent, prolonged and vigorous campaign on behalf of the Six by their families and democratic opinion in Britain and Ireland. Otherwise, in the face of all the evidence of their innocence, the British ruling class would have been content to let them rot in jail indefinitely as political hostages and pawns in British imperialism's overall strategy to cow

the Irish people into accepting the criminal partition of our nation and the continuing colonial annexation of the Six Counties.

Secondly, in the long history of oppression and suffering of the Irish people under British imperialism the Birmingham 6 are not the first to be railroaded into British jails. The current cases of the Maguire family and the Guilford Four immediately come to mind but there have been thousands of others over the years. And the conviction of Albert McNamee earlier this month, on the charge of causing explosions in Britain, solely on the basis of fingerprints for which perfectly rational explanations were provided, with absolutely no corroborating evidence, in a trial that is already a byword for its legal irregularities is another example. This indicates that there will be many others in the future as long as British imperialism refuses the Irish people their national rights.

Furthermore, in the history of centuries of oppression suffered by the Irish people under British imperialism, the railroading of innocent people into jail ranks very prominently alongside the mass deportations to the other side of the world over the centuries and the genocidal policy of British governments during the famine in the middle of the last century which resulted in the halving of our population through death by starvation and emigration.

The true lesson to be learned from the tragic case of the Birmingham Six is that as long as British imperialism maintains its illegal colonial occupation of any part of our national territory they will continue to abuse the large Irish population in Britain itself which has been forced to emigrate and settled there as a consequence of eight hundred years of colonial terror and exploitation. For British imperialism is now as it has in the past used the emigrant Irish population not only as cheap labour but also as hostages to try to put pressure on the Irish people to desist from the sacred struggle for the freedom of their own motherland.

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'SPIRIT OF FREEDOM' vehemently condemns the British imperialist media who have taken the opportunity of this appeal to once again swamp their news coverage with film footage of the destruction and carnage caused by the 1974 bombs. The dogs in the street know that these six men have absolutely no connection with those crimes, and to mix such footage with a case strictly concerned with the appeal against unjust arrest, torture and judicial framing of six innocent men is simply an attempt to cover over the enormity of the injustice already committed.

## What is the sense in this claim that emigration is a democratic right?

In an interview last week Brian Lenihan was heard vigorously trying to cloak the national tragedy of mass youth emigration in shades of "democratic choice", "adventure", and "excitement". It only served to further confirm that bourgeois politicians are not to be believed or trusted!

Brian Lenihan is deliberately falsifying the reality which the young men and women of Ireland face. What choice really exists in a country dominated by British imperialism and sell-out national traitors?! What opportunities await young school leavers and graduates at home that allows them to 'choose' between staying or leaving?

For very many the picture is bleak. Their whole lives lie ahead of them and what they face is the prospect of unemployment; limited places in educational institutions, if they successfully run the gauntlet of the outrageously unfair points system; and if they do manage to find some form of work they will almost certainly be the victims of savage exploitation, working long hours for ridiculously little pay - sometimes a 40 hour week for as little as £50. It is in this context Lenihan speaks glowingly about the "opportunity" and "choice" emigration presents.

But it must be asked what choice is there really when the successive governments (Fianna Fail, Fine Gael, Labour, etc.) have so utterly failed to create conditions for a decent life at home. No one is fooled about what

emigration really entails. At best young people will endure loneliness, homesickness and well as social and cultural alienation. At worst they face homelessness and despair. As a recent study reveals Irish emigrants are at the top of London's homeless list, a large number of whom are young men. And further they may face intense exploitation as many young Irish in America have discovered - being forced to hold down two jobs while trying to evade deportation. Yes, are not these "fine" opportunities to offer our youth!

And how does Lenihan seek to explain this recurring phenomenon in Irish history? His explanation is that Ireland is physically too small. Does he mean to suggest all small countries must start exporting their youth - will emigration become official state policy in England, Holland and Japan as well? These are small nations which experience a far higher population density than Ireland. Lenihan's explanation is so flimsy it smacks of idiocy and worse! The truth is that Ireland is more than big enough for all its people and more! The most callous and reactionary people of the last century gave an explanation for the famine (with its millions who starved or fled with hardly their shirts on their backs or who succumbed to disease, etc.) similar to what Brian Lenihan says. At the time of the Great Famine the British imperialists and national traitors laid the blame for the tragedies on the people themselves - for having had too many children and thus overpopulated their "small" island. Lenihan - national traitor that he is - echoes today this vicious attack on the Irish people.

Ireland's population is small and in no way the cause for the enforced emigration which is an integral component of the infamous Programme for National Recovery. The real cause is that the likes of Lenihan and all the national traitors whether in Fine Gael, Fianna Fail, Labour or Worker's Party have overseen the sell-out of Ireland to British imperialism and completely betrayed the principles of the 1916 Proclamation of Independence for which the Irish people fought in the War of Independence. The reason we are faced with forced emigration today is because our economy is completely subservient to the interests of foreign capital just as it was in the 1840s. The economy has never been allowed to develop in the national interest because this runs counter to the

objectives of British imperialism who continue to view Ireland as their colonial domain. The new generation are being sacrificed to this end in the policies of Fianna Fail and as they were under the previous Fine Gael/Labour coalition.

We have no intention of sitting idly by and accept the way things are being handled - that unemployment will not only remain but increase; the cuts will become even more vicious; while the exodus of our loved ones is adopted as state policy. The entire history of the people's struggle for freedom from foreign domination whether under the Penal Laws or more recently in 1921 and today, has been the struggle to rid ourselves of the oppressors who have continually denied the basic democratic rights such as the right to an education, prosperity and even the most fundamental right as the right to remain in our own country.

'Spirit of Freedom' calls on all the people to denounce Lenihan and the 'Free' State government for this promotion of emigration as a solution to the lack of a future for our youth at home and on the youth themselves to take their destiny into their own hands - to organize to **THROW BRITISH IMPERIALISM OUT OF IRELAND ONCE AND FOR ALL**. We call on the youth to stay in Ireland and fight for the right to a decent future and for economic prosperity in the national interest and not that of the foreign robbers and national lackeys. □

### ALL - IRELAND YOUTH CONFERENCE

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Organised by Voice of the Youth  
Sunday Dec. 6th --Dublin

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or call in to Progressive Books,  
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### SPIRIT OF FREEDOM

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