

PLEASE COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING TO
GET MORE INFORMATION FROM THE
LABOUR COMMITTEE ON IRELAND

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Union. CLP.

Please tick as appropriate:
'LABOUR AND IRELAND' one copy 70p....
Subscription £3.....Bulk order to sell.....

More information about our activities in your
particular union etc; policies and debates;
availability of speakers and background info.
(details wanted)

Affiliation to the LCI – £5 (10 for branches etc
with more than 400 members)

Organisation.

Secretary/Delegate.

.....

Individual membership (open to any LP member)
£5 waged, £1 unwaged, free to striking miners
I would like to join the LCI.....

'LABOUR WOMEN FOR IRELAND' also open
to women wanting to work for Irish freedom and
for Women's Liberation in Ireland and Britain.

I would like to join...../more information.....

*Please return this slip to LCI, BM Box 5355,
London WC1N 3XX*
Thank-you

**IRISH TRADES UNIONISTS FOR IRISH UNITY AND
INDEPENDENCE** was launched over a year ago around
the statement reprinted below (slightly shortened).

*"We are only too aware of the accuracy of Connolly's
prediction that partition would destroy the unity of the
Irish Labour Movement. Although it is not always now
realised, the Irish TUC and Labour Party in 1914 voted
almost unanimously to oppose partition, which vote in-
cluded many Northern delegates.*

*While recognising the importance of the united Irish Con-
gress of Trade Unions, we believe that the political division
of the working class has been disastrous.*

*A united working class in a 32 County Ireland could
become a dynamic political force, resulting ultimately in
the formation of a government pledged to uphold working
class interests.*

*The converse is true. As long as partition remains, the Irish
working class will be divided and politically frustrated. The
achievement of a United Ireland will therefore contribute
to the progress of Irish workers, north and south.*

*We are also aware of the economic damage inflicted on Ire-
land by partition and the conflicts that have flowed there-
from. Instead of complimenting each other, both parts of
Ireland have had their economies distorted, suffered a drain
on their resources and economic growth and development
has been retarded.*

*We believe that Britain is responsible for the partition of
Ireland and its maintenance, including conferring on the
Unionists a veto on any constitutional change, thereby
resulting in political deadlock.*

*A change in British policy is needed, and the demand must
be made on Britain to declare its intention to disengage
from Ireland and hand over sovereignty to the Irish Gov-
ernment, while ensuring that all legitimate safeguards
are provided for the rights of Unionists as a minority.
They would naturally be involved in discussing the con-
stitutional, political and financial arrangements for a new
All Ireland state.*

We have set up Trade Unionists for Irish Unity and In-
dependence to win further support in the Irish trade union
and Labour movement and work with those in the British
and International trade union and Labour movements who
are committed to Irish unity and independence.

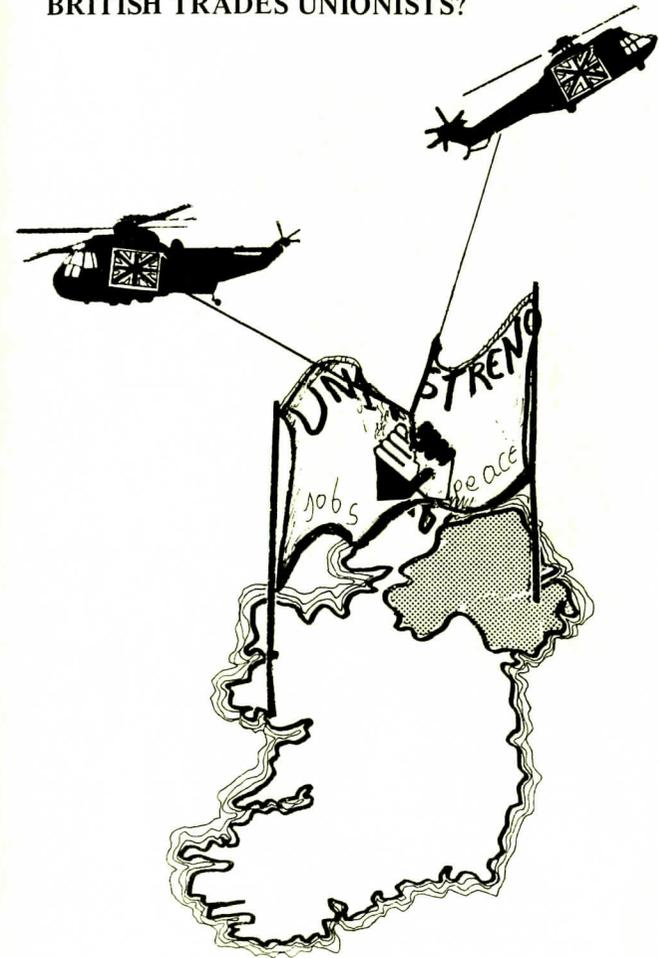
*The Group's intention is especially to ensure a solid and
substantial trade union and working class involvement in
Ireland in the movement to end partition, thereby contrib-
uting to the form that a new united Ireland will take.*

Des Bonass, Head Office
ATGWU
Dairen O'Cealligh, Gen. Sec.
IFUT (Teachers)
Gerry Fleming, Gen. Sec.
INPDTU (Painters and
Decorators)
Phil Flynn, Gen. Sec. LGPSU
(Local Govt. & Public Services)

Ben Kearney, Branch Sec.
ATGWU, Pres. Dublin trades
council
Matt Merrigan, Dist. Sec.
ATGWU Vice Pres. ICTU
John Mitchell, Gen. Sec.
TUDWC (Distributive Workers)
Exec. Cttee. ICTU
Alice Moore, Ass. Gen. Sec.
LGPSU

Sam Nolan, Organiser UCATT,
Sec. Dublin trades council
Seamus de Paor, Gen. Sec.
IPOEU (Post Office Engineers)
Sean Redmond, Gen. Sec.
IMETU (Municipal Employees)
Seamus Redmond, Gen. Sec.
MPGWU (Marine and Port)

WHAT HAS IRELAND GOT TO DO WITH
BRITISH TRADES UNIONISTS?



WHAT IS BRITAIN DOING TO IRELAND?

A Leaflet from the

Labour Committee on Ireland

Honorary Presidents Ken Livingstone
Joan Maynard MP

WHY SHOULD Trades Union members concern themselves about Ireland?

Well, doesn't it worry you that:

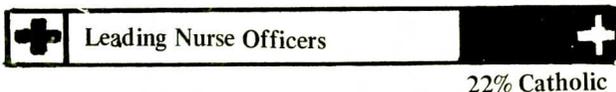
15 people – 7 children – killed by plastic and rubber bullets; others shot on sight by the army and RUC. Their crimes? Often nothing at all, maybe joy riding, maybe – like Mrs Groves, blinded for playing a republican record when soldiers searched the street.

Relatives of plastic bullet victims are appealing for support for their campaign to have the weapons banned – contact LCI for details. Brocks Fireworks make them - so buy elsewhere for November 5th!

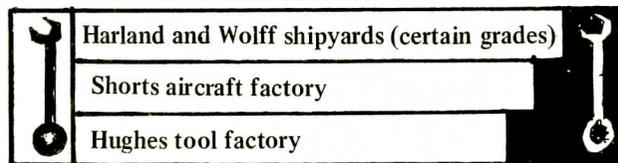


Mrs Emma Groves
Mrs Emma Groves, 51 years old and mother of 11 children, was hit in the face by a rubber bullet on the morning of 4 November 1971. In hospital, both her eyes were removed. A British soldier fired the bullet at about eight yards range through the open window of Mrs Groves' home in Andersonstown, West Belfast.

*Unemployment has been at 'Thatcherite' levels in Ireland for generations. But Catholics bear the brunt – although now Protestants are losing their jobs too, four in 25 are at least partly employed by the Army, RUC or similar.



1981 SKILLED ENGINEERING



*In Britain lack of jobs drives youth into the Army – to be trained to lose respect for human life and become brutalised even if they aren't killed.

THE BRITISH PRESENCE IN IRELAND isn't keeping the peace – but it is costing £1,000 MILLION a year a third of which goes on the army, police, prisons and courts. That means DEATH in Britain that could be avoided if money was spent on health care, and more DEATH in Ireland in conflict between the Security forces and Irish people than between Catholic and Protestant organisations.

Where do you think Thatcher realised she could get away with police in riot gear with truncheons on horseback charging lads and lasses in T-shirts and pumps?

Women are strip-searched in Armagh jail, now it's being used against Greenham women, and even allegedly against a girl protesting at the closure of her Council home.



Irish 'WOMEN FOR DISARMAMENT' blockading Bishopscourt RAF

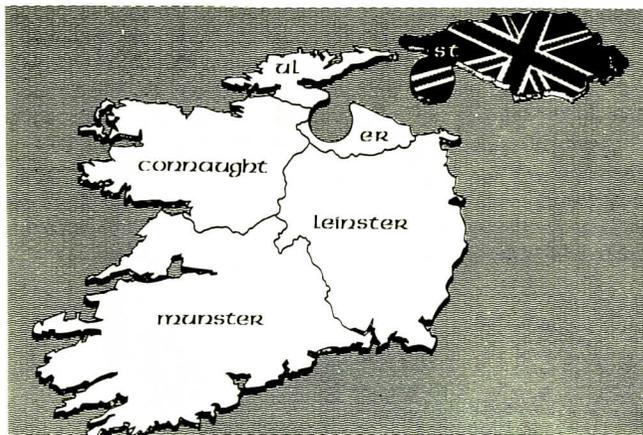
As long as British people allow Government spying, rigged courts and naked force to be used in our name against Irish people these weapons will be turned against us here. It's not just the practice for Maggie's strong-arm men, but the fact that ordinary people get hardened when they should be outraged.

SO WHY ARE THE IRISH FIGHTING?

In 1921, after hundreds of years of struggle for independence, up and coming Irish factory owners and landlords did a deal with the British Government.

Partition carved off the largest area that gave a workforce split two to one, Protestant to Catholic. By giving a few extra crumbs to Protestants the British and other bosses hoped to keep up the tradition where Protestant shipyard workers threw fellow Catholic workers, not the bosses, into the sea when redundancies were threatened.

The North of Ireland has the worst housing in Western Europe. When a single Protestant woman was given a council house when Catholic families were homeless this helped to spark the civil rights marches of 1968-9. Some Protestants supported these – as they have joined with Catholics in jobs marches and so on. But before long the 'big Orange drum' is used by Britain as long as it rules the north – to buy off the Protestants and to divide and weaken both sides.



THE MAIN DIVISION IN IRELAND IS NOT PROTESTANT – CATHOLIC

It is the border which tries to cut the union movement, women's movement and so on in half.

The border isn't working. Trade Union membership in the South is a higher proportion than over here. The statement overleaf puts the views of leaders of some of the unions representing the majority of Irish people.

THERE ARE MANY IN THE NORTH WHO SHARE THESE VIEWS

We should at least listen to them.

Will there be a bloodbath if the Brits go?

Are women better off North or South?

Can the unions end the bloodshed while the border exists?

What will it cost Britain to make up for the damage?

The Labour Committee on Ireland thinks that British withdrawal and self-determination for the Irish people is the best answer. But we know it is not as easy to do as to say.

The first thing is to get Ireland discussed and to here what ordinary Irish people, trade unions North and South and women's organisations have to say. You may not agree with them but it is better than relying on the mass media.

Tens of thousands of pounds have been raised in Ireland for the Miners Strike. The least we can do is remember the words of Bernie Tohill, mother of a victim of the 'supergrass' system in no jury courts: *"We'll help you miners all we can now – but please don't you British trades unionists forget Ireland again when you don't need our money any more"*.

'LABOUR & IRELAND' (subs form overleaf) puts these debates on paper – *the least you can do is order a copy!*

IF you agree with us do something about it – join the LCI now. We have supporters in many unions

*Helping to build support for Dr Maire O'Shea, 65 year old ASTMS and LP member arrested under the PTA and held on conspiracy charges (like the Shrewsbury building worker pickets and now many miners).

*Holding fringe meetings at union conferences

*Providing educational material for weekend schools

*Putting your Branch or Trades Council in touch with Irish Trades Unionists who will come over and speak.

*Developing union policy on Ireland. The Labour Party is committed to a United Ireland and opposition to plastic bullets, strip searches and other forms of repression but is it doing enough about it?

Most unions have few formal positions – *do you know how your delegation voted on Ireland at LP conference? Join the LCI and YOU and YOUR branch can start to have a say in these issues.*

Title: What Has Ireland Got to Do with British Trades Unionists? What is Britain Doing to Ireland?

Organisation: Labour Party [Britain]

Date: 1985 c.

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