



Workers of all Countries, Unite !



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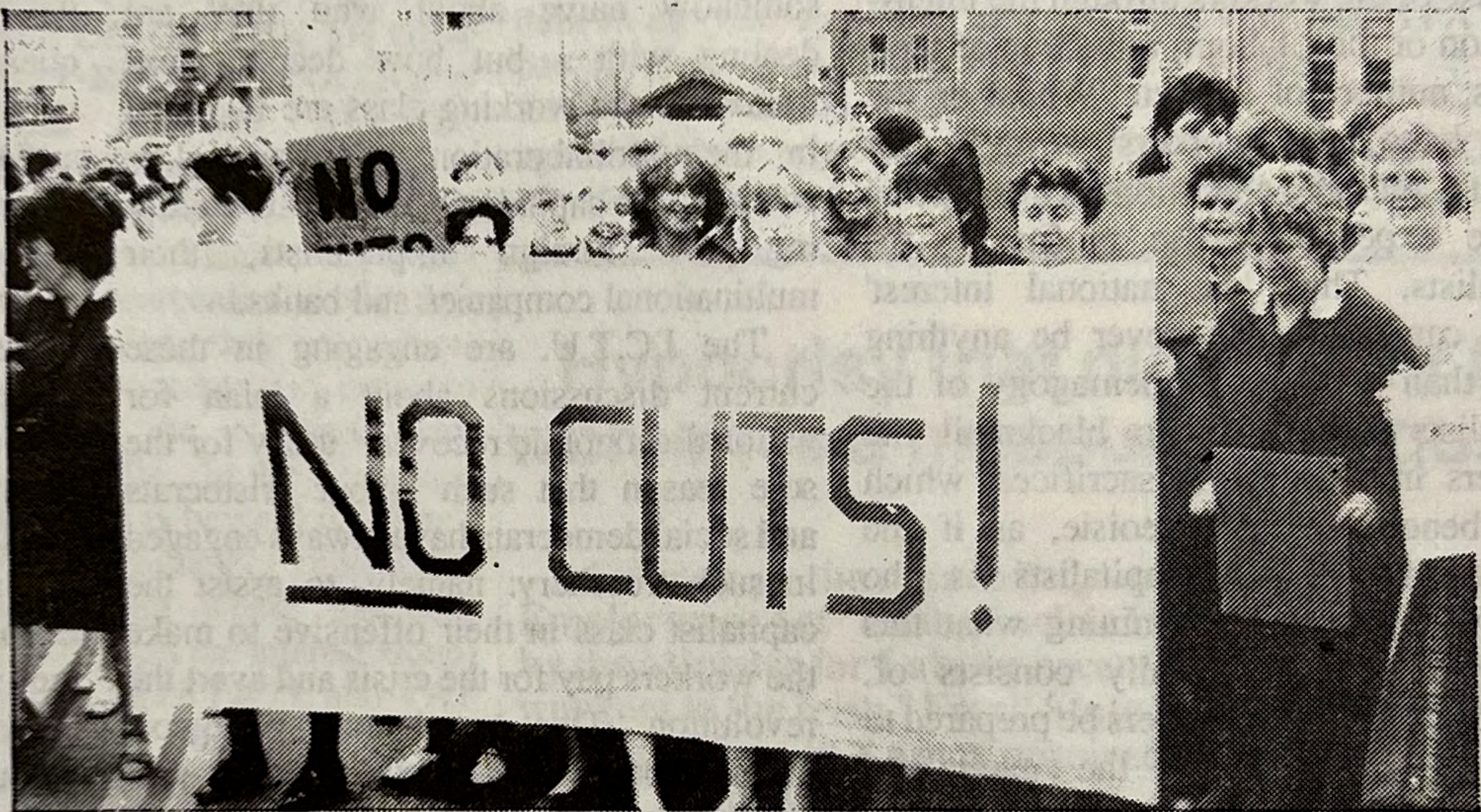
WHY ARE THE UNIONS DISCUSSING AN ALLEGED 'PLAN FOR NATIONAL ECONOMIC RECOVERY' WITH THE 'FREE' STATE GOVERNMENT ?

Another meeting between leaders of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions and the Fianna Fail government took place on Wednesday 29th April, and with considerable media fanfare the outcome was announced: a joint commitment to reach agreement on a 'plan for national economic recovery' by the end of September, such a plan envisaged as covering perhaps 5-7 years.

What is the significance of such a decision ? Is it simply a matter of people assessing the relative probabilities of 'success' or 'failure' of this new 'initiative' on the basis of the claims being made by both the government and the unions to achieve such a national economic recovery, and in the light of the experience of previous such efforts at 'national planning between the social partners' such as the National Wage Agreements and National Understandings of the 1970s ?

Not at all. For whilst the claims of those previous 'planning initiatives' all - without exception - proved to be completely bankrupt, (i.e. in terms of national recovery), and this plan, should it ever emerge, will be no different, this is not the point in any case. The point is: why are the trade unions conducting this kind of discussions with the government in the first place, when government policy, as shown by the recent budget, is straightforwardly to launch the most savage offensive against the wages, jobs and living standards and social welfare, health and educational entitlements of the masses of the

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ST JAMES HOSPITAL, DUBLIN, WORKERS DEMONSTRATION IN PROTEST AT GOVERNMENT CUTBACKS IN HEALTH SYSTEM AND HOSPITAL JOBS -

Growing trend of militant struggle against government policy reflects real interests of workers themselves to fight for their rights and against exploitation, without succumbing to bourgeois trade unionist illusions of class conciliation or to the capitalist government and employers' blackmail of 'sacrifices in the national interest'.

THE BRITISH COLONIAL PUBLIC ORDER ACT - Fascist Tactic of Anglo-Irish Agreement Offensive

British imperialism is presenting its Public Order (Northern Ireland) Act, which they brought into operation at the beginning of April, allegedly as a 'new' means by which to prevent the type of 'disorder on the streets which has been a feature of the period since the signing of the Anglo-Irish Agreement in 1985'.

They allege it is to control 'unlawful' demonstrations and protests which lead to violence etc., i.e. stop the kind of 'sectarian incitement' which 'leads to violence between the two communities in Northern Ireland'.

Once again in the most cynical of manoeuvres, British imperialism is posing as the

'peace-keeper' in Ireland. British imperialism is posing as the defender of 'catholics' from 'protestant extremists', the defender of 'the rights of unionists not to be intimidated into a united Ireland by republican terrorists' etc. etc. Openly making comparisons with their sinister and divisive Race Relations Acts in Britain,

the British imperialists claim that their Public Order Act is to foster 'reconciliation between the two communities in Northern Ireland'. In reality what we have in the Public Order Act of the British occupiers is nothing other than another fascist instrument of 'divide and rule' with which to crush the resurgent patriotic movement of the Irish nation which for eighteen years now has denied the initiative to the foreign aggressors. But one of the most tricky of the

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working class and people. What is there for the unions to discuss with the 'Free' State government, especially at this time, when the question is for the working class to get organised to fight back against the cuts of the 'Free' State government?

Come to that, what is there for genuine workers' organisations to discuss with any capitalist government (in terms of 'national consensus' etc.) under the conditions of the capitalist system, where the interests of these two fundamentally opposed classes, the proletariat and the bourgeoisie, are completely at loggerheads with each other? 'National consensus' in a society divided by antagonistic class interests is out of the question. The capitalists can only gain their profits at the expense of the workers through the intensification of their labour, reduction of their wages, number of jobs etc. Whilst on the other hand, the workers' struggle for decent wages and conditions is necessarily at the expense of the profits of the capitalists. Thus 'the national interest' under capitalism can never be anything more than a means of demagoguery of the capitalists themselves to blackmail the workers into accepting sacrifices, which only benefit the bourgeoisie, as if the profitability of the capitalists is the decisive factor in determining what this 'national interest' actually consists of. How can trade union leaders be prepared to join discussions with the capitalists' government on the basis that the interests of exploiters and exploited can be capable of reconciliation, except that they too are helping the bourgeoisie exert the blackmail of the capitalists over the workers?

The recent budget, following immediately on the general election in the southern 'Free' State, marks the culmination of a whole phase of increasing coalition between all the main bourgeois parties, and the opening up of a renewed and intensified phase of capitalist offensive to force the burden of the crisis onto the backs of the working class and other sections of the people, protecting and even enhancing the profits of the native rich and foreign multinational companies and banks. Thus the particular fraud of the recent election: Fianna Fail opposed the proposed Fine Gael budget and cutbacks, and won votes and came into office only to inflict a still more onerous budget and still worse cuts themselves!

The issue facing all those who work (and those thrown out of work or the youth deprived of all opportunity to start work) at this time clearly therefore is to unite in action against the all-party bour-

geois coalition (openly consisting of Fianna Fail, Fine Gael and Progressive Democrats, and covertly also 'Labour' and the 'Workers' Party) in the Dail, against the budget-imposed pay freeze, against wage and job reductions in the public service, against cuts in social welfare for the unemployed and for all those dependent on state benefits (perhaps 40% of the population in the 26 counties), as well as against the serious cuts in the health system, in education etc.

The fact that the Irish Congress of Trade Unions is engaging in discussions on the basis that somehow the interests of exploited and exploiters can be matched with each other in yet another 'national plan for economic recovery' only goes to show - not that such union leaders are somehow naive about who they are dealing with - but how deeply these traitors to the working class are involved in their collaboration with our class enemies, the capitalist bourgeoisie, including the foreign imperialists, their multinational companies and banks.

The I.C.T.U. are engaging in these current discussions about a 'plan for national economic recovery' today for the sole reason that such labour aristocrats and social democrats have always engaged in such treachery: namely, to assist the capitalist class in their offensive to make the workers pay for the crisis and avert the revolution. This treacherous bourgeois trade unionism is to foster illusions amongst workers in the possibility of avoiding the necessity for class struggle by reaching agreement with the bourgeoisie which might be 'mutually advantageous and profitable to both employers and workers', precisely in order to undermine the resolve and unity of the workers in taking up class struggle against the rich and their system to make the rich pay for the crisis instead of the workers. Such talks are the work of elements in control

of the workers' trade unions who are the bribed tools of the bourgeoisie themselves, who are working for the maintenance of capitalist profits and foreign imperialist domination of Ireland because they themselves are using the capitalist system to feather their own nests.

The current negotiations of the I.C.T.U. with the government over this so-called plan for national economic recovery serve to underline the necessity for the working class taking up the revolutionary path of class struggle against exploitation and for the overthrow of the very system of foreign domination and exploitation itself under the leadership of their own genuine Marxist-Leninist communist party, the Communist Party of Ireland (Marxist-Leninist). The struggle for the rights of the workers, including the immediate questions of fighting against the crisis as well as the struggle to establish the socialist system in Ireland where the working class can enjoy the fruits of their own labour, is a struggle which, while against the bourgeoisie, must also necessarily involve the workers making a complete break with the illusions spread by bourgeois trade unionism, social democracy and revisionism (for instance, the 'Labour' Party, 'Workers' Party and the 'Communist' Party of Ireland), by the exposure and expulsion from the ranks of the working class, especially from the leadership of the trade unions etc. of the labour aristocracy and their social democratic and revisionist parties, who nurture the (entirely bourgeois) principles of class conciliation and who thereby assist the bourgeoisie in forging chains of dependence of workers on capitalism in order to split the working class and stifle the class struggle in defence of workers' rights, wages, jobs and living standards and for the overthrow of the system of class exploitation itself. □

UNITY AND FREEDOM TO THE IRISH PEOPLE !

Freedom and Lasting Peace to the People of the World !

*Against the Fascist 'Divide and Rule'
Anglo-Irish Agreement*

Pamphlet Published by the :

COMMUNIST PARTY OF IRELAND
(MARXIST-LENINIST)

FROM : P.O. BOX 695, DUBLIN 8 - £2

THE "FREE" STATE NATIONAL DEBT AN INTEGRAL PART OF NATIONAL SUBJUGATION

The recent draconian budget in the southern "Free" state has focussed attention again on the crippling national debt (now standing at £23.29 billion) and in particular on the foreign debt (42.2% of the total).

For years, particularly since Charles J. Haughey's vicious anti-worker speech on first becoming Taoiseach in 1979, the people in the "Free" State have been lectured to by all and sundry economic "experts" and politicians that "we have been living beyond our means". Since that time, after eight years of "belt-tightening", the national debt has quadrupled. Has this occurred as a result of the people living beyond their means? No! On the contrary average male industrial earnings have declined by 10% in real terms since 1979. Unemployment has more than trebled and over 40% of the southern population now depend on some form of welfare payment or other. At the same time the Gross National Product, the amount of wealth generated by the labour of the people, has increased despite the crisis, as have the profits "repatriated" (in fact looted from Ireland) by foreign multinationals.

In fact what is being perpetrated against the Irish people and the peoples of all debt-ridden nations of the so-called "third world", is a downright swindle! Debt accumulation and repayment are part and parcel of a world-wide system of exploitation and not simply the result of "mistakes made by both lenders and borrowers". The banking cartels of the world, whether in the City of London, or the "Big Seven" of New York, or as "gnomes of Zurich", accumulate vast sums of capital, profits extracted from the sweat and the toil of working people the world over. This capital is in turn lent to governments to finance handouts to the partners-in-crime of the bankers from whom it was borrowed in the first place--the multi-national monopolies--and to enrich the local national traitors collaborating in this fraud. For fraud it is since it is not the recipients of the cash--the rich, whether local or foreign--

who pay it back, but the workers, small producers, small business people, etc. through crippling taxes or through cutbacks in state spending on health, education and welfare. This system is a never-ending treadmill to extract the last ounce of profit from the sweat and the toil of the world's people. **NEITHER THE IRISH PEOPLE NOR THE PEOPLE OF THE OTHER DEBT-RIDDEN NATIONS OWE THESE BLOOD-SUCKERS A PENNY!**

The present "Free" State government claims, as previous governments claimed, that the hardships they are inflicting are necessary in order to eradicate the national debt. This is a lie. In the first place because it is beyond the state's present productive capacity to do so, and where the debt burden (even the interest alone) gobbles up all PAYE and VAT revenue. Secondly because these national traitors and the foreign and native parasites whose interests they serve will not pass up this mechanism, this treadmill, for blackmailing the people into accepting even greater exploitation. And thirdly because they will not pass up the profits they make directly as middlemen in these transactions. If they were serious they would take the obvious step and repudiate the debt. But they won't. Why? Because then they wouldn't be able to borrow any more! They are concerned lest the whole thing get out of control--but only to maintain the "Free" State's credit rating and to give them time to introduce piecemeal fascist measures of social control such as this budget's forced-labour "Job Search" scheme.

Moody's, a New York based firm of "financial experts" recently gave the "Free" State a top credit rating. Why? Because, they said, of its EEC membership and its "political stability". But what is the nature of Ireland's "political

stability"? It takes the form of the colonial and neo-colonial domination of our country by a foreign aggressor, British imperialism, its direct military occupation of the north-eastern six counties and exploitation of the entire island. It takes the form of a tyranny with all the trappings - death squads, torture, kangaroo courts, concentration camps etc. - of other states, such as Pinochet's Chile, with the type of "stability" (i.e. fascism) so beloved by the international bankers.

Since most "native" financial institutions in the "Free" State are themselves part of multinational (but mainly British) banking cartels, the national debt in its entirety is part and parcel of a whole system of foreign domination with the age-old foreign aggressor, British imperialism as its lynch-

pin. For behind the apparent civility of the pin-stripe-suited international bankers lie the jack-boots and mailed fists of their gendarmes in Ireland, the British imperialists.

All over the world the peoples' mass-movement is demanding the repudiation of all foreign debts as well as opposition to the whole system of foreign domination and exploitation which gives rise to it. The Irish people must not only fight for the repudiation of the national debt but the eradication of the entire system of foreign domination and national betrayal of which it is an integral part.

MAKE THE RICH PAY FOR THE CRISIS!

UNITY AND FREEDOM TO THE IRISH PEOPLE! □

Hypocrisy that night work for women is a measure for equality

Following the amending of the "Conditions of Employment Act" dating back to 1936, submitted to the Dail by the Minister for Labour recently, we learn that women workers in the Irish "Free" State will now be able to work from midnight to 8 am if required by their employers.

Why should this law of 51 years standing now be suddenly rescinded? Are those who have combined to change this piece of legislation - the employers, industrialists and TDs concerned at this juncture to now advance the condition of women by, as they claim, improving women's access to the overtime and bonuses that their male counterparts "enjoy"? This turnabout in the law relating to female labour is in no way progressive or in the genuine interests of women but rather a blatant device to open the way to the further exploitation of women, as part of their overall offensive against the entire working people. This is yet another measure alongside many others such as the reduction of wages and overwork for those working, as well as the policy of mass unemployment, to assist the capitalists in foisting the burden of the economic crisis onto the backs of the people.

The hypocrisy and real intent of this change in legislation

can be measured by the fact that 150 applications for night work licenses for women had already been made before this amendment came into force from the plastics, electronic, food, textile and pharmaceutical industries - nearly all traditional employers of women and feeling the cold breeze of the capitalist crisis. From this they are now to be 'rescued', by the stratagem of lowly paid night working by women (often left with no choice in the matter whatever family and social inconvenience due to impoverishment) through the good offices of the representatives of the rich in the 'Free' state.

Can it be said that these bourgeois political parties (as well as these companies which have requested licenses) have any interest in the equality of women? For after all, it was these same parties who delayed and delayed over even drawing up the equal pay legislation (without any intention of allowing it to be implemented

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anyhow), who only recently turned the implementation of equal rights to married women for unemployment benefit and assistance into a method of a reducing still further social welfare entitlements for tens of thousands of families, and who have on all issues relating to the struggle of women for their emancipation, been a total roadblock, promoting everything that its reactionary and anti-women. It is in this context that this recent measure passed by the Dail must be viewed.

Night work is generally regarded by all respectable scientific and medical opinion as a health hazard, whilst of course in certain essential services such as the Health service and the power industry, night work must be done to supply the community with these necessary services. However there is a difference between essential services to the community and nightwork done purely for the needs of the capitalists to make maximum profit. And it is this 'right' which the Dail has just recognised - and not any right of women to equality.

For wherever women are employed, be it in the all women industries, or in whatever sphere alongside men, they earn rock bottom wages. It is this cheap labour which the capitalists wish to further exploit. In the present conditions of the unresolvable economic crisis, these same employers are in neck and neck competition with one another to sell goods more cheaply to an ever shrinking market and with the flexibility to increase or reduce production according to the market demand. In this context, overtime working as well as shift systems including night work is important for them. The fact that male workers need to work overtime on a massive scale and do nightwork to obtain merely a living wage is an indictment of the capitalist system and its exploitation of the working class. The fact that they are now extending this system of overwork and night work to women represents an extension of the exploitation of women in a cynical attempt to employ cheaper labour on night work. This is not

equality! For equality as it is properly understood, must be based on free working men and women i.e. on a society where all exploitation has been abolished.

This latest in a long list of moves against women and working people has been welcomed by the Employment Equality Agency through the person of its chairwoman Sylvia Meehan and exposes

the reactionary pro-rich, status quo nature of this government - established and funded agency whose function it is to do propaganda for each bourgeois government in their hypocritical claim to be for equality for women.

This retrograde step and all the hypocrisy surrounding it must be exposed by all progressive people. The working class, men and women must

unite to oppose the capitalist crisis which is impoverishing the people, and making the conditions of work intolerable. The cause of the oppression of women is also the cause of the oppression of the entire working class -- the whole system of capitalist exploitation. It is only when this has been completely swept away that true equality for women can at last be realised. □

Government blackmail against E.S.B. Workers is an attempt to deny their just demands

Next week some 12,000 or so workers of the Electricity Supply Board are due to hold a 72 hour strike over the period Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

The workers have rejected the semi-state management's measly wages offer of a 4% increase on the first £100 of their wages, 3% increase on the next £200 and 2% on the balance, since this is no way compensates for the serious erosion of the value of the workers' wages due to the combination of periodic wages freezes or limitation, inflation and the increasing tax burden in both PAYE income tax and VAT purchase tax over several years. It does not even meet the current rate of inflation. In a word, the workers have justly rejected what amounts to a wages' cut, and this initial strike action has been announced because the E.S.B. has point blank refused to come up with a better offer, clearly with the backing of the government which itself declared a pay freeze in its recent budget. Should the company fail to restart negotiations with a serious view to making a just settlement, the workers have decided to begin indefinite strike action on May 12th.

As with all the previous cases as they have come up periodically over the last 20 years, where the E.S.B. workers have had no alternative but to serve strike notice in the face of the intransigence of the state company and the government, the management and the bourgeois mass media, of course with government inspiration, have begun their ruthless and lying slander campaign to try to turn public opinion against the E.S.B.

workers as allegedly having 'the best jobs in the country' etc. According to the bourgeoisie, as usual, the E.S.B. workers are being 'unreasonable' and are 'pre-empting the possibility of further negotiations'. For instance, regarding their current (rejected) 'offer', the company are setting great store by their proviso for a 'review only four months away in September', which they attached as some kind of carrot to win acceptance of these terms - insinuating, though of course never being prepared to officially concede that 'there might be more money on the table in September' (to use the ghastly cliché beloved of employer and labour aristocrat negotiators alike).

All this constitutes the most cynical propaganda offensive by the E.S.B. (they have an entire floor in their administration simply devoted to 'personnel management' and the 'skills' of blackmail and diversionary tactics) in order to make the issue over the strike a question of 'who is precipitating matters by refusing to negotiate - the company or the unions'. But the point is not 'willingness to negotiate' - which is simply the substitution of a red herring to divert from the real issue - but that the company (and the government, of course) should be prepared to pay the workers a decent living wage, which is the just dues of the workers since it is they who actually create the wealth for society by

their production. It is a question of paying the workers the wages which they actually earn by their labour.

This is a similar management and government trick as was employed by the British government and the British Coal Board against the miners in Britain: where the government and management claimed that their intransigence was simply to uphold the 'principle' that miners had a right to a secret ballot before deciding on strike action in defence of their jobs against pit closures. Of course, Mrs. Thatcher and co. would have had no objection to a miners' strike if they had gone about it 'by the proper legal procedures' !!! And now the E.S.B. are inferring that it is not so much the workers' right to strike for better wages that they quarrel with, only whether 'the unions have been prepared to exhaust all available channels for negotiation'. What rubbish!

The E.S.B. workers, who have long experience of such diversionary company and government tactics, are bound to show the keenest vigilance against this red herring that the issue is about 'which side is refusing to negotiate' from whatever quarter it might come, however unexpected, including from within the leadership of their own trade unions. The question is that the E.S.B. workers must receive a decent wage and no one should expect them to do the same, or increasing work for less pay, as is the usual case with the constant pressure for increasing productivity which is the general rule in the E.S.B. The E.S.B. workers deserve the support of the entire working class in their just struggle for the wages which are due to them. □

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The fascist RUC backed by the British Army violently disrupt the funeral of patriotic martyr Laurence Marley

deceptions being organised by British imperialism once again at this time, just as in the case of the overall British imperialist offensive being waged under the Anglo-Irish Agreement of which this new Public Order Act is itself a product, is the 'unionists' protests against the Public Order Act'. For by this means the fascists Paisley and Molyneaux and their alleged struggle in defence of 'free speech' and the 'right to protest', and 'opposition to Westminster diktat' are doing Trojan work for the success of the British imperialists' policy by making it appear as if the Public Order Act actually does adversely affect unionism, thereby giving credibility to the British imperialists' claim that their role in Ireland really is 'impartial', that they are 'sincerely interested in ending the sense of alienation amongst the nationalist community in Northern Ireland, guaranteeing the democratic rights of nationalists' etc.etc.

Thus in order to disarm the growing democratic movement of the Irish nation and disarm patriotic people from themselves mounting resistance to this fascist and anti-democratic Public Order Act, it is being presented that the new legislation is mainly being brought in to deal with the Unionist provocations etc. But this is achieved rather subtly, by suggestion rather than blatant concoction. For instance, in various news bulletins, the Brit-

ish imperialists quote the recent statistics since the signing of the Anglo-Irish Agreement in November 1985 in such a way as to infer that the Public Order Act is bound to be used mainly against loyalist (i.e. fascist and openly anti-Irish) demonstrations, since these accounted for the vast majority of all demonstrations in 'Northern Ireland' last year - 1,700 unionist demonstrations out of a total of around 2,000 demonstrations of all kinds, while patriotic demonstrations by comparison are said to have accounted for 'only 269' in 1986.

But this analysis (actually entirely bogus in any case - for how do the British colonial statisticians manage to fit within these absurd categories the many demonstrations for wages and jobs, for social facilities right down to local agitations for wardens to direct traffic at school crossings as if all these are allegedly either 'unionist' or 'nationalist' !), this 'analysis' is precisely the British imperialist lie, the fascist, colonial divide and rule lie which presents virtually all the issues in Ireland as a question of 'catholic' versus 'protestant', 'nationalist' versus 'unionist' and Britain as the 'peace-keeper between the two communities', the reluctant 'impartial third-party'. But nothing could be further from the truth. In fact unionism or loyalism is not the ideology of some community of Irish people or people in

Ireland. It is from origin right up to today an entirely foreign-imposed, anti-democratic, colonial fascist ideology of national subjugation and support for British imperialism's aggression against the Irish nation. It is solely the creation of the British imperialists themselves. They incited Orange reaction (which they established directly to oppose the democratic national movement of the Society of the United Irishmen in the 1790s) precisely for the purpose of suppressing the patriotic movement of the Irish people.

This is still the role of loyalism, unionism and Orangeism today. But in the Twentieth Century the British imperialists have brought the technique of 'playing the Orange card' to a fine art, by setting this in motion through their agents, the fascist unionist politicians and paramilitary assassins, as if this loyalism is in opposition to British policy in Ireland as the indigenous ideology and outlook of some community within Ireland which is independent of the will of the British government i.e. to make British imperialist policy to seem as though the British government itself is actually, by comparison to Unionism, rather 'pro-Irish' (!), and the British imperialists are effective allies of the national movement, or at least sincere protectors of patriotic people from loyalist reaction in the north.

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In this devious and clever way the British imperialists hope to disarm the Irish people by the false logic that 'if the unionists are against it (such and such a British imperialist policy), it can't be bad for nationalists!'. And in this endeavour the British imperialists also have the aid of that other prop of British imperialism in Ireland, the neo-colonialist political wing of constitutional 'nationalism' of the Irish big bourgeoisie, by contrast to the overtly pro-colonial unionism.

For as in so many other examples it can be seen here too in the case of the British colonial Public Order Act, that constitutional 'nationalism' is another pro-imperialist ideology of the one and the same class of national traitors of the Irish monopoly bourgeoisie, with the constitutional 'nationalists' acting as the very foil to complement their class brethren, the unionist fascists. Because from the stance of self-proclaimed 'catholic nationalists' these criminals repeat exactly the same British imperialist falsehoods about the Irish not constituting one nation, but instead only 'two nations', 'two communities' or 'two traditions' in Ireland. And the constitutional 'nationalists', the S.D.L.P. and the southern 'Free' State parties have obligingly welcomed this fascist legislation as a 'new' law to 'deal with loyalist extremism'. Thus in their own way the constitutional 'nationalists' assist the British imperialists by covering over and concealing the fact that the obstacle to unity and freedom is British imperialism itself by making out that it is the loyalists with their alleged 'veto' and so on.

The Public Order Act is part of the vicious offensive of British imperialism to suppress by force the patriotic movement of the Irish nation. It is an attack on the whole country and on the democratic rights of all the Irish people, who constitute one indissoluble and indivisible nation, precisely because this offensive is designed to snuff out the patriotic resurgence in the north, on which is concentrated all the hopes and dreams of the entire nation today for final liberation, since the preparation for the national insurrection of the whole nation, which will finally expel British imperialism from Ireland and vindicate the democratic rights of all the people of Ireland once and for all, is naturally centred in the north at present where the British imperialists remain still in direct colonial occupation.

The Public Order Act is designed to enable the British imperialists to advance their offensive against the patriotic movement, as always camouflaged by a

smokescreen of 'unionist protests', as part of the British policy to constantly cut back the room of the patriotic resurgence to manoeuvre in the north, on the hoax of 'combatting extremism on both sides'. It is in continuation of the policy of the Ulsterisation of British colonial occupation which has been advanced by stages ever since Operation Motorman in 1972, the forcible dismantling of the barricades protecting 'no-go' areas which had kept out British colonial authority, the attempt to deprive the patriotic prisoners of political status and brand them as 'criminals' and 'terrorists' through the Diplock no-jury courts, re-introducing the R.U.C. to gradually replace British Army patrolling, and now attempting to establish control over (with a view to attempting to totally suppress) all democratic demonstrations etc. By disguising its real purpose by pretending that it is aimed impartially at the fascists and open colonial collaborators - the unionists and their fascist assassination gangs, such as the U.D.A., U.V.F., U.F.F. etc., which are universally hated and feared by the people of all backgrounds - as well as at the alleged 'extremists in the nationalist community', the British imperialists hope to discredit the genuine patriots and the necessity for the armed national liberation struggle, and thereby prevent the mobilisation and the uniting of all Irish people in the essential armed patriotic liberation struggle for unity and freedom.

But in their sinister endeavours with the Anglo-Irish Agreement and now this Public Order Act, the British imperialists are increasingly over-reaching themselves these days, and the Irish people are becoming ever more skilled in smashing the political deceptions which British imperialism and its agencies, unionism and constitutional 'nationalism', spread daily in their increasingly desperate attempts to disorganise and demoralise our people. Through this exposure of the true role of the Public Order Act a powerful blow will be dealt to the entire offensive being launched by the British imperialists under the Anglo-Irish Agreement of which the Public Order Act is an integral part. Politically arming the people will ensure the destruction of all the lies and distortions - political, religious or whatever - which in any way harm the unity or hinder the mass mobilisation of all Irish people in the struggle to smash and expel British imperialism's illegal colonial rule from Ireland.

**ALL OUT OPPOSITION TO THE
BRITISH COLONIAL PUBLIC
ORDER ACT!**

**SMASH THE FASCIST 'DIVIDE AND
RULE' ANGLO-IRISH AGREEMENT!**

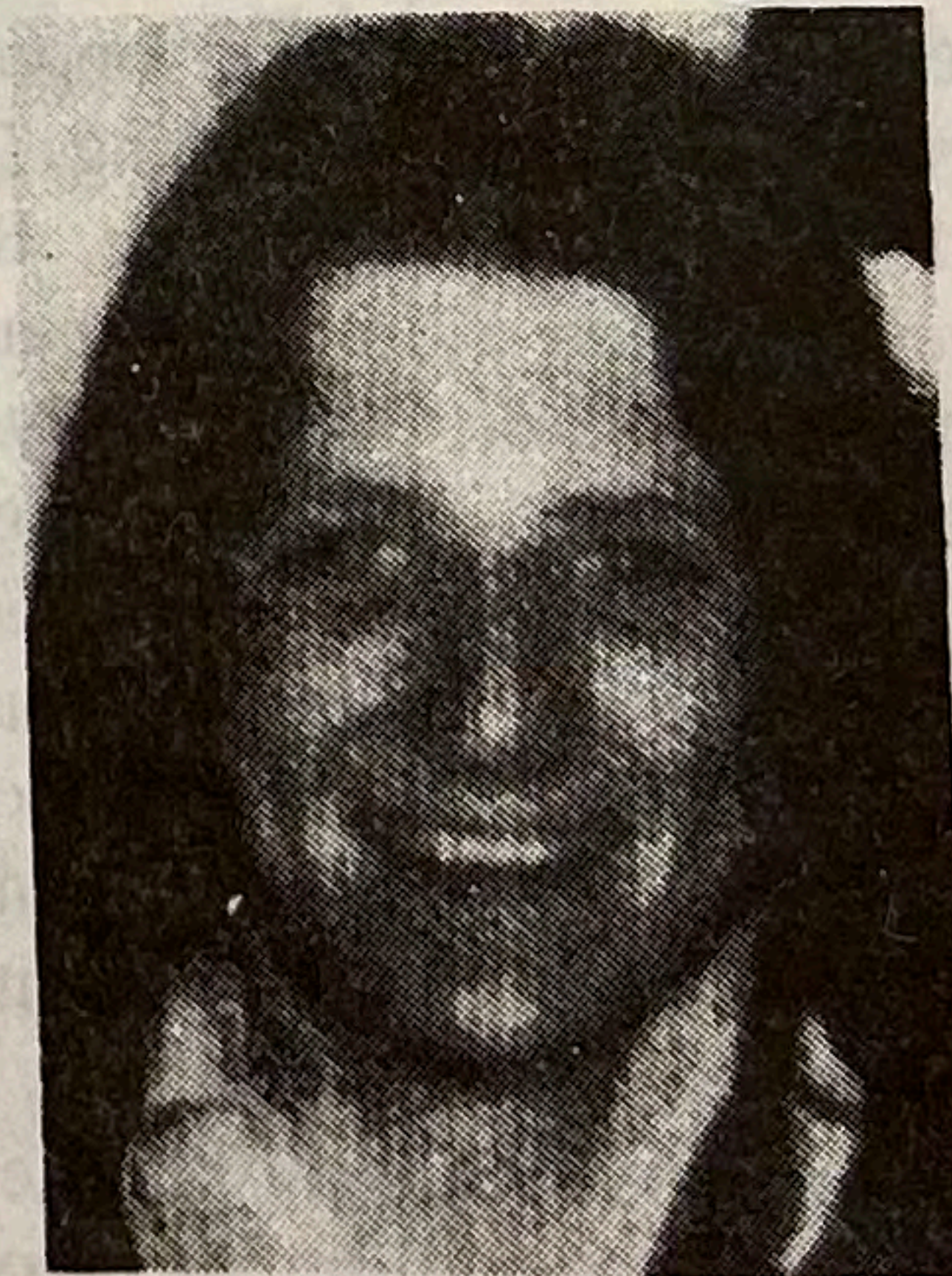
**ORGANISE TO THROW BRITISH
IMPERIALISM OUT OF IRELAND!**

□

Long live the heroic inspiration of Bobby Sands and the H-Block Martyrs !

Six years ago on May 5th 1981 Bobby Sands, the first of the ten heroic H-Block martyrs, met his death after 66 days on hunger strike in vindication of the patriotic prisoners' right to political status as Irish soldiers and freedom fighters and therefore as prisoners of war against British imperialism's cruel and unjust and slanderous attempt to brand them as mere 'criminals'.

The 1981 H-Block hunger strike of patriotic prisoners was one of the most significant political events of the whole period of the unprecedented national resurgence which has been going on uninterruptedly for the last 18 years or so since the upsurge for civil rights against British colonial occupation began in 1968/9. It levelled a mighty blow from which the British imperialists have still not, and never will recover, and provided a renewed inspiration to the rest of the nation to continue and step up the



struggle for national liberation, which will carry us through until victory itself is finally won.

The most important single achievement of the great H-Block hunger strike of Bobby Sands and the other glorious heroes who followed him - Francis Hughes, Raymond McCreesh, Patsy O'Hara, Joe McDonnell, Martin Hurson,

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Kevin Lynch, Kieran Doherty, Thomas McElwee and Michael Devine - was that it provided another irrefutable demonstration of the indivisible unity of the Irish nation as a whole, regardless of an artificially and brutally imposed border of partition across our country, which has been maintained for so long by illegal foreign intervention by British imperialism since 1921. The H-Block Hunger Strike commanded the attention and aroused the deepest patriotic sentiments and national aspirations of all Irish men and women, regardless of the border. For the people of the world, the H-Block Hunger Strike came to represent and embody the struggle of Ireland herself as a nation for her freedom and dignity amongst all the world's nations.

The fact that this, whilst only constituting one aspect of the many glorious achievements of the H-Block struggle, was the most important is shown most graphically by the subsequent actions of the British imperialists and the national traitors, in their twists and turns to recover from the great defeat they received during the hunger strike. The various manoeuvres which the British imperialists undertook since 1981, culminating in the sinister Anglo-Irish Agreement of November 15, 1985, including the preparation for that Hillsborough Accord - the New Ireland Forum of various national traitor parties - were all focussed on one thing. They were all attempting to drive in another wedge to split the unity of the Irish nation, in particular by the fraud of dealing with 'the Troubles in Northern Ireland' and 'achieving peace in Ireland' as a problem arising from 'two separate communities with opposite aspirations and traditions amongst the people of Ireland'.

But the countless acres of print, hours of political speeches and 'expert political analysis', the hysterical ranting of the 'Ulster Says NO' campaign, the brutal sectarian assassinations carried out by the British imperialists and the fascist gangs their Intelligence operatives and the S.A.S. set into action - no matter how great the heap of lies and blood, this can never cover up, even for an instant, the shining truth represented by the H-Block Hunger Strike of 1981 led by Bobby Sands and the massive mobilisation of the Irish people throughout the country in the agitation for political status. No matter what the propaganda, political deception, diversionary tactics and increasing fascist terror of the Anglo-Irish Agreement, the Irish people will never accept that they do not acquire their identity as members all of the one Irish nation. They will never

accept to be categorised as some kind of sectarian abominations as mere 'protestants' or 'catholics', 'nationalists' or 'unionists', this kind of 'majority' or 'minority', that kind of 'tradition' or 'aspiration'. Bobby Sands and his comrades showed that what best reflects the character of the Irish people is the self-sacrificing spirit of freedom which is what unites us all as the nation of Ireland, regardless of background and regardless of the border, just as the selfish spirit of enslavement, exploitation and sellout is what unites a handful of national traitors (again, regardless of the border or any fraudulent religious labels) with the foreign aggressors, British imperialism.

Bobby Sands and his comrades showed

that the Irish people can never be defeated, because they can never be divided from their fellow countrymen and women by some artificial border or forced to abandon their identity as Irish people. They can never be reduced to this or that so-called 'community within Northern Ireland' or 'one of the two Irish traditions' as the British imperialists and national traitors would like. Bobby Sands and his comrades showed that Ireland and the Irish are bound to triumph over the national oppressors, the British imperialists, and over all their schemes of 'divide and rule', no matter what the odds or however many 'new' variants of the means of divide and rule they concoct together with the national traitors. □

Vote No to the Single European Act !

Tuesday, May 26th, has been set by the southern 'Free' State government for the referendum to amend the constitution, *Bunreacht na hEireann*, in favour of the ratification of the Single European Act by the Republic of Ireland. The Communist Party of Ireland (Marxist-Leninist) calls on the working class and all the people of the 26 Counties to reject this amendment and vote no in the referendum.

The Single European Act must be opposed and rejected because it represents another serious violation of the democratic rights and national sovereignty of the people of Ireland, as it does also for the other nations of the E.E.C., only even more seriously in the case of the Irish nation, since Ireland still has not achieved its rightful national liberation in full; our country and our people are illegally partitioned and subject to colonial occupation in the north and foreign domination by British imperialism as a whole. Ratification of the S.E.A. in particular and membership of the E.E.C. in general not only compromise such rights as the Irish people have established in the 26 Counties, but also impose severe handicaps on the democratic and patriotic movement to complete Ireland's struggle for national liberation today by expelling British imperialism from the north and re-uniting the country in the all-Ireland Irish Republic as proclaimed in 1916.

For through the Single European Act the E.E.C. is taking a further important step in the formation of a supranational state and the attempted creation of another superpower. Contrary to the impression which the bourgeois media work continuously to create, such a supranational European superpower would not in any way represent an enhancement of the sovereignty of the peoples of Europe - by

putting the E.E.C. on a footing to compete with U.S. imperialism and the Soviet social imperialists, for instance. Membership of the E.E.C. simply means the subjugation of all the nations of Europe, including their democratic and national rights, to a handful of leading monopoly capitalists and the multinational companies and banks through which they wield the increasing supranational power of their parasitic class and extort their tribute and superprofits. In particular membership of the E.E.C. means the subjugation of the smaller, poorer and less developed E.E.C. member states, such as Ireland, to the big imperialist states, West Germany, France and of course our age-old national oppressors, the British imperialists themselves.

'Putting the E.E.C. countries on a footing to compete with the two superpowers' in any case cannot, as is made out, contribute to any kind of democratic objective. Of course, it is true that in the world conditions of imperialism smaller countries are inevitably being swallowed up as 'allies', spheres of interest, client states and neo-colonies by the richer and more powerful imperialist powers. But the solution cannot ever be for one's own nation to itself aim to become one of the imperialist sharks, either by expansion or by integration into a federal supranational state as in this case. Are the people of the

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Contd. from P.7 - S.E.A

United States or the Soviet Union living in greater democracy as a result of the stupendous domination of 'their own' governments over the whole world? Come to that, have the people of Britain, the country which oppresses us Irish, benefitted in greater freedom for themselves by virtue of the enslavement of Ireland and so many other colonies by Britain in the past and still even today? Not at all. The case is rather, that the people of such imperialist states are laden down themselves with the chains which the ruling class in their own country have forged from the superprofits of such world hegemony.

The only solution is for the nations to break their links with the world system of imperialism, throw off the yoke of subjugation to the capitalist market and the international bourgeoisie, and, led by the working class, overthrow 'their own' native exploiters and take the path of socialism in each country. This is the only true basis for genuine national sovereignty and democratic national rights today (incidentally, also furnishing the only basis for an end to world aggression and the future fellowship of all nations in peace as well, being neither subservient to nor ambitious for foreign domination).

The Single European Act represents a sinister threat to the Irish people, as it does to all the nations of Europe, because it further co-ordinates the means of counter-revolution which are at the very foundation of the whole concept of a 'United States of Europe' - namely to prevent the working class and people of individual countries taking the path of socialist revolution, which is their democratic right, by tying them all into supranational commitments which are specifically to equip the oppressor capitalist governments with mutual military aid for the preservation of the rule of capitalism and the bourgeoisie throughout the E.E.C., under the hoax of providing E.E.C.-wide military defence against 'outside aggression' from the Warsaw Pact.

Here in Ireland the significance of the Single European Act is particularly sinister, since Ireland has still not attained full nationhood, by virtue of the continued illegal foreign colonial occupation of the north-eastern 6 counties of Ireland by British imperialism. For the nominally nationally independent southern 'Republic' to ratify the Single European Act means to further sanction the unjust and illegal status quo of continued foreign occupation of the north of Ireland by a fellow member of the E.E.C. as the necessary commitment of a fellow signatory to the

Single European Act. And not only this: for it means the southern 'Free' State government undertaking still more binding military commitments to actually assist British imperialism maintain its partition of Ireland in the alleged interests of 'mutual defence in Europe'.

The government of the day and all the 'Free' State ruling class parties are combined in a single unspoken, but nevertheless united coalition of the monopoly bourgeois class of national traitors in order to railroad the people of the 26 Counties into consenting to the Single European Act in the forthcoming referendum. But should this constitutional amendment be (unfortunately) passed, even this would still not affect the democratic principle at stake. It does not matter what apparent 'forms of democracy' are adopted to achieve the result, including universal adult suffrage, these cannot compromise or silence the issue of democratic principle: that Ireland's democratic rights to national sovereignty (including re-unification) are inalienable to the nation and to her future generations, because they have been purchased in perpetuity by the glorious sacrifices of countless generations of patriotic martyrs of the past right up to today's heroic generation of freedom fighters. Such a foundation to nationhood can never be erased and certainly not by a few weeks of so-called 'public debate' in which the bourgeoisie exploit their wealth and consequent domination of the media in order to confuse and bury the real issues and try to reduce such a referendum to some mere straw-poll.

The Communist Party of Ireland (Marxist-Leninist) will work shoulder to shoulder with all the democratic and patriotic people and their organisations in order to ensure that the true issues are brought into the light and public opinion is prepared to reject the Single European Act. Even should this amendment be rejected, this would not, of itself (however desirable the result), mean the guarantee of the sovereignty and democratic rights of the Irish people. Membership of the E.E.C. itself would still compromise national sovereignty, and, even more importantly, British imperialism would still not be removed from Ireland. But this struggle against the Single European Act and the E.E.C. dictate will make an important contribution to mobilising the masses of the Irish people for the overall movement which will finally establish these rights themselves, the democratic and patriotic movement for the freedom and re-unification of Ireland through the expulsion of British colonial rule from the north. □

Garda Special Branch harassment of Marxist-Leninists in Cork is violation of democratic rights of Irish people

While returning from participating in the annual patriotic Crossbarry Commemoration recently, two supporters of the Communist Party of Ireland (Marxist-Leninist) were forced to stop their car and were then harassed by a group of plain clothes gardai who, it transpired, had been following the comrades in an unmarked police car. A number of features of this experience are significant.

Such harassment involves the violation of democratic rights which are rightfully due to all people in Ireland, including rights of assembly, freedom to politically organise etc. which are supposed to be guaranteed under the 26 County Constitution, Bunreacht na hEireann. Yet the gardai and their plain clothes 'Special Branch' in particular arrogate to themselves the right to interfere with progressive, patriotic and revolutionary people, including workers on strike etc., and try to intimidate them as if this is something which such people should simply accept as their lot as 'left-wingers'. Thus, when the comrades alerted some passers-by to the injustice which was being perpetrated on them by the police, the gardai waxed indignant and claimed that this was 'harassing the public'!

Who is harassing the public? Is it the Marxist-Leninists or is it the gardai who, in harassing Marxist-Leninists, are actually harassing members of the public, which is all that the Marxist-Leninists are themselves, just like other patriotic and progressive people, workers on strike?

However, according to the topsy-turvy 'logic' of the gardai, since 'left-wingers' are 'asking for' such garda harassment simply by virtue of their espousing 'left-wing' politics (in which one can include any shade of politics which is not overtly reactionary, as far as the police are concerned), this means that the gardai are entitled to take their behaviour as far as they like - including pushing people around, roughing them up and stealing their property, and sometimes much worse. In this case, the gardai attempted to push the comrades around and seized property, including the newspaper of the Communist Party of Ireland (Marxist-Leninist) 'Marxist-Leninist Weekly' and the C.P.I. (M-L) pamphlet against British imperialism's fascist 'divide and rule' Anglo-Irish Agreement entitled 'Unity and

Contd. on P.10 - GARDA

THE BRITISH LABOUR PARTY'S STAND ON BRITISH IMPERIALIST WARMONGERING, INTERFERENCE IN OTHER COUNTRIES AND GREAT NATION CHAUVINISM.

The following article is reprinted from Workers' Weekly, Organ of the Central Committee of the Revolutionary Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist).

In its foreign policy the Tory Party of Margaret Thatcher represents and upholds everything which is reactionary: it stands for an aggressive, warmongering policy in pursuit of the interests of British and U.S imperialism; it stands for colonial and neo-colonial domination and plunder; it stands for and gives the firmest backing to racist and fascist countries in the world, such as South Africa; and it promotes rabid great nation chauvinism, attempting to inculcate among the people the ideas of the "greatness" of Britain, its "superiority" over other peoples and especially the oppressed peoples, the supposed necessity for British colonialism to "educate" and "spread culture" around the world, and the right of Britain to commit aggression in pursuit of its interests.

All these policies of the Tory party are expressed in particularly concentrated form on Ireland, over which Britain has exercised a brutal terroristic rule for 800 years, part of which it still occupies by force of arms today, and which it refuses to relinquish under the fraudulent and chauvinistic doctrine of the "necessity for a British peace-keeping force" to keep the two sides apart.

Amongst the workers and people there is a widespread opposition to the policies of aggression and war on the part of the imperialist powers, as expressed in the opposition to the American bombing of Libya and Mrs Thatcher's backing for it, the opposition to the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan, as well as the growing opposition to British imperialist warmongering in various parts of the world. An important question with which the workers and people will thus be faced at the next election is: do any of the parliamentary parties stand for genuine peace, for an end to British aggression and interference in the affairs of other countries, for an end to submission to U.S. dictate, Britain's withdrawal from Ireland?

It is the Labour Party, with its talk of a "non-nuclear defence policy" and its

"criticism" of the government policy of open backing for U.S. aggression, which it attempting to take on the cloak of the "peacemongers" and win the backing of the people on this front.

But serious investigation of Labour policy, both historically and at the present, shows it not to represent a policy, philosophy or practice different in its essentials from that of the Tory party where the interests of British imperialism are concerned.

POST WAR AGGRESSION OF BRITISH IMPERIALISM AND THE STAND OF THE LABOUR PARTY

Right from the end of the second world war, when the Labour Party of Clement Attlee came to power, the Labour Party pursued a policy of armed aggression to suppress the uprisings and struggles for freedom of the people in various countries. The British troops were sent in to Greece to disarm the patriotic forces and then barbarously shoot them down to preserve the fascist monarchy and to keep Greece within the Anglo-American sphere of influence. In Malaya the British troops carried out a barbarous war of aggression against the people's forces, whilst in India the British imperialists incited and fuelled communalism which resulted in a blood-bath both before and after the Labour government was forced to concede independence in 1947. The Labour Party sent British troops to fight alongside the U.S. troops in American imperialism's barbarous war against the Korean people; it backed the colonial wars waged by Britain in Kenya, in Aden and other countries, whilst when the Labour Party was again returned to power in the 1960s, the Wilson government continued the war in Malaya and sent British troops to Oman and Dhofar.

In 1969 it was the Labour government which sent British troops to Ireland

presenting them as "peacekeepers" when in reality the aim was to suppress the mounting upsurge of the Irish people for their rights and for an end to the colonialist Stormont administration imposed by British imperialism. It thus began the policy of terror and oppression against the Irish people in order to preserve British colonial domination, which has been continued by successive Labour and Conservative government right up to the present.

In 1983 the Labour Party, headed by the self-declared "peacemonger" Michael Foot backed the war of aggression waged by the Thatcher government for the repossession of the Malvinas Islands which rightfully belong to Argentina. The policy of the Labour Party was one of all-out support for the British aggression, Michael Foot declaring that "there is no question in the Falkland Islands of any colonial dependency or anything of that sort". It claimed that gunboats should have been sent sooner in order to "negotiate from a position of strength" and criticised the government for not waging the war efficiently or effectively enough.

BRITISH COLONIALISM AND NEO-COLONIALISM.

The Labour Party has always backed and still does back, the colonial and neo-colonial policy of plunder and exploitation carried out by British imperialism. It supports British imperialism's clinging to its colonial possessions in Hong Kong, Gibraltar, Ireland etc. It supports the maintenance of British bases on the territory of other countries, as in the Middle East and the Gulf, in Cyprus, and in the Far East; it supports the continued presence of the British army on the Rhine in Germany and it supports NATO, declaring that 95% of British forces will continue to be devoted to this warmongering American-led alliance if Labour comes to power. It promotes the same chauvinist propaganda as the Tories as to the necessity for British bases and forces abroad to "maintain stability" and "keep the peace"; it passes and operates when in government the same racist immigration policies which the bourgeoisie directs against the peoples who have suffered under British colonialism in the past.

Nowadays the Labour Party under Neil Kinnock is making a great deal of noise about its opposition to Tory backing for South Africa. But in the past it has pursued an identical policy to that of the Tories, whilst even today it still does not demand that the British banks and multinationals pull out of South Africa,

but limits itself to the proposal for a ban on new investment. In the 1960s the Wilson government, in similar fashion, pinned to its mast the flag of opposition to the racist regime in Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe), but it allowed the British oil and other multinationals to continue backing and supplying the regime behind the scenes.

LABOUR'S STAND ON IRELAND

The Labour Party's stand is expressed in most concentrated form over Ireland, where it sent the troops in 1969. Ever since then Labour and Tory have followed the "bipartisan" policy which in fact has been the norm in their policies throughout the world when the interests of British imperialism have been at stake. It presents the same chauvinistic assessment of the north of Ireland, according to which the "two communities" are constantly "at one another's throats" and the British troops are essential to "keep the two sides apart". It conceals from the people the fact that it is British imperialism which consciously set out to create and foster divisions in Ireland and continues to do so today with the deliberate aim of splitting the people and causing them to fight one another rather than uniting to fight British rule, just as the British bourgeoisie set the peoples at loggerheads throughout its Empire. It covers up the crimes of the British imperialists against the Irish people which have been committed under both Labour and Conservative governments.

On the question of Ireland the Labour Party conceals and distorts the correct principles, just as do the Tories. The basic principle which must be upheld is that the people of Ireland have the right to solve their own problems without outside interference. The British troops have no right to be in Ireland, and Britain as a foreign occupying power must get out. Until the British troops are thrown out of Ireland there can never be peace there and the "concern" of the politicians for "peace" is a complete fraud. The responsibility of the workers in Britain is to firmly support the right of the Irish people to free their own country, to take up arms as is the right of any people to force the foreign occupiers out. But the Labour Party does a great service to the bourgeoisie with its attempts to conceal these principles and justify the continued British occupation.

Whilst pursuing the same policy on Ireland, Labour differs from the Tories in the fact that it presents itself as having a different long-term aspiration. Thus for



PHOTOGRAPH SHOWS 3,000 STRONG DEMONSTRATION IN SHEFFIELD IN FEBRUARY ON THE 15th ANNIVERSARY OF BLOODY SUNDAY

example in its 1983 Manifesto the Labour Party declared its support for the long-term aim of a united Ireland, but said that this was not possible in the short term, and that therefore it backed continued "direct rule" i.e. colonial rule. Equally, the Labour Party called in 1983 for an all-Ireland police force and all-Ireland courts, which the British bourgeoisie has long wanted as a means not only to pursue the suppression of the Irish patriotic forces still further, but also to bolster colonial rule by bringing the armed forces of the Irish Republic into the service of the foreign occupier. Thus Clive Soley declared that "we will need to have institutions that can cross the border without necessarily taking away the right of citizenship". Thus it voiced in advance the

form of continuation of colonial rule which the present government has brought to fruition through the Anglo-Irish Agreement, which is an attack on the national liberation struggle of the Irish people.

* * * * *

On all these questions, the Labour Party's practice both in government and in opposition shows that it does not stand for peace, for an end to British warmongering and interference in other countries, but promotes the same imperialist policies and great nation chauvinism as Mrs. Thatcher. Its policies, philosophy and stands are opposed to the progressive aspirations and demands of the people. □

Contd. From P.8 - GARDA HARRASSMENT

Freedom to the Irish People!'

The Communist Party of Ireland (Marxist-Leninist) will not accept any such 'logic' that their supporters passively bow to garda harassment in any shape or form. In fact these comrades, as is our Party's line, refused to allow themselves to be pushed around by the gardai. For such garda harassment is not only a violation of their own rights as individuals and our rights as a democratic political party, but a violation of the rights due to all Irish people, of which our Party and our comrades are an integral part and the most loyal upholders as the Party of the Irish working class. In this particular instance, action against the

gardai - who incidentally refused to allow themselves to be identified by name by the comrades - is being taken further by the lodging of an official complaint under the new allegedly 'more impartial' garda complaints procedure. The only result so far, in response to the comrades' demands, has been that the stolen political literature has been returned.

The Communist Party of Ireland (Marxist-Leninist) calls on people to uphold and staunchly defend the democratic rights of the Irish people, including the right of the working class and the people to organise politically in their own interests. □

Euromissile talks conceal escalation of arms race

The continuing stagemanaged drama concerning the arms "reduction" negotiations between the two superpowers the United States and Soviet Union is designed to disarm the peoples of Europe and the whole world in their struggles against the war preparations of these two superpowers.

It is being said that some kind of "breakthrough" is imminent because of Gorbachev's proposal separating the question of Euromissiles from the star war plans, or with other issues.

Both superpowers are presenting themselves as the greatest champions of peace, but the facts present otherwise.

Why is it the case, for example, that whilst all this ballyhoo and euphoria is being created about a "breakthrough" in reducing these nuclear missiles in Europe, that the two superpowers are in fact continuing to intensify their preparations for war?

The NATO alliance has been carrying through the modernisation of its battlefield nuclear weapons ever since the NATO decision made in secret at the meeting in Montebello in Canada in October 1983. This is the reality behind all the NATO talk in recent years of "reducing its stockpile of nuclear weapons in Europe". Similarly whilst all the talk is of removing the superpower Euromissiles, the deployment of 64 further American Cruise missiles at Molesworth in Britain, in addition to the 96 already operational at Greenham Common, is already under way.

The Soviet Union for its part, whilst continuing the succession of demagogical proposals for peace and disarmament, has recently underlined its ending of the Soviet "moratorium" on nuclear weapons testing with two successive nuclear blasts in a matter of days at its test site at Semipalatinsk. The Tass news agency stressed that the tests were conducted "with a view to further upgrading the Soviet military technology". As reports have made clear, the two successive nuclear explosions are evidence that Moscow has prepared an intensive programme for the increase and modernisation of its weapons of mass extermination, and the

fact that this occurred immediately after the ending of the moratorium shows that it was only ever aimed at at propaganda purposes, whilst the time was used for preparing a new series of tests.

The people must not be taken in by all the media hype concerning the nuclear arms reduction talks of the two superpowers. In order to see their true intentions it is necessary to delve deeper than the mere words and promises and declarations of these past masters in lies and hypocrisy. The fact of the matter is that both U.S. imperialism and Soviet social-imperialism are each striving for domination over Europe and would like to displace the other and gain control of the continent. As well as this each superpower sees the deployment of its missiles and other forces as a means to ensure its domination over the respective allies; and they have a common interest in suppression of the struggles of the working class and people, against whom they maintain the missiles as a permanent threat. The two superpowers are continually heading in the direction of war and these "negotiations" are part of this overall strategy and NOT any genuine move towards peace and disarmament. Whilst they talk of peace they are in fact preparing for war -- this has always been the characteristics of imperialism in the past and this is no less true today. The people of the world must be vigilant against these tactics of the two superpowers, and escalate their struggle against these war-mongering powers and their military blocs NATO and the Warsaw Pact. It is only the mass struggles of the people aimed at throwing all nuclear and conventional weapons of the superpowers out of their countries which can make any progress in staying the hands of the two superpowers and their preparations for war. □

Contd. from P.12 - PALESTINE

against this massive act of aggression against another country. Thus, whilst Israeli Zionism is launching new atrocities with the bombing of the Palestinian camps in southern Lebanon, each of the two superpowers is trying to manipulate the situation in Lebanon as a whole, and in Beirut, to ensure that events there serve its interests and to crush the resistance of the Palestinian people.

The present situation in Lebanon stems from the continuing determination of the imperialists and social imperialists to crush the resistance of the Palestinians and to force them to accept the American "peace plan" under which the Palestinians would be denied the right of their homeland and forced to live without national rights in an autonomous region of Jordan, effectively eliminating the Palestinian nation. But the Palestinians have neither bowed before the arms of the Israeli aggressors, nor have they accepted the blackmail by which the force of arms is used to bludgeon them into accepting the U.S. "peace plan". Though displaced from their homeland and scattered the Palestinians have always continued to fight, however great the odds, and their struggle has won the support and admiration of the peoples throughout the world.

The present unstable and tense situation in Lebanon, and the plight of the Palestinians in particular, has its roots not only in the aims of U.S. imperialism and Israeli Zionism, but of the other superpower, Soviet social imperialism, as well. It is only they and the American gendarme, Israel, which stand to benefit from a divided Lebanon gripped by civil war, who stand to benefit either from disunity between the Palestinians and other Arab peoples, or amongst the Arab countries

themselves. Thus, whilst Israeli Zionism is launching new atrocities with the bombing of the Palestinian camps in southern Lebanon, each of the two superpowers is trying to manipulate the situation in Lebanon as a whole, and in Beirut, to ensure that events there serve its interests and to crush the resistance of the Palestinian people.

U.S. imperialism is the open enemy of the Palestinian people, whilst the Soviet social imperialists attempt to present themselves as "friends" of the Palestinians. But they have never backed the Palestinian or Arab peoples in the face of Israeli aggression; instead they have sabotaged the resistance. They hope to use their much vaunted "friendship" in order to gain control over the Palestinian struggle and use it for their own ends. Now, as a final act of calumny, they are preparing to strike up diplomatic relations with the butchers of Sabra and Chatila in order to win Israeli backing for the Soviet proposals for a "Middle East Peace Conference" through which the Kremlin chieftains seek to secure their own imperialist ambitions and increase their domination in the Middle East at the expense of the Americans.

It is the two superpowers and Israeli Zionism which stand to gain from the situation in Lebanon, who are the most vicious enemies of the Palestinian people and who should be condemned for the present situation in Lebanon. □

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IT IS THE HEGEMONIC POLICY OF THE TWO SUPERPOWERS IN THE MIDDLE EAST WHICH IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE BARBARIC TREATMENT OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE



Palestinian and Arab people protest in Nazareth on the West Bank, last year against Israeli occupation and the savage repression of the people

homeland. Israeli Zionism became the principle tool of U.S. imperialism which exerted its domination over the Middle East to ensure its control and plunder of the crucial oil supplies of the Arab countries. The U.S. has backed Israel economically and politically as well as with billions of dollars of military aid. Through successive expansionist wars in 1956, 1967 and 1973, and again with the invasion of Lebanon in 1982, the Israeli Zionists seized new tracts of Arab land, committed new atrocities against the Palestinians and with the assistance of Arab reaction,

Over recent weeks, the tragic situation of the Palestinian people has once again been prominent in world events.

Irish people especially need to be aware of the real cause of the situation in the Lebanon, not only to reinforce their genuine feelings of internationalist support for the Palestinian people, but because of the criminal role played by "Free State" governments past and present, in sending troops to Lebanon as part of the UNIFIL forces to allegedly "keep the peace" and "keep the warring factions apart." As Irish people are only too aware, this is the same logic used by the British imperialists in the north of Ireland who have created and incited divisions amongst the people willingly assisted by the Irish bourgeoisie, in order to justify their aggressive colonial policy. The situation in the Lebanon and in the Middle East in general must be viewed in basically the same way, where these UNIFIL forces, in which Irish troops play a part, are not "impartial" or "peacekeeping", but are military forces designed to keep the status quo, playing the role of a police force for the benefit of Israeli Zionism and U.S. imperialism. All democratic Irish people should demand the withdrawal of the Irish troops from Lebanon as a concrete demand which can assist the Palestinian people, and not allow their sympathies and desire to protect the Palestinians from attack to be manipulated by the lie that Irish troops are stationed there for that purpose.

The Palestinians, whose heroic armed

fighters were driven from Beirut by the manoeuvres of the United States following the barbaric Israeli aggression of 1982, whose women and children were slaughtered in the Israeli-organised atrocities in the Sabra and Chatila camps in 1982, have now endured weeks of near starvation on a mass scale in the Beirut camps.

But the bourgeois media presents a completely distorted picture of the tragedy which has befallen the Palestinian people, who have been deprived of their homeland. The press makes a great mystery out of their situation completely covering over the historical facts which have led to it, and instead presenting the situation in Lebanon as a struggle between warring factions and terrorist groups, glossing over completely the source of the problems and the truly terroristic and aggressive actions of Israeli Zionism backed by U.S. imperialism who are in contention with Soviet social imperialism for control over the oil rich Middle East.

The Palestinian people lived in their homeland, Palestine, for centuries prior to the manoeuvres of the U.S. and Britain; these imperialist powers carved up Palestine to create the state of Israel and then encouraged and incited the Israeli Zionists who launched barbarous terror against the Palestinians until they were driven in their hundreds of thousands from their

drove them even further from their homeland. The Palestinians were forced to live in squalid conditions in refugee camps such as those of Sabra and Chatila and Bourg el-Barajneh in Beirut.

The heroic Palestinians, however, refused to lie down in the face of continued repression and took up arms to fight for the just cause of winning back their homeland, of winning back their national rights denied to them by imperialism and Israeli Zionism. In 1982 the Israeli Zionists, with the assistance of U.S. imperialism and British imperialism which also later attempted to establish its intervention forces in Lebanon, launched a massive invasion of Lebanon, drove north as far as Beirut and, with U.S. connivance, forced the Palestinian fighters to escape from Lebanon by sea, committing in the course of this the unforgivable atrocities in Sabra and Chatila.

It was during this invasion that the real purpose behind the stationing of the UNIFIL troops and the Irish troops as part of that force, was exposed. For no matter what the views of individual Irish soldiers about the situation in Lebanon, the fact of the matter is that these military forces under the auspices of the United Nations are stationed there solely for the benefit of U.S. and Israeli Zionist interests. Their "peacekeeping" role became completely exposed as not one finger was raised

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