



North is through the immediate dismantling of the Northern Ireland state and the withdrawal of the British presence that underlies and guarantees it.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

The first thing you can do, and should do, is find out more about the situation in the North. *An Phoblacht/Republican News*, the official newspaper of the Republican Movement, is published weekly and contains many news items on life (and death) in Ireland on both sides of the border which would otherwise not appear in print. There are also many books, pamphlets and periodicals on the question — some in your college library.

Go up to the North, and, if you can, stay a while in a nationalist ghetto area. Don't take our word for it, prove it to yourself, the validity or otherwise, of the

republican position.

Then join the struggle for a new Ireland — a united republic where the means of production, distribution and exchange are owned and controlled directly by the people themselves.

You can join a student cumann of Sinn Fein either directly through your college or through 44 Parnell Square, Dublin 1.

Issued by Sinn Fein Youth Department
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STUDENTS AND SINN FEIN

SINN FEIN is one of the largest political organisations in Ireland with over 300 branches throughout the country and elected representatives on both sides of the border.

Sinn Fein is a democratic socialist organisation working

for the establishment in Ireland of a workers' republic where the wealth of this country will be owned and controlled directly by the people who produce it.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY 'SOCIALISM'?

Socialism is the belief that the ownership and control of wealth and of all the wealth-producing processes should be taken out of the hands of the relatively small group of people who presently own them, and vested instead in the working class.

As republicans we take our lead from the 1916 Proclamation: *"We declare the right of the people of Ireland to the ownership of Ireland, and to the unfettered control of her destinies, to be sovereign and indefeasible."*

To us, the freedom of Ireland means the freedom of the Irish people. That is, freedom from poverty, from inequality, from injustice, as well as the freedom to determine our own future as we think fit, and not as British or EEC interests dictate.

WHAT ABOUT STUDENTS?

What has all this got to do with students? Many people still cannot afford a third-level education. Universities are



still, by and large, middle-class preserves. The children of the workers who, through their taxes, finance our education, don't even get a look in! And once 'in', many students, although adults, remain dependent on their parents for financial support.

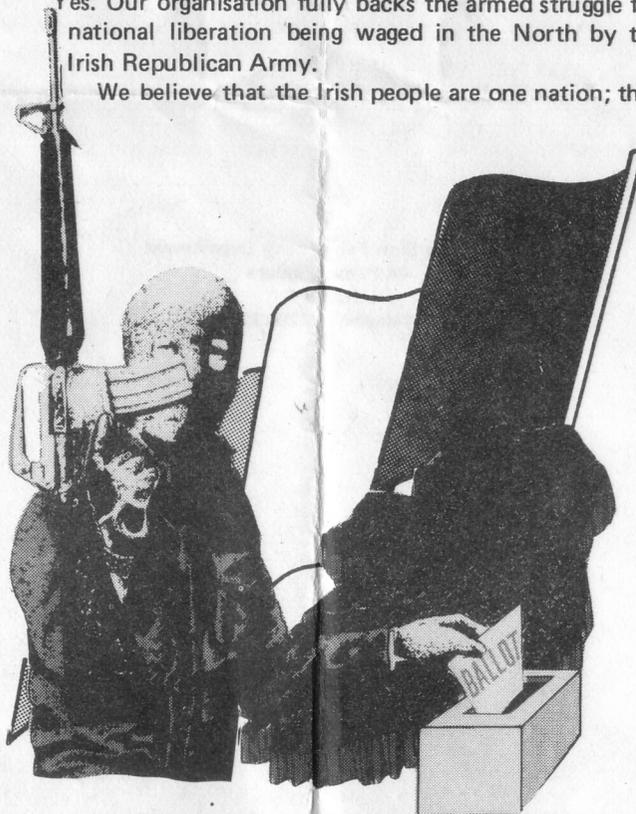
Students have little or no say in the content of their courses, or the running of their colleges. The rat-race of the totally exam-orientated and class-biased secondary schooling system (hardly education) is continued in third-level.

The semi-private nature of Church-controlled schools — in spite of massive state subventions — is continued in many third-level colleges (e.g. the RCSI, TCD, Blackhall Place, and the teacher-training colleges) by a professional or clerical stranglehold over the lives and futures of thousands of students.

DOES SINN FEIN SUPPORT THE IRA?

Yes. Our organisation fully backs the armed struggle for national liberation being waged in the North by the Irish Republican Army.

We believe that the Irish people are one nation; that



as a nation, we have a right to self-determination. This right is denied us by the armed occupation of our country by Britain.

Furthermore, it is as a result of partition that the nationalist community in the North have suffered such great discrimination.

WHAT DISCRIMINATION?

If you lived in the North you would be twice as likely to be unemployed if you were a Catholic, than if you were a Protestant. Infant mortality is higher in nationalist areas than in unionist areas. Only nationalist children have been killed by plastic bullets or shot down while joy-riding. Only republican areas like Divis, the Short Strand and Turf Lodge are sealed off by the British army and torn apart in house-to-house searches, etc.

BUT THE MAJORITY IN THE NORTH ARE UNIONISTS

That's very true. But the terms 'majority' and 'minority' are relative to the areas they represent.

Northern Ireland was set up by the British under the terms of the 1922 Treaty on the basis of a sectarian headcount. It was consciously designed to be the largest possible area compatible with a built-in permanent Protestant, and presumably unionist, majority. The vast majority of the people of the whole of Ireland desire unity. We believe, as Pearse did, that: *"The nationalist sovereignty implied in 'national freedom' holds good both externally and internally, i.e. the sovereign rights of the nation are good as against all other nations, and good as against all parts of the nation."*

(The Sovereign People)

WHAT ABOUT PEACE?

You cannot have justice in an inherently unjust state. You cannot introduce democracy in a state founded on the suppression of democracy. You cannot protect minority rights in a state based on permanently depriving the minority of its rights. You cannot have equality within a state based on privilege.

It is not those who resist discrimination, repression and injustice who are responsible for the violence that results. The responsibility lies with those who institute and uphold the system. The only path to peace with justice in the

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