

UNITY

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**NELSON
MANDELA
WILL BE
FREE!**

SEE PAGE FOUR.



**Communist Party demands
a ceasefire now!**

See page 2.

Government and employers are beginning to get worried that the unions will reject a renewal of the Programme for National Recovery at a special conference this month, and all the stops are being pulled out to try and guile workers into supporting a programme that has been a failure.

The latest move is a well-timed announcement from the Economic and Social Research Institute that it is "optimistic on the economic outlook."

The ESRI declare that the Programme for National Recovery has made a major contribution to economic recovery since 1987.

Indeed, they are right, but the

ESRI: Ignoring reality

burdens of that deal have been borne entirely by the trade union side.

It is trade unionists who have foregone wage increases, even in companies whose profits have increased significantly; but in return the Government and employers have reneged completely on the job creation promises they were so eager to make when they wanted to get the deal through.

Now that the renewal of the deal is in question, the government is again promising future job creation, and the economic pundits are assuring us that the

rising tide of a prosperous economy will lift all boats.

We've heard it all before; but when we look behind the small print of their exhortations we find that the Government has no specific programmes for job creation at all.

It is relying on two areas. Firstly, Albert Reynolds trots out the old tired nonsense about creating a favourable climate for private enterprise. In the past that has just been a recipe for higher profits for the few.

Secondly, the only, and we stress only programme for jobs

that the Government has managed to come up with is the financial services centre in the Customs House.

While this is important and significant, it cannot meet the requirement for jobs that our horrendous unemployment figures reveal.

The ESRI ignore this reality, and instead urge narrow interest groups (by which they mean the trade unions) to avoid "self-defeating short-term programmes to boost employment" (by which they mean serious commitment to job creation.)

Indeed the ESRI insist that the Government must "continue to reduce borrowing" and that pay settlements "should remain moderate."

In the same breath, they let slip that Government estimates of the state of the public finances are considerably understated and predict that if the Government had the will "the current budget deficit could be eliminated this year."

It is these financial realities that call into question any attempted justification of workers' "restraint" while the Government refuses to invest in job creation or to improve the savaged public services so damaged by the cuts of recent years.

Eighteen years ago people from Derry, all parts of Northern Ireland, and not a few from the rest of the world, marched for civil rights in the ancient city.

We were met by gas, rubber bullets and the rifles of the British Parachute Regiment.

BY BRIAN GORMALLY

NORTHERN AREA
SECRETARY - CPI

As people crouched behind walls, crawled along pavements hugging the hedges and trying to get away from the murderous fire of the British, they could not have believed that a boy, unborn at the time, would later be killed while commemorating that day. And killed by the IRA.

As the full horror of the massacre perpetrated by the British on the NICRA march became clear, their spokespersons tried to claim that the IRA had fired first.

Anyone who was there, knew that was a plain lie, designed to cover up the conscious decision to shoot taken by the Para commanders.

Later, cars full of grim faced men raced into the Bogside and there was some talk of "fire being returned," from the Creggan.

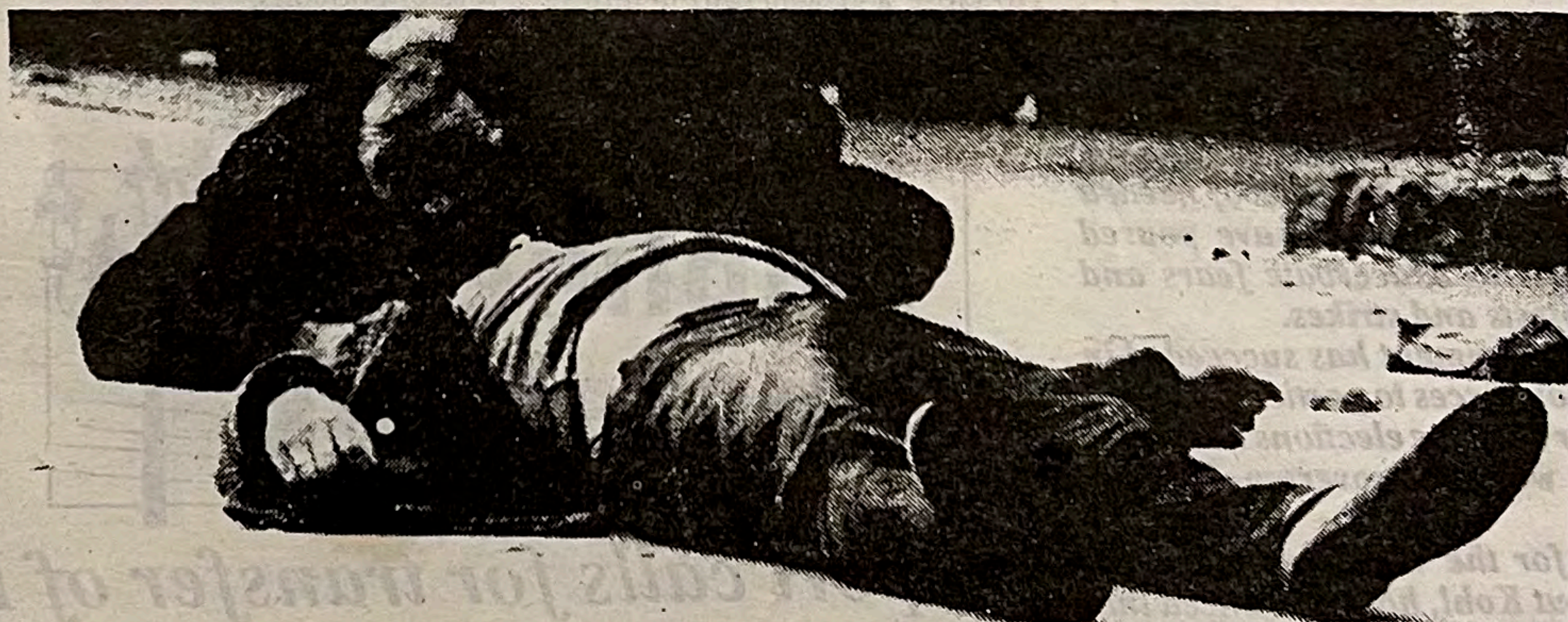
But no-one could seriously suppose that the IRA - either branch - would provoke an attack on a civil rights march by using its cover to snipe at the British Army.

How much harder would it have been for us then to believe that the IRA would use the cover and occasion of a commemorative march to plant a bomb which would kill a 16 year old youth come to respect the lives and deaths of the previous generation.

Yet, today, it is only the symbolism of the occasion that sets it apart.

The IRA's campaign has degenerated to a stage where atrocity follows mistake in a bloody catalogue

ANOTHER BLOODY SUNDAY



■ In the opinion of the Derry Coroner... "Sheer unadulterated murder"

that cripples the very struggle it purports to serve.

It is not just the killing of one of their own supporters on a day which they have unjustifiably claimed as their own, exclusive memorials which is symbolic about Sunday's tragedy.

For it shows us in a single act the whole, huge error which lies at the heart of the "armed struggle."

On the one hand, there is a political mobilization of the people designed to show their horror at the British actions of yesterday and today.

On the other, there is an act of individual terrorism which cancels out every positive effort the march might have.

In the event, of course, people on the march were bound to have been sickened by the results of the IRA bomb.

But even had it destroyed its targets, it would still have contradicted

the whole point of the march - even had everyone on it applauded the action.

For, such acts of individual terror do not encourage political mobilization, they make it seem useless, or at least an optional extra.

What is the point in the long, hard slog of politics, winning people's support for a new nation, if someone out there purports to be achieving the same aims by bombing and shooting?

Of course, no-one can be convinced of anything by bullets, and that is part of the problem.

If people can be killed, why bother to try and change their minds? Again, that is part of the point.

"Armed struggle," on the basis of a minority of a minority of the people in a minority of the country, can never be about weakening the will of a repressive state, or a foreign invader to retain power.

It can only be about - in real political practice - covering the various majorities of the people into accepting the minority's position.

As such it can never succeed, not while the mass of the people retain their dignity.

The campaign of the IRA is not just futile in terms of the aims it sets out to achieve.

It is also actively wounding to that cause. This is becoming so clear as year succeeds year that the good faith of those who continue to support the "armed struggle" must increasingly seem in doubt.

Sinn Fein holds its Ard Fheis this weekend. Many political movements have cause for humility at the present time; so has Sinn Fein.

Perhaps the delegates to that conference should seriously examine the lessons - not of 20 or 18 years ago - but - of January 28, 1990.

Mass support for ambulance workers

Marches and rallies took place throughout Britain and Northern Ireland on Tuesday 30th January at midday, as the general public of the United Kingdom expressed their support for ambulance workers in the National Health Service.

The Trades Union Congress had called for what it called a "Dignified protest", in support of the ambulance workers who are moving into their twenty third week of the dispute. Workers in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales were urged by the TUC to stop work for a token fifteen minutes to stand outside their factories and offices, and where possible join in city/town centre demonstrations.

In Northern Ireland there were over forty demonstrations. Belfast and Derry saw the biggest of the gatherings with hospital gates being clustered by ancillary workers, nurses and doctors who are supporting the ambulance staff.

In Belfast's Cornmarket a demonstration of some five hundred people was addressed by Inez McCormick of NUPE, Pat McCarten Chairperson of the N.Ireland Committee of the ICTU and Bob Abernethy one of the team of five negotiators from the consortium of five unions involved in the dispute.

Inez McCormick praised the support of the Northern Ireland public for the ambulance workers throughout the dispute and expressed her delight at the turnout at the demonstrations which were taking place throughout the province.

Turn to page 8.



IRELAND'S WORKING CLASS WEEKLY



EDITORIAL



Unity is printed and published each week by the Communist Party of Ireland, head office, 43, East Essex Street, Dublin 2. Telephone: Dublin 711943. Postal subscriptions are available at: Ireland & Britain, £20 (STG) per year; Europe, £30 (STG) per year and USA, Asia, Africa at £35 (STG) per year.

Manipulation behind the scenes of German re-unification

The situation in eastern Europe continues to fluctuate almost daily, a reflection of the fact that the loss of direction and confidence suffered by the communist parties previously in power is not matched by any clear alternative as to the way forward.

Of course, the fact is that the crowds who demonstrated, especially in Gdansk and Prague were not, consciously at least, in favour of what capitalism actually stands for.

On the contrary, they wanted a better life, with more consumer goods and an easier way of living and working.

That is not what their "revolutions" have given them. Poland is now facing inflation of 900 per cent and unemployment - previously unheard of - is expected to reach 20 per cent by the end of the year as privatization begins to bite.

Now in Hungary, workers are demonstrating against the austerity programme brought in by the new government under the orders of the IMF.

But it is in East Germany that the swings of the pendulum are at their most extreme.

Last October, when party authority crumbled, it was estimated that the communist vote in elections would drop to less than 20 per cent or even 15 per cent.

Then, just a few weeks ago, the latest opinion poll showed communist support at an incredible 35 per cent, with 67 per cent also opposed to immediate unconditional German reunification.

These last polls caused considerable concern in the ruling circles of West Germany, which can barely restrain its passion for occupying the territory of its neighbour.

Without ignoring underlying domestic problems in the GDR - not least of which have been a continuing exodus of needed workers - the fact is that the West Germans have poured billions of marks into campaigns to exacerbate fears and doubts and encourage street protests and strikes.

In response to this the GDR Government has succeeded in persuading the genuine opposition forces to participate in the government, and also to bring forward the elections necessary to give the stamp of authority to whatever government emerges.

This is clearly not sufficient for the West German authorities, whose chancellor, Helmut Kohl, has announced that he intends to campaign personally in the East German elections for the parties that favour reunification.

The atmosphere of collapse and hopelessness that is being cynically generated can, of course, become a self-fulfilling prophecy.

For Irish workers, there are three points to notice. First, we should see the manipulation that is going on and understand that they would do the same to us if we were poised to free ourselves of capitalism.

Secondly, democracy is not strengthened by handing industries over to private capitalists, as East German workers will discover if the tragedy of reunification befalls them.

Thirdly, progressive workers in Ireland who naturally work for the reunification of our country should not be misled by the slogan to imagine that its German counterpart would be anything but retrograde and dangerous for all the peoples of Europe in the present circumstances.

For, while the reunification of Ireland is a step to giving all of our people the chance to use our resources for jobs and wealth at home, German reunification is seen as an opportunity to build a new Fourth Reich - achieved not by the methods of Nazism, but through the strength of German finance capital.

But whether they do it with the jackboot or the cheque book, the result will be the same for the peoples who are listed for subjugation.

Only the workers

BY GEOFF PALMER

For over 45 minutes last Thursday scores of Dubliners froze in bitterly cold weather because CIE were unable to get their buses up Fleet Street.

The reason being that two private cars were parked on opposite sides of the street.

Either due to the stupidity of the bus inspectors or the lack of interest in the situation by the Garda who have all the necessary gear for lifting and removing parked cars, the situation remained so for the best part of the night.

Buses had to be called out from Commingham Road Garage and rerouted around the city to pick up the many passengers waiting at the terminal at Fleet Street.

Not one newspaper the next day reported this latest injustice inflicted on Dublin bus users. No doubt, because it was mainly the working class who were the sufferers.

O'MALLEY'S 60,000 JOBS

Further to reports in this column last week Intel the World's largest manufacturer of computer parts is building a giant plant on a 6,000 acre site at Leixlip.

There appeared a report of an interview last Saturday with the manager of the IDA, Mr. Peter Lillis, in which he revealed the information that if the computer industry in this country is going to be viable and not suffer any further closures an investment of £300 million will be necessary.

The Bray plant which is shortly to close and which in reality is owned by Intel has already received grants totalling £5 million from the IDA.

CHARITY BY ANOTHER NAME

Surely it is time that the trade union and labour movement began to ask the question "what is this government up to? Are we a vast charitable organization existing for the benefit of multi-millionaire US corporations who when it suits them will pull out unless further grants are made available.

YOU CAN SAY THAT AGAIN DESSIE



Good 'Ole O'Malley

Speaking last Saturday to the US chamber of Commerce in Cork, Mr. O Malley, our affable Minister of Industry, praised the generosity of US companies who had chosen to invest in Ireland.

They did so, he said, because of an attractive package of fiscal and financial incentives, backed up by the unique resource in the form of a young well-educated English speaking labour force, and because of the quality of life here.

He unfortunately forgot to inform his audience how much he regretted the decision of Pan Am to pull out of Shannon with the loss of 300 jobs.

No doubt he wished to avoid any upset before the Chamber's annual dinner.

Dubliners' notebook



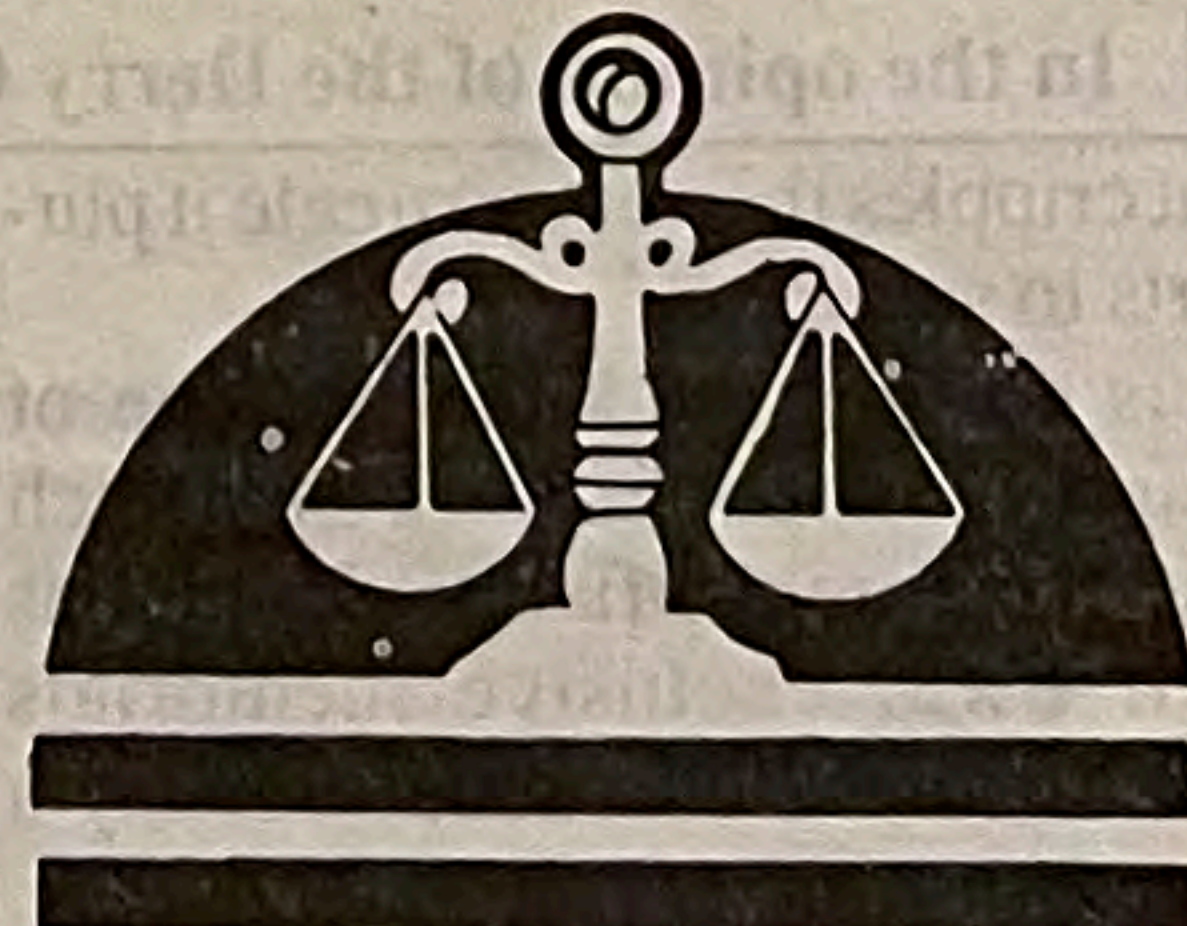
Report calls for transfer of Irish prisoners

A report published this week, entitled *The Transfer of Prisoners*, calls for more prisoners to be transferred from British jails to Ireland to be nearer to their families.

The reports sponsored by the Committee on the Administration of Justice, the Irish Commission for Prisoners Overseas, the National Association of Probation Officers and the Northern Ireland Association for the Care and Restraint of Offenders, highlights the plight of the families of prisoners and calls on the NI Office and the Home Office in Britain to grant more transfer requests on humanitarian grounds.

The organizations also call on the Irish Government to ratify the Council of Europe Treaty on the transfer of sentenced prisoners, essential for the transfer of prisoners sentenced abroad.

And the Catholic Bishops added their voice to the criticism



of the Irish government's failure to ratify the European Convention on the transfer of prisoners.

Supporting the call for more transfers, Gerard Conlon, one of the recently released Guildford Four, stated: "At times, you felt as if you are more or less strangers because of the barrier the lack of visits puts between you and your family."

And prison reform campaigner, Lord Hylton said at the launch of the report at a Westminster press conference that he hoped the report would be a major milestone in changing "this serious and complicated matter."

Bombing condemned by CPI

In a press statement condemning the latest outburst of violence by the Provisional IRA which resulted in the death of 16 year old Charles Love, in Derry at the Bloody Sunday Commemoration, a Communist Party spokesperson said: "The death of an Irish youth coming in the week that the Provisional IRA have bombed villages throughout Northern Ireland, demonstrates clearly, the futility of their "armed campaign."

The Party states: "While Sinn Fein claims to be building a broad front against British interference in Irish affairs, its counterparts in the IRA are determined to undermine any progress made, with their elitist campaign of violence."

"The greatest contribution the Provisionals could make towards peace, progress and unity in Ireland would be to declare an immediate ceasefire, for while the violent campaign continues maximum political mobilization in the interests of the working people, is impossible," the spokesperson concluded.

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"At a time when overcrowding in Britain's jails has reached crisis point and when there are 400 spare places in Northern Ireland jails, it seems eminently sensible to relieve some of the pressure by transferring home those prisoners who wish to serve their sentence in jails closer to their families.

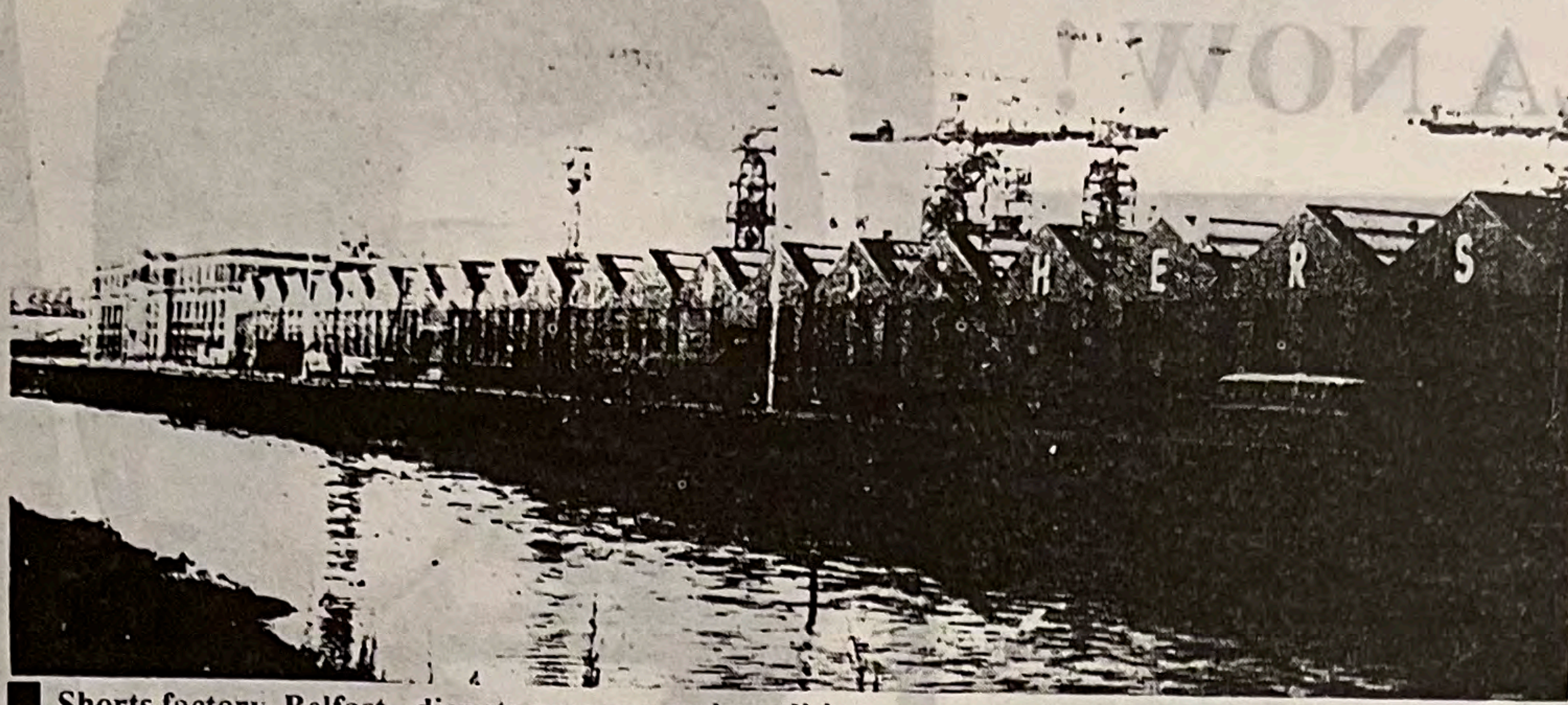
He added that Northern Irish prisoners suffered "major deprivation" because on average they received two to three visits a year compared to their entitlement of 12.

Since 1980, 255 transfer petitions have been lodged, only 41 of which have been successful, mainly low risk category prisoners.

"There seems to be Home Office resistance to transfer," stated Harry Fletcher, assistant general secretary of NAPO.

Currently some 25 prisoners are seeking repatriation to the North, including Birmingham Six prisoner, John Walker.

Shorts pay claim saga



Shorts factory, Belfast - dispute over pay and conditions

Short's works committee had submitted a claim for a 2 year wage agreement for 22 per cent plus the introduction of a 35-hour week and including holidays.

Management offered 8 per cent for 1990 and six and a half per cent for 1991. The offer also contained certain strings - 7-day working on a rota basis, including compulsory Saturday and Sunday workers; total flexibility; the removal of all merit payments which are as much as £5 per week for some workers; a change in the method of payment for wages from weekly payment to monthly.

Apparently some eleven meetings had taken place between the four union negotiators and management without any discussions with the members or even with the 9-person senior shop steward committee.

The negotiators emerged with a signed joint union-management recommendation.

It was quickly put to a ballot without any mass meetings or even mass shop steward meetings.

Leaflets were circulated among the workforce urging them to reject the jointly recommended proposal.

One leaflet which was very widely circulated read as follows:

- Why are we being railroaded
- Why no mass meetings
- Why no consultation or discussion
- 61/2 per cent for 1991 - what if inflation is higher?
- No protection for low paid workers
- If you don't want compulsory Sunday working - Vote No!

- If you don't want compulsory Saturday working - Vote No!
- If you want to retain your merit payments - Vote No!
- This proposal increases hours for some workers - the CSEU is opposed to this
- This proposal gives management the right to change workers' conditions at will
- Don't give management a blank cheque - Vote No!

RESULT

The ballot result was as follows: 3530 against the recommendation; 2050 for.

Shorts workers spotted the cosy relationship between "their" representatives and management.

There was consternation among the leadership at the result. Mass shop stewards' meetings were convened.

There were "no confidence" proposals emerging from sections of the workforce.

Management were very concerned. Who was leading the workforce?

The "negotiators" got into a huddle with management again. They have now emerged with another recommendation, only from themselves this time - not jointly with management. Some workers have connected that the language is very like management's and no-one seems to know who drafted the statement.

It reads as follows: "Fellow members, following rejection of the company's original proposal a new single negotiating body has been involved in interim discussion with management. The outcome of these discussions is contained in the attached amended proposal. You should note the following."

They then argue for total flexibility; for a change to monthly

payments instead of weekly payment of wages. They say that 8 per cent for year 1 is ahead of the current rate of inflation (7.7 per cent); they say 61/2 per cent for year 2 is ahead of inflation forecasts (they don't say whose forecasts).

They then go on to say: "Your factory committee believes that this is a good package. The concessions we have made are small compared to previous years (that's some admission) and the rewards are considerably greater."

They then go on to refer to the leaflet: "During the last ballot anonymous leaflets appeared throughout the factory and offices containing seriously misleading allegations. This might happen again. We most strongly urge you to ignore the face of anonymity and support your factory committee."

CURIOUS

Isn't it curious that they attack a leaflet as inaccurate but at the same time confirm its accuracy by negotiating the removal of some of the strings referred to.

They now urge Shorts' workers to accept this new offer.

Why then did they recommend the previous offer? How could any worker trust such representatives?

They are too close to Bombardier management. Bombardier demands: they deliver.

Control of the workforce, flexibility; managers' right to change terms and conditions - when you will work, where you will work, if you will work.

Why should Shorts' workers have to make such concessions to achieve an increase which may only be in line with inflation and which may not?

Arigna closure threat

According to Mr. Sean Wynne of Lough Allen Regional Community Development Ltd, the Arigna power station in County Leitrim is due to stop taking supplies of coal from three collieries in the area by the end of March this year, and will close down once its stockpile is exhausted.

At a public meeting held in Drumshambo last weekend those in attendance were told that about 200 miners would lose their jobs along with 66 ESB workers, due to the ESB decision to close down the power station.

Smog Crisis: "Action overdue," says CPI activist.

Welcoming the Fianna Fail Government's announcement that the sale of bituminous (smoky) coal in the Dublin area is to be banned, John Montgomery, Communist Party spokesperson in Ballyfermot, said that the smog crisis had taken many lives and action was overdue.

However, Mr. Montgomery demanded that the Government undertake responsibility for the costs of the switchover to clean fuels.

"It is monstrous to suggest that working people, already suffering from cuts and wage restraint, should bear this burden," he said.

"The Government figure of £3 million announced to cushion the 'poor' is just not good enough.

"First of all, let them be specific about the schemes they are proposing. So far we've had nothing but extremely vague promises.

"Secondly, it seems to be emerging that assistance will only be given to those on long term social welfare assistance, like the present fuel allowance schemes."

Mr. Montgomery pointed out that these sectors most certainly needed help, but so do people on low pay, so do people who can barely make ends meet under

present circumstances," he declared.

Mr. Montgomery went on to call for an extension of the pilot schemes brought in for phase one in Ballyfermot to all smog affected areas immediately and for the whole city eventually.

"otherwise," he said, "we will find that the rich are able to switch without problems while the rest of us will be savaged by new debts we can't pay."

The CPI spokesperson pointed out that the Government retreat on the smog issue had been won by the determined refusal of working class people to back-down and accept the hazard to their health that smog presents.

He also denounced efforts by the coal lobby to harness workers' support for their dirty business on the basis that jobs could be placed in jeopardy.

"A job is no use to someone who's dead," he said, "but in any case, jobs can as well be created in clean fuel distribution and other better heating enterprises."

Mr. Montgomery concluded by pointing out that the Government had a duty to ensure that those who have been working up till now in bituminous coal distribution are provided for and that the profits made by the coal lobby would be used to ensure this.

Sea pollution to be monitored.

During a three-day trip to Northern Ireland, Roger Stott, the British Labour Party's junior speaker on affairs in the North, stated that a new working group to monitor pollution in the Irish Sea would be set up.

He said that the pollution problem was a major one and the new body would monitor it carefully.

"It is not just a case of what comes out of Windscale. The discharge of effluence from the Mersey makes Blackpool one of the most polluted beaches in Europe. This makes its way to Northern Ireland," he went on.

The Labour Opposition speaker also voiced his reservations regarding British Rail's intention to cut the London-Stranraer InterCity ser-

vice. And he found, at a meeting with N.I. Railway representatives, that they shared his concern.

He said he had written to Transport Minister, Peter Bottomley, to find out what consultations British Rail had with him on the question.

"We must preserve all our communication services and ensure they are up and running by 1992 when the Single European Market comes into effect," he added.

UNITY welcomes letters to the editor, and will print them, space permitting. Send copy to PO BOX 85 Belfast BT1 1SR. To arrive by Monday for publication that week.

Trade Union booklet counters government claims on strikes and the closed shop.

A recently published booklet put out by the Labour Research Department examines the latest British government proposals to attack trade unionists' rights.

Clamping down on workers' rights looks at the claims made in the two green papers published last year - *Removing barriers to employment* (March) and *Unofficial action and the law* (October).

The booklet makes clear that the government is attempting to camouflage its own mishandling of the economy by blaming unofficial action, secondary action and the closed shop for reducing employment and profitability.

The LRD publication uses various sources - the Bank of England Quarterly Bulletin, the European Commission and the Monopolies and Mergers Commission - to undermine the government's claim about its proposed legislation.

While the legislation does not yet apply to Northern Ireland activists may wish to obtain a copy - if only to find out what is in store.

Clamping down on workers' rights.

The LRD guide to the green papers on union law is published by the Labour Research Department, 789, Blackfriars Road, London SE1 8HF, priced £1.15 (including p&p)

"Armed Struggle"

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FREE MANDELA NOW !

BY COLM DE FAOITE

Nelson Mandela, the greatest living symbol of freedom in the world, may soon be released by the South African racist regime.

A Nelson Mandela Irish Reception Committee has been set up to campaign for his release and to prepare for the celebrations when it happens.

The Irish committee will co-operate with the Nelson Mandela International Reception Committee which is headed by Archbishop Trevor Huddleston and is composed of leading world figures.

Nelson Mandela has been in continuous captivity since his arrest in 1962.

Throughout this period, millions of people in South Africa and all over the world have campaigned for his freedom and for that of all political prisoners and detainees in South Africa.

The Irish Anti-Apartheid Movement's inaugural meeting was held in 1964 during the trial of Nelson Mandela and his fellow-accused, and since then has held many other events on the theme of freedom for Mr. Mandela and for all those in South Africa under the yoke of apartheid.

Nelson's release will be a great victory, not only for the people of South Africa themselves, but also for the whole international

community.

ARRANGEMENTS

The Nelson Mandela Irish Reception Committee has made the following arrangements in the event of Mandela's release:

- An advertisement welcoming the release will be published in the press in Ireland and South Africa
- Local authorities, trade unions, and other establishments are being asked to fly the ANC flag.
- A Book of Solidarity will be available for members of the public to sign in the Nelson Mandela Hall of the MSF Union at 15, Merrion Square, Dublin.
- A Thanksgiving Ceremony will be held in the lunch hour following Nelson Mandela's release at 1pm, in Merrion Square at the Mandela Tribute Head.
- A Celebration Parade will be held on the Saturday following the release, starting from the Department of Foreign Affairs at 12.30pm and proceeding to the GPO (If the release is on a Saturday the parade will be on the Sunday.)
- A Celebration rally and concert will be held within a few days of the release.
- A poster designed by Robert Ballagh is available for sale at £2 - a limited numbered edition specially printed and signed by the artist will be on sale for £50.

UNCONDITIONAL

Speaking at a press conference

in Dublin to launch the Committee, the Chairperson of the Irish Anti-Apartheid Movement, Kadar Asmal, said, "Mandela must be freed unconditionally. It is not a matter for negotiation."

Mr. Asmal emphasized that the Reception Committee was being set up in response to requests from within South Africa and following the decision of the African National Congress.

The International Reception Committee was represented at the press conference by its Director, Sipho Pityana, a leading member of the ANC.

Mr. Pityana reminded the conference that there were 3,000 political prisoners in South Africa and that 500 activists were restricted.

He said the 1953 Act which empowered the authorities to declare a state of emergency had to be repealed.

"The South African Government must not be allowed to play games with the question of Nelson Mandela's release."

Robert Ballagh said at the press conference that Nelson Mandela was an example to all the world.

He complimented the South African hotel workers who refused to provide services to the Gattings cricket tourists.

NEW CAMPAIGN

The IAAM has launched a new campaign under the slogan "South African Freedom Now."



The Movement has identified four key areas in which it is intended to mobilize public opinion and confront the Irish Government.

Stop Apartheid Repressions !

Demand the release of all political prisoners, detainees, and restrictees; the unbanning of all organizations, the cessation of political trials and executions and the repeal of legislation preventing normal political activity.

Boycott Apartheid - Sanctions Now ! Sanctions must be strengthened and made comprehensive and mandatory.

The Movement says: "We must oppose any attempt to give the regime time in order to work out its reforms as suggested last December by Foreign Minister, Gerard Collins."

Solidarity with the African National Congress ! The ANC is banned in South Africa: the press is prosecuted for reporting on its statements and activities and its supporters continue to be detained, prosecuted and imprisoned. Ireland should be providing support for the ANC.

For a united, non-racial and democratic South Africa ! Apartheid must be destroyed - it cannot be reformed.

The Irish Government must be prevailed upon to work actively for the removal of apartheid.

It must show a commitment to a non-racial role in an undivided South Africa and support the democratic principles enshrined in the *Freedom Charter* and the *Constitutional Guidelines*.

The Cuban revolution has been in the front line against imperialism right from the start. The gains from socialist development and its firm internationalist stance have won Cuba the respect of all those fighting for national liberation and socialism. Here we take a look at the Cuban people's path to power.

The victory of the Cuban revolution on January 1, 1959 marked up a new stage in the struggle for national libe-



Castro, in 1958 as leader of the 26th July Movement

ration and socialism. Cuba stands as the only socialist state in the western hemisphere.

Just 90 miles from the US coast, Cuba provides an example to all those fighting imperialist domination.

In the 1960s, the Cuban revolution inspired revolutionary movements throughout the American continent, including the Sandinistas in Nicaragua. Today Fidel Castro is the leader of the Cuban Communist Party, but at the time of the revolution he led the July 26 Revolutionary Movement.

popularly known.

The July 26 Revolutionary Movement fought under democratic slogans directed against the corrupt and bloody rule of the US puppet Batista, and played the leading role in the revolution.

This movement fought under democratic slogans directed against the corrupt and bloody rule of the US puppet Batista, and played a leading role in the revolution.

The Popular Socialist Party, Cuba's communist party at the time played a subordinate role.

Castro's group took its name from its attack on the Moncada barracks on July 26, 1953, which aimed to seize weapons and to spark off an uprising against the dictatorship.

The attempt failed but made Castro a national political figure.

Castro later wrote that the majority of those in the July 26 Movement were Marxists, who understood that socialism held the key to real national independence.

More to the point, they recognized the worker-peasant alliance as the backbone of the national democratic revolution.

In 1956 the July 26 Movement launched a revolutionary offensive against Batista, with the support of the Revolutionary Directorate, the armed wing of the University Students' Federation.

Castro, Che Guevara and 80 others set off from Mexico in the boat Granma and landed at Last Coloradas on December 2.

After initial setbacks, the guerrilla struggled gained strength and spread to other parts of the country.

As the movement gathered pace, the guerrilla forces of the PSP and the Revolutionary Directorate joined in, and the underground movement in the

cities increased the pressure on the regime.

In the last weeks of 1958 the Batista Government was disintegrating. The rebel forces took control of city after city, until Batista was forced to flee on December 31.

After some initial personnel changes, the Revolutionary Government established itself swiftly with a series of radical democratic measures, including land reform which eliminated large-scale private holdings, domestic and foreign.

These measures soon earned the wrath of the US Administration. The CIA began encouraging counter-revolutionary thugs who went around murdering and sabotaging, and on July 4 1960 the US cut its quotas for sugar imports from Cuba.

For a country so dependent on raw material exports, this was a bitter blow.

The decision by the Soviet Union to step in and purchase Cuban sugar helped the new state at a critical time.

And the decision to pay a fair price for the commodity, rather than the low price set in the world market dominated by the monopolies was a further aid.

By this time Cuba was already moving rapidly towards socialism.

In the face of imperialist aggression, the pace of change hastened.

On August 6, the Revolutionary Government nationalized the main US companies in Cuba. On September 2, the Cuban people voted for the First Havana Declaration, which condemned "the exploitation of man by man." On October 13, all the remaining banks were nationalized, along with 382 Cuban companies.

The US now stepped up its offensive, imposing an embargo on all

Cuban exports on October 19 in an attempt to strangle the revolution economically.

The Revolutionary Government reasoned in its own way: on October 24, all remaining US companies were nationalized. The US cancelled its sugar quota completely on December 16 and broke off all diplomatic relations on January 3, 1961.

After that, US aggression took a dangerous turn.

On April 15 1961 planes marked with Cuban insignia flew from Nicaragua, then ruled by the US puppet Somoza, and bombed three Cuban airports in an attempt to destroy the country's airforce.

Castro immediately denounced CIA involvement in this attack.

Two days later, US-trained mercenaries landed at two points on the southern coast.

A puppet "government" was set up in Miami, but the Cuban people rallied behind their leaders and defeated the invasion within three days.

US aggression against the Cuban people continued without success, culminating in the Caribbean Crisis of October 1962 which brought the world to the brink of nuclear war.

In the face of this foreign aggression, the revolutionary forces in the country consolidated themselves organizationally.

In mid-1961, the PSP, the Revolutionary Directorate and the July 26 Movement overcame early conflicts and formed the Integrated Revolutionary Organizations (ORI).

The ORI was reorganized into the United Party of the Cuban Socialist Revolution (PURSC) in March 1962. In October 1965, the PURSC was itself replaced by the Cuban Communist Party.

Despite the imperialist economic blockade which continues to this day, the Cuban revolution has gone from strength to strength under the firm leadership of the CCP.

World News

BILL SOMERSET

Mandela release due in a few weeks?

There are signs that the long-awaited release of Nelson Mandela is about to take place.

Just as some elements were beginning to build prospects for the future which accommodated their hopes rather than their expectations, Winnie Mandela threw into the speculation that the release was not yet sewed up and opined that there were "many hurdles yet to be cleared".

There was a general welcome for the statement from Mandela that there must be talks about a shared future for blacks and whites.

The ANC refused however to give up its armed struggle until the regime gave up its monopoly of power and negotiated directly with the real leaders of the black people.

There was some dismay about a later statement in which he made it clear that the ANC would be intending to nationalise key

FREE NELSON MANDELA



sectors of the economy, as it had always held.

This was greeted with a chorus of deplorations and dissertations on the "real world" from which nationalization has been banished.

The statement was issued to "neutralise innuendos in the press" on the subject.

This referred to reports on a meeting with industrialist Richard Maponya who suggested that Mandela no longer favoured nationalization as a means of putting power into the hands of the black people.

"The nationalization of the mines, banks and monopoly industries is the policy of the ANC, and a change or modification of our views in this regard is inconceivable.

In our situation, state control of certain sectors of the economy is unavoidable".

This is bad news for the captains of industry. South Africa's private sector mines and industries are controlled by six large mining, industrial and insurance groups with total white domination.

In anticipation of the changes that an ANC victory in coming elections would mean large sections of the state-owned economy have been lined up for privatisation.

However, experience of the privatisation of the state-owned Iscor, steel makers, showed black people that privatisation of state assets was simply the transfer of national wealth to the white investors in the big corporations.

Problems of the arms industries.

The US has an ambassador to NATO and he has been giving of his wisdom.

Fresh from his earlier campaign to pressure the allies into more effective and bigger spending on defence, he arrives at NATO to explain a new position. He can foresee, as can we all, an immanent decline in demand for arms.

He sees shrinking markets in the developing countries alongside the escalating costs of researching and building new weapons.

It will not be possible, he believes, for any country to afford an all-round defence industry. What they should do is address

the market and dramatically restructure the industry.

Pointing out that many defence companies were already extinct and that in existence now were new team arrangements and share-holding links making international net-work for arms. Remaining barriers have to be removed. Buy American, Buy Japanese and Buy European practices and legislation cannot be afforded or supported on defence grounds.

Market-oriented armaments cooperation would bring military benefits in providing common equipment, logistics and tactical doctrines.

Now, isn't that a sensible way to go about war?

Polish party winds up.

The Polish United Workers Party wound itself up at the week-end and set about the establishing of a new Socialist Party without the concept of democratic centralism and the dictatorship of the working class.

It will seek to be a party for the broadest left elements in Poland and will seek power through the winning of democratic elections. The government approved a commission to investigate the assets of the PUWP but rejected a confiscation Bill.

The Solidarity-led government is facing new problems as prices rocket under the adjustment programme, with Poles still unable to buy goods, now too expensive!

It is said that food has risen 400%, meat 800% and furniture 1400%!! This makes existing wage-packets worthless.

day that the group would consider joining a national unity government.

Mr. Mladenov, who ousted veteran party chief Todor Zhivkov three months ago, denounced his predecessor, whom he served as foreign minister for 18 years.

But while admitting the damage caused to the party by Zhivkov's

Crisis in Azerbaijan rolls on.

With troops and Azeris in a stand-off while negotiations are attempted a speed concord has been reached between the Azeri and Armenian Popular Fronts, so-called.

It is expected that this will free the hands of the Azeris for the possibility that it must face the Soviet army when the talking ceases.

Reports suggest that the Azeris are preparing for a guerilla war and are perfecting underground communications and contact arrangements.

Moscow speaks of destroying the power that the Popular Front has set up in the Republic.

Commentators are torn between the harsh warnings of the Soviet Defence Secretary, Yazov, and quieter references of other government spokesmen like the Interior Minister, Vadim Bakhatin.

When the Azerbaijani government's office in Moscow became a base for the Popular Front and its statements, the authorities raided it, searching the buildings, taking away documents and temporarily arresting four of its staff.

New hot spot - Kashmir.

There have been two wars between India and Pakistan over Kashmir

It is a predominantly Moslem state and has fought equally against Pakistan and India for independence.

The present upsurge against India seeks to gain independence as a Moslem state after which it would unite with the one-third of Kashmir presently controlled by Pakistan. Pakistan is credited with training the fanatics who have now challenged the government and who are talking only of a Moslem Kashmir.

Twenty-eight groups of fundamentalists have been rampaging through the country closing cinemas and video parlours and imposing purdah for women.

India has imposed a curfew in the capital Srinagar after a month of civil strife in which 60 people have died so far, and pressure is mounting for India to take a tough line with Pakistan. There the furor is being used to challenge Bhutto, who has sought to normalise relations with India despite the turmoil.

Though there is anxiety in Pakistan about the risks of a new war, there is none amongst the fundamentalists.

There have been rallies in major Pakistani towns calling for the Kashmir issue to be raised at the U.N., but Washington issued a statement that the issue must be resolved between the two countries in "the spirit of the Simla accord" of 1972.

Cambodia strives to halt the killing

To try to halt the renewed killing in Cambodia as the Khmer Rouge press on with their offensive Premier Hun Sen has proposed that there should be a temporary partition of the country while the long-sought peace talks are pursued.

He proposes, generally in line with the Australian proposals at the U.N., that both governments then should allow the UN to operate within the country to ensure that there is not involvement of any outside government with military assistance to either side. He proposes that the two governments should be responsible for law and order and the progress towards elections, but that neither would legislate, or obstruct in other ways, the UN role or presence, or to impede elections.

On the basis of the two governments a National Council would be set up to represent Cambodia at the United Nations and take its seat there.

The plan is well received amongst the UN countries and



■ Premier Hun Sen

Western governments are grudgingly agreed that his course meets UN objectives. It is hoped that the solution might bring China to agree to pressure the Khmer Rouge and Prince Siha-nouk into accepting a cease-fire and free elections, which Hun Sen points out would be elections run by the UN.

Hun Sen is confident that elections would not return Pol Pot and the Khmer Rouge to power.

JOIN THE COMMUNIST PARTY

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Bulgaria CP leader calls opposition to unity government.

Bulgarian Communist leader Petar Mladenov invited the political opposition this week to join a government of national unity which would run the country until free elections in May.

"Three months before the elec-

tions, the Bulgarian Communist Party declares clearly and distinctly that the party is for a government of national unity which will be able to move the country out of its crisis," he told 3,000 delegates to an extraordinary party congress in Sofia.

The head of Bulgaria's opposition umbrella group, the Union of Democratic Forces, said on Mon-

35-year rule, Mladenov said the Communist Party was the only force able to guide the country to "democratic Socialism." He urged a "complete and final de-Stalinization" of party ranks, but also warned of the dangers of replacing Socialist ideals with capitalist ones.

"It is obvious that if we adopt such ideas we will embark on social ca-

taclism, mass unemployment and political and social anarchy," he said.

"We had this experience 50 years ago and the results are well known." Mr. Mladenov, who is both party secretary-general and president of the State Council, urged the congress to consider separating the posts in future.

William Thompson's socialist community largely forgotten

In a two-part article Con O'Connell takes an indepth look at William Thompson.

When my niece started secondary school some time ago, she told me that a Civics Lesson she had taken that day consisted mainly of videos of Co-operatives, their formation, workings, etc. I asked her if she had ever heard of William Thompson. She had not, but agreed to ask her Civics teacher - but she had not heard of him either.

This is not surprising as it would require a shelf of no great length to accommodate the volumes that have been published on Irish Social and Economic History, and more modest ones still to take those written on the Irish Labour and Socialist Movement.

A mere handful of books, now out of print, is all that has been added to the pioneering *Labour in Irish History* by James Connolly in the almost eighty years that have elapsed since its appearance.

At first sight, William Thompson, the son of a landlord who had been Mayor of Cork, might seem an incongruous figure in any survey of Irish Leaders and Workers.

Yet this man, perhaps unknown to himself, was directly in the social revolutionary tradition of the United Irishmen.

Theobald Wolfe Tone, in one of his best known quotations wrote "Our freedom must be had at all hazards. If the men of property will not help us they must fail, we will free ourselves by the aid of that large and respectable class of the community, the men of no property."

William Thompson in common with John Doherty, Fergus O'Connor, James Fintan Lator, Michael Davitt, James Connolly and James Larkin, was an Irishman very much alive to the plight of men - and women - of no property.

Not all of them were, themselves, aware that they belonged to the same tradition. Indeed, even today, many of us do not see the bond between them partly because they have had far less than their due from historians.

All of them were avowed internationalists. They identified Ireland's cause with the cause of universal democracy and as part of the fight of the oppressed everywhere.

William Thompson of Cork never met Wolfe Tone and he would probably have described as irrelevant some of Tone's most cherished political ideals.

He would, however, have sym-

pathized with the social and democratic opinions of Tone's closest friends.

Thompson was a land owner who championed the cause of the man and woman of no property in Ireland and elsewhere.

Though his background had little in common with that of the United Irishman, he was an exponent, and a most persuasive one, of their economic and social views.

He translated their few simple and often vague guiding principles into systematically formulated doctrines, and so he became what James Connolly described as the first Irish Socialist, and as an economic thinker, the anticipator of the basic theories of what became known as modern socialism.]

PROTESTANT ASCENDANCY

Thompson was born in Cork in 1775, his family belonged to the Protestant Ascendancy, the absentee landlord class that then held a monopoly of all state positions, all power and patronage and most of the wealth and education of the country.

His son, a very prosperous Cork merchant, had been Mayor of Cork as well as High Sheriff of the County.

John Thompson died in affluence, and in 1814 his son inherited the lucrative family business which included a fleet of trading vessels as well as the estate of about 1,500 acres at Clonkeen, Rosscarbery, overlooking the beautiful harbour of Glandore.

His son had no interest in adding to the wealth of the family business. His concern was public welfare, not private fortune-making.

He lived in a fine house in Patrick Street which had an extensive library.

He was a prominent member of the Cork Institution of the Philosophical Scientific and Literary Society.

Like many other educated and intelligent Irishmen, his thinking had been excited by the French Revolution and disturbed by the industrial revolution that was then taking place in England.

He had travelled to France and Holland and been associated with leading French political and economic writers.

On public affairs his views were radical and challenging and he made no effort to conceal them.

His Catholic tenants tolerated his atheism - which he adopted as a young man - but his democratic convictions outraged his own class.

There is a tradition that, when visiting his estate in poverty-stricken Rosscarbery, he walked about with a French tricolour at the end of his walking stick.

His revolutionary beliefs and his feeling for the poor brought him into conflict with the Protestant ascendancy.

He particularly affronted them at elections in 1812 and 1826 by supporting Christopher Hely-Hutchinson and Catholic emancipation.

Soon after becoming proprietor at Clonkeen he decided to end his career as an absentee landlord.

He gave leases on generous terms and introduced improved methods of cultivation.

He was widely read in agricultural science and made practical plans for scientific farming and the growing of new root crops by his tenants.

His human qualities, his eccentricities and the impact of his personality must have been very considerable.

The people of Rosscarbery may have been shocked by some of his views, but they judged him by his actions.

They remembered him for his humanity and kindness, and admired him for his personal austerity, which for a man of his class caused general astonishment.

He was a vegetarian in the latter part of his life and neither smoked nor drank.

He used to say that living in this way enabled him to read and write better.

GUILT

His interest in philosophy made him known to the country people as a magician.

He was, in fact, a student of chemistry and frequently lectured on it in Cork.

He was obsessed by a sense of guilt in living on rent, "the produce of efforts of others," as he called it.

"I am not," he said, "what is usually called a labourer. Under equitable social arrangements, possessed of health and strength, I ought to blush making this declaration."

He was appalled by the neglect in a commercial city such as Cork, of a systematic study of the social sciences and practical economics.

His quest was for a means of combining human happiness with an industrial age. To do this, he sought a better understanding of economic forces and of their impact on political and social relationships.

Next week : Part II.

Popular Culture

By Johnston Price

Playing games

If you were in any doubts about the absurdity of the Commonwealth as an association of nations, the Commonwealth Games would cure them for you. Where else would a sportsman who had been swimming like a lead balloon or an athlete who can throw like a drunk on a Saturday night, find a forum where he can compete and, even more farcically win?

As an armchair sportsman, I started out being insulted by the Commonwealth Games. Now I just fall off my armchair laughing.

They call them the friendly games, the funny games would be more appropriate.

The watershed for me was the solo synchronized swimming event.

There were only four competitors so there was no bronze medal.

But still the swimmers only had to beat two others to get at least a silver.

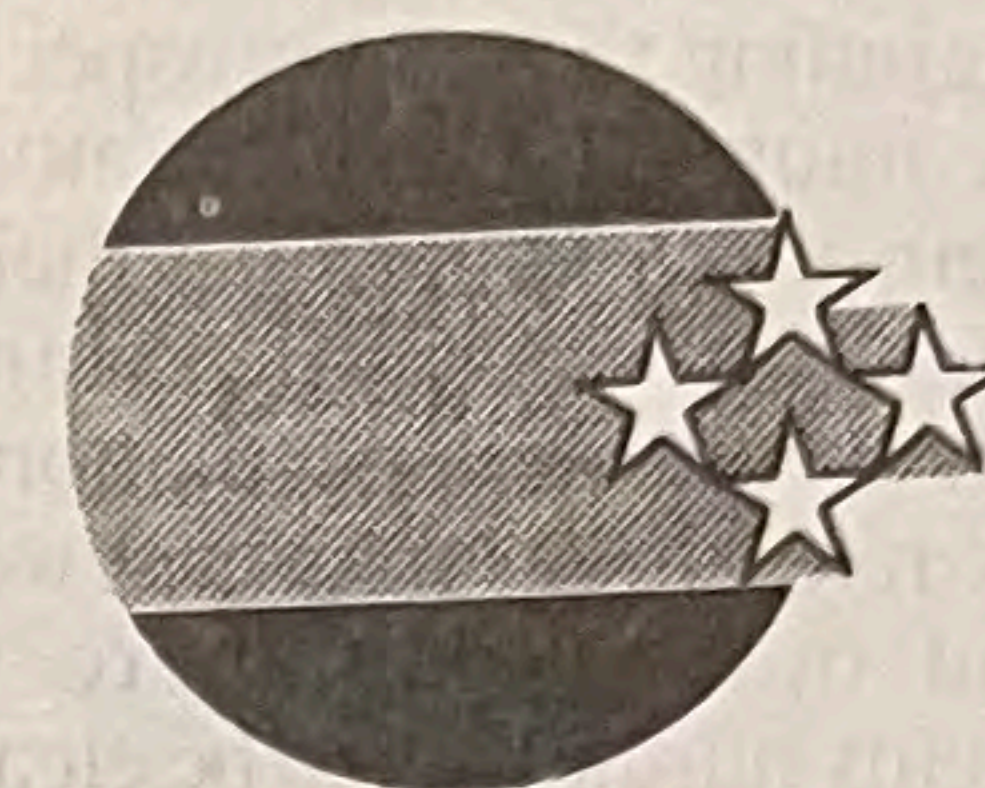
And what had they to do? Synchronize with themselves it seemed - however do you do that?

Watching TV isn't exactly the greatest participant sport in the world - in fact it is not a participant sport at all - but at least us experts, complete with our cans of lager, can marvel at human excellence.

Or at least we can till the Commonwealth Games come along.

When sport on TV is reduced to the level of *Neighbours* (another worthy Commonwealth export) it becomes a farce.

And the truth of the matter is



that sport always treads a narrow line between excellence and farce.

Kicking, heading or catching a ball are not in themselves worthy activities, but allied to athleticism and competition they can bring pleasure and on odd occasions inspiration.

The Commonwealth Games too often fall over into farce. If there is any virtue in the exercise it is that it contributes to keeping the unsporting farce of Gating's rebel cricketers off our TVs.

But that is about all.

Mass coverage of the Games by the BBC reflects the British establishment's commitment to its imperial past. (The Games were called the Empire Games up to the 1950s).

It contributes nothing towards standards of sporting excellence.

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MEETING ON THE FUTURE OF SOCIALISM

The future of Socialism in eastern Europe will be the theme of a public meeting to be held in Dublin on February 7, when Dr. Gyorgy Szoboszlai, General Secretary of the Hungarian Political Science Association, will speak.

Dr. Szoboszlai is a member of the recently formed Hungarian Socialist Party, one of the factions to emerge from the old communist party in that country.

The meeting is being sponsored by the Labour Party, Labour Left, and ATGWU, and takes place in the ATGWU Hall, 55, Middle Abbey Street, Dublin, on Wednesday February 7, at 8.00pm

The meeting will be chaired by Emmet Stagg, TD, and the main response to Dr. Szoboszlai will be made by Ruairi Quinn, TD.

Education Diary

By Raymond O'Connell

Different players playing the same tunes?

Many people, particularly those in the education world, will have heard of Co-operation North - the cross-border education exchange scheme.

It can involve any group of students of 10 years or over, student teachers or teachers.

To help with costs awards are available; £IR45 (£40 sterling) for a pre-exchange planning meeting; £IR275 (£250 sterling) exchange award; and an exceptional travel award of up to £IR150 (£125 sterling).

Trophies can be won for exchanges of particular excellence and home hosting is encouraged where possible.

In the new Northern Ireland curriculum there are six cross-curricula themes which are said to require teaching across subject boundaries.

One of these is *Education for Mutual Understanding* ("about self respect and respect for others and the improvement of relationships between people of differing cultural traditions.")

Another is *Cultural Heritage* ("to enable pupils to know about, understand and evaluate the common experience of the cultural heritage.. the shared, diverse



and distinctive aspects of their cultural heritage...the interdependence of cultures.")

There is also a scheme in Northern Ireland schools involving joint activities between Controlled (Protestant) and Maintained (Catholic) schools and government support for in-



itiatives in religiously integrated education is also well-known.

All of these ventures and activities are clearly aimed at improving community relations in the North and also creating better understanding between young people North and South.

As such they are not educational in its narrowest interpretation and could be said to be attempts to use schools as vehicles for social engineering.

Ironically this is a concept which evokes a similar reaction to 'wet' in the brave new enterprise culture and indeed was one of the Tories' biggest complaints about the aims underlying comprehensive education.

Clearly a lot of resources are being put into this aspect of education at a time when other areas are under-funded.

It remains to be seen how much success they will have. If other areas of government policy towards Northern Ireland remain the same, it seems clear that tinkering of this kind will have little effect on the more hard-line views in various communities across the North.

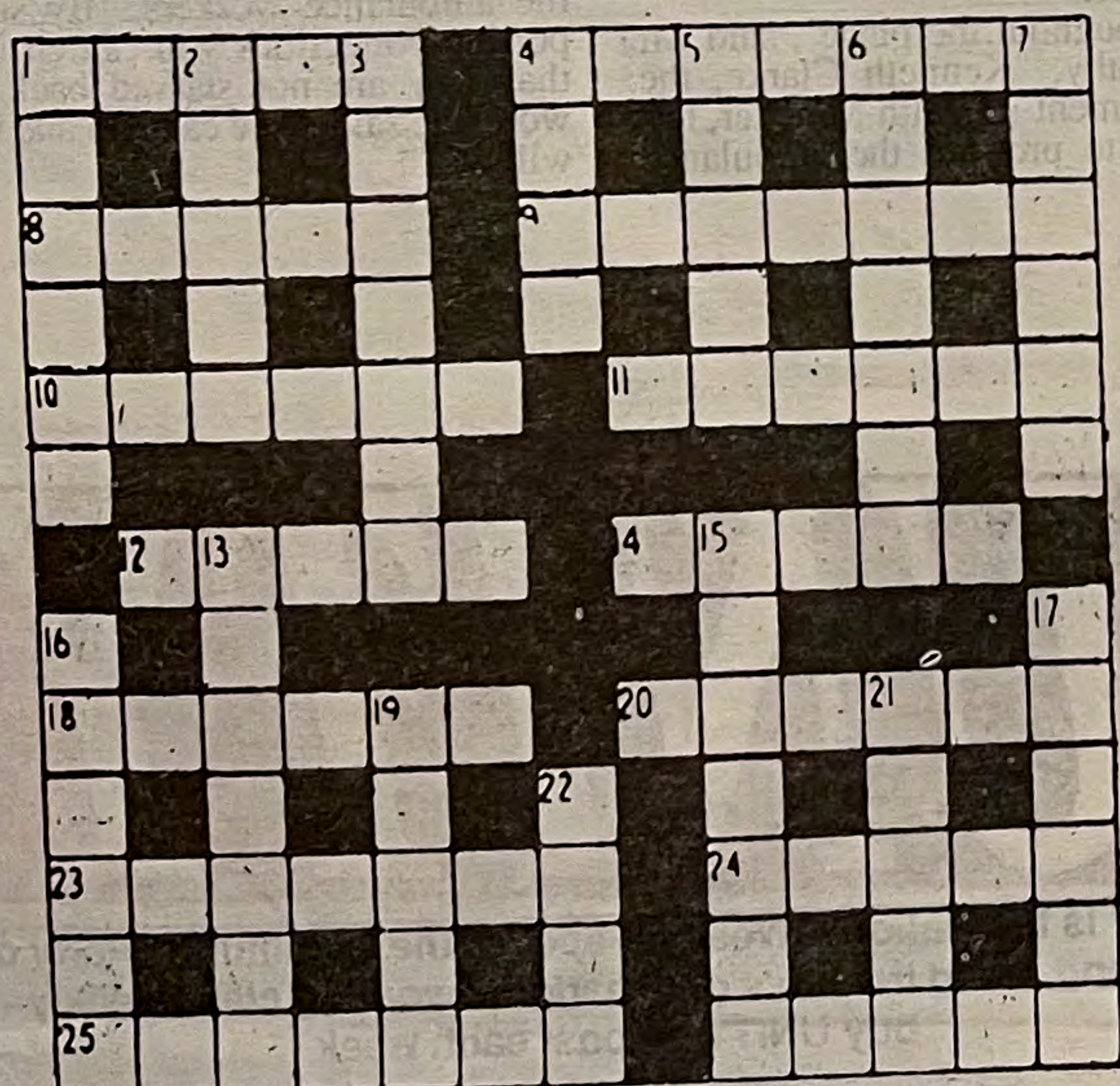
Many people seem resigned to the fact that in another 20 years we will still be in a similar situation - different players perhaps, playing the same tunes.

Speaking personally, I wonder to what extent relationships will be changed, not by initiatives such as the ones I have mentioned, but through the consequences of the changes which will occur in 1992 and those which have occurred recently in Eastern Europe.



UNITY

CROSSWORD



ACROSS

1. Get together (5)
4. Nelson (7)
8. Aspect (5)
9. Go forward (7)
10. Rumour (3-3)
11. Turning point (6)
12. Condition (5)
14. Exclusive story (6)
18. Puppet (6)
20. Make fond of (6)
23. Hug (7)
24. CPI National Paper (5)
25. Big..... (7)
26. Go in (5)

DOWN

1. Imprisoned (6)
2. Bring on oneself (5)
3. Take out (7)
4. Average (4)
5. Not ever (5)
6. Che Guevara (7)
7. Opposed (6)
13. Distress (7)
15. Reprove (7)
16. Value (6)
17. Orison (6)
21. Be (5)
22. Drink (4)

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD

ACROSS: 6. Ozone layer; 8. Ogre; 9. Brer; 10. Natal; 11. Left; 12. Use in time; 16. Greenland; 20. Ions; 22. Music; 23. Unto; 24. Care; 25. Atmosphere.

DOWN: 1. Azores; 2. Inertia; 3. Planet; 4/15. Solar System; 5. Troll; 7. Craft; 13. Ire; 14. Ploughs; 16. Encase; 19. Nature; 21. Smear.

Women at work "face exploitation in the 1990s"

Far from being a golden age for women workers, the 1990s could for many prove to be a decade of low pay, minimal employment rights and exploitation.

The warning comes from a Low Pay Unit study which says that although more companies will seek to recruit and retain women, the measures will be targeted at privileged groups.

"Instead many women will find themselves at the rough end of policies aimed at increased 'flexibility' where it is women, as ever, who will be expected to be flexible."

The report, *Working Women - A Study of Pay and Hours*, published by the Greater Manchester Low Pay Unit, warns that companies are increasingly restricting part-time employment to levels below the National Insurance and employment protection

thresholds. They are also subcontracting work, offering 'nil-hours' contracts and insisting that workers are "self-employed."

Gabrielle Cox, author of the 85-page report comments: "There is much doublespeak in the discussion of women's employment."

"Whilst lip service is given to the need not only for women to join the labour force, but also for them to have careers and job satisfaction, other statements and policies reinforce the view of women workers as secondary and unimportant."

Labour shortages are forcing some employers to take child care seriously - encouraging career breaks and job-sharing - but in areas of high unemployment the chances of companies making changes to attract women are small, she says.

Irish Socialist Review

IRISH
SOCIALIST
REVIEW
No 2, 1989 £1.00



The French
Revolution and
the Irish
Democratic
Tradition

Reaction and the
French
Revolution.

Irish Socialist Review is the theoretical journal of the Communist Party of Ireland, and is available by post from Connolly Books 43 East Essex Street Dublin 2. £1.30 per copy

Media Review

National Pastimes

Sometimes it seems as if television rolls from one large sporting event to another. This is marvellous if, like me, you are a complete couch potato.

In about 5 months time the world media circus will be in Italy.

The fall of the governments of Albania and Cuba or whatever else is happening, will be forgotten as the World Cup Finals get underway.

The big sporting event of the moment is the 14th. Commonwealth Games.

I say 'big,' but, truth be told, it must surely be the lowest of the sporting calendar's highpoints.

The fact that they are being held in Auckland, New Zealand, and are therefore broadcast live in the middle of our night doesn't do much for the profile of the games.

The Commonwealth Games are of course a wonderful throw-back to the good old days when the dominant colour on the world map was a stately English red.

With athletes from the USA, the USSR and the GDR, out of the reckoning, this is a good opportunity for British athletes to prove that they are not total rubbish.

International sport has the effect of strengthening national identity.

It is something around which everybody in a country, regardless of class, can come together as one united group.

Everyone in England, for example, is the same as everyone else in England simply by virtue of being "English."

They are different from everyone else by virtue of the fact that everyone else is not "English."

The strengthening of such an idea has very obvious, and very negative, political consequences.

International sports strengthening the odious and unscientific concept of nationalism is something with which sport fans who hate nationalism, such as myself, have to try to come to terms.

There are a few approaches open to us here. Either we say: "It's only a game," and continue to support "our own" national side. (In the same way we can say *The Benny Hill Show* is only a laugh, and continue to watch it.)

We could also call for the banning of all International Sport on the grounds that it helps to pre-

vent workers from realizing their class position.

I can't see this position gaining much support just at the minute!

There is only one way, I believe, to continue to watch international sport without succumbing to the nationalist disease.

The answer is, in all sports, at all times, to support a team other than "your own" national team.

This is actually quite different - take it from one who knows!

The first time you support Czechoslovakia, or whoever, against the Republic of Ireland or Northern Ireland you don't really take yourself seriously.

You don't really want the Czechs to win.

But, after a few years, you will care not a jot for the fortunes of the men in green.

Your sporting sympathies will lie elsewhere.

Since there isn't a hope of anyone or anything enhancing your belief in your Czech nationality, you will be able to hold your socialist head high as you watch the World Cup and proudly announce that you haven't got a nationalist bone in your body!

PMK

Labour in focus.

Titanic test of strength

The ambulance dispute has turned into a titanic test of strength between the British Government and ambulance staff.

Moving into its 21st. week - and 21 weeks is a mighty long time, it looks like this particular struggle will rank - with the possible exception of the miners - as one of the most dour and bitter struggles in Britain or Ireland since the last war.

On one count alone, ambulance men and women will have won a unique place in working class history.

That is the massive and widespread support they have won from all sections of the public.

This alone should qualify them for a place in the *Guinness Book of Records*.

The latest and most powerful group to throw their hat into the ring are the Church leaders.

They are appealing on humanitarian grounds for the Government to settle the dispute and end the conflict.

Representatives of all the major religious denominations have sent a letter to health service boss,

Duncan Nichol, stating that the dispute is "daily increasing the risk to the health and welfare of thousands of men, women and children."

Signed by leaders of the British Council of Churches, Church of England, Methodist, Baptist and Catholic churches, the letter was sent the day before hundreds of thousands of workers all over the UK stopped work for 15 minutes at noon on Tuesday 30 January in support of the ambulance workers.

The church leaders point out that the unions have agreed to end their action if an inquiry is set up to examine the question of wages and pay formula.

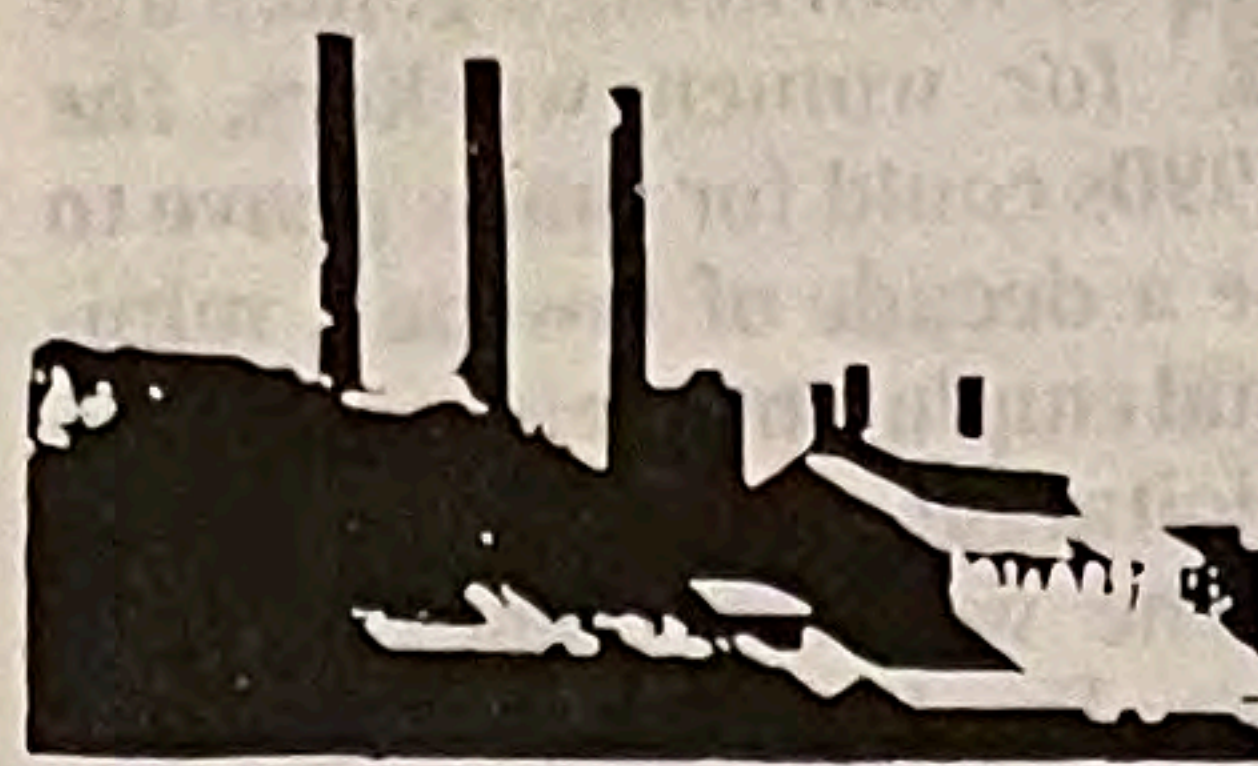
They say they are convinced that "the Government needs to open discussions on the setting up of an independent inquiry."

It's a question now of when the Government will crack in face of mounting public pressure.

GCHQ BAN

The anniversary of the ban on trade union membership at Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ), January 25th, 1990, was marked with a huge protest rally in Cheltenham, last Saturday.

It was actually the sixth anniversary demonstration to be held in Cheltenham since Geof-

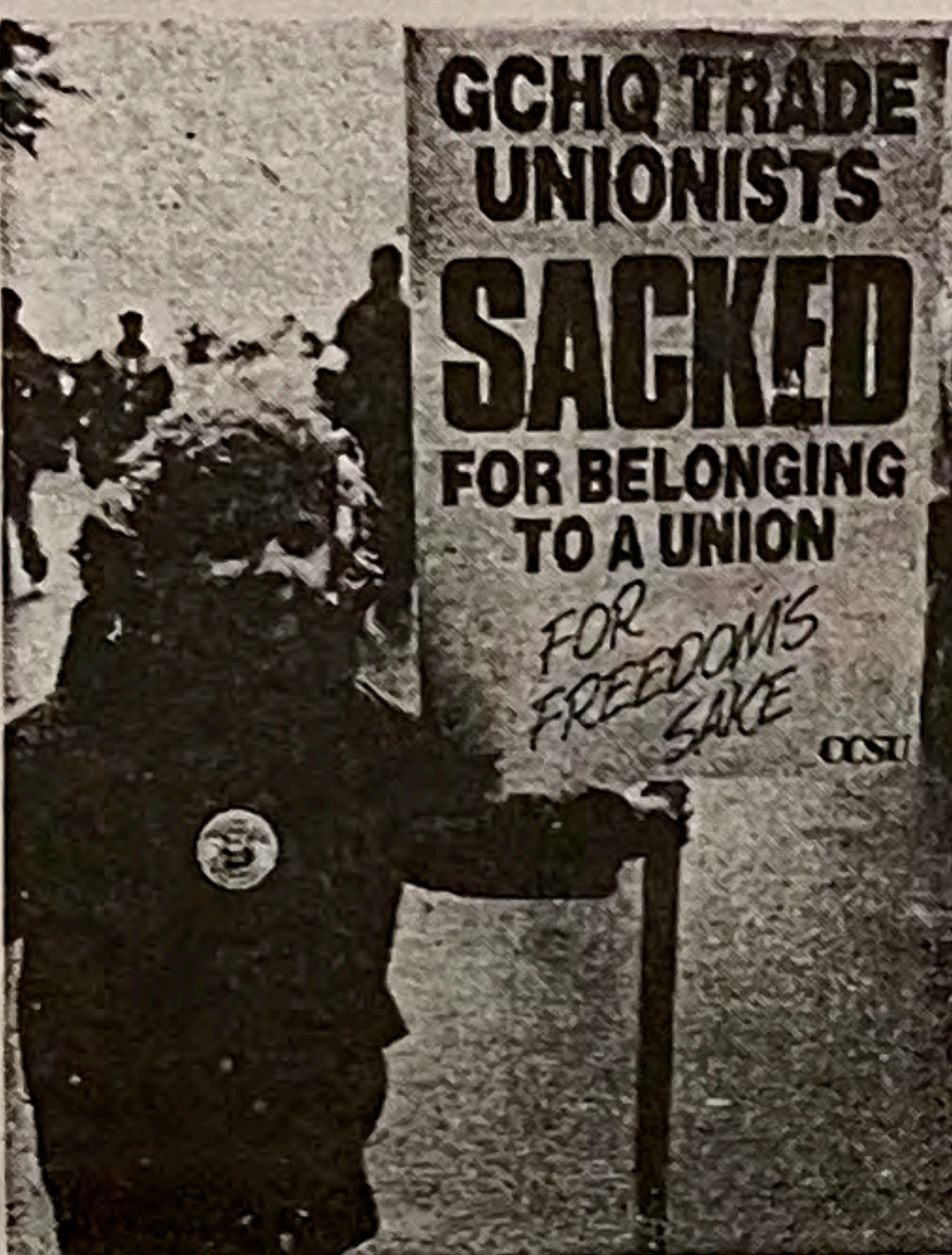


BY LANCE NOAKES

frey Howe announced the banning of trade unions on January 25, 1984.

That very morning, the story goes, a new batch of recruits were officially told that trade union membership was encouraged.

Then a few hours later on that same day, Howe changed the



story. According to him and the Government the fundamental right to belong to a free and independent trade union did not exist any longer at GCHQ.

Despite brave attempts by a group of dedicated union members to retain their jobs while stoutly refusing to relinquish union memberships, they were finally ousted from their place of employment.

DWINDLING

Thatcher and Co still maintain, in spite of dwindling support, that membership of a free trade union at GCHQ puts security at risk.

No proof of this has ever been made available. Rather, the opposite has been shown to be the case.

Leslie Christie, general secretary of the civil service union NUCPS, states that "Trade unionists over the years have demonstrated their commitment and loyalty by never allowing essential work to be disrupted."

He says, in an article in the *Morning Star*, 27.1.90, that management tried to set up an alter-

native organization called GCHQ Staff Federation.

But it failed in December to get the necessary certificate of independence from the certification officer for trade unions and employers' associations.

The certification officer, who is not noted for refusing requests, remarks Christie, stated in his letter of refusal: "The Federation appears to continue to function subject to the approval of the director."

DAMNING

Such a damning indictment of this "independent" organization, he goes on, "was clearly a slap in the face to both the director and the Government."

It was also a great Christmas present for the GCHQ trade unions."

The Cheltenham demonstration was made up of union members from Scotland and Wales and from all over England.

As in previous years a delegation from the Northern Ireland Public Service Alliance was present.

Along with them in a tremendous show of solidarity, were representatives from the Dublin-based Public Service Executive Union.

MOVING

In a moving story in last Saturday's *Morning Star*, Mike Grindley, one of those victimized by GCHQ, declared, in a reference to the Cheltenham rally, that: "The purpose of all is single minded. The Thatcher Government will not be allowed to get away with banning trade unions anywhere."

"When things oppress, my habit is to take a look in the old radical press of the last century, for there is nothing new under the sun."

He quotes from the old *Cheltenham Free Press* of 1841, when the Chartist movement was in its heyday:

"Every man holds in his hand the hammer to break the chains with which he is bound. Take courage for there never was a just cause which begun by perseverance, did not end in triumph."

Mike Grindley has chosen well. That inspiring passage matches to a 't' the situation of the victimized GCHQ trade unionists...and fits exactly the struggle of our ambulance workers - don't you agree?

NIPSA opposes 120 security cut

Over 120 civil servants working as security guards are to be paid off in February.

This represents almost half the total security guards in Northern Ireland.

The public service union NIPSA blames the pay-offs on a Government decision to contract out security functions.

The union states that the majority of those being made redundant were employed outside the Belfast area where unemployment was high.

The job losses, to take effect from February 2, will be based on both voluntary and compulsory premature retirements.

NIPSA is opposing the contracting out of security functions arguing that it will bring less security, bought on the cheap from private firms paying low wages.

It claims that private contractors paid below the civil service

rate and quoted an example of a contractor offering existing staff on one location the chance of employment with them at a mere £1.60 an hour or £69 a week.

And 50 hours had to be worked in a week before an overtime rate was paid.

Security guards in the civil service receive almost £4 an hour, plus overtime paid at time-and-a-half and double time for Sundays, say union representatives.

If the contractors take over, it goes on, the Government will end up subsidizing workers' wages through Family Credit and Income Support.

The union is to take note of the security provided by private firms and will be approaching the civil service if the work is not up to standard.

From page 1.

Mass support for ambulance workers

She went on to announce a magnificent gesture made by the Dublin Fire Service who had brought a cheque for one thousand pounds to contribute to the ambulance worker's hardship fund. Pat McCarten pledged the ongoing support of the ICTU in the struggle for a well trained, well resourced and well paid ambulance service. "In Northern Ireland the worth of the ambulance service is better understood because of the role they have played in the countless tragedies that have occurred here over the years", said Mr McCarten. "We must ensure a successful outcome to their action!"

Bob Abernethy outlined the strategy of the union negotiators in seeking to carry public opinion with the ambulance workers and maximise public pressure on the doctrinaire government of Margaret Thatcher.

"Throughout the piece", said Mr Abernethy, "Kenneth Clarke, the Government's Health Minister, has sought to provoke the ambulance

workers into taking strike action". "The unions have offered a formula which would, in effect, give the Government something they claim to be seeking generally in vital services, a guarantee of no strike action", said Mr Abernethy.

"Despite that offer Kenneth Clarke refused to budge from his position that there will be no additional money made available to the NHS negotiators!" This point exposed the real concern of the Government, to ensure that the collective action of workers, supported by a sympathetic public, is not seen to overcome the authority and power of this anti trade union Government.

He urged the workers, "Do not be provoked, our strategy is working!" He called on the general public, and trade unionists in particular, to continue and increase their support for the ambulance workers. "By supporting collections you can ensure that they are not starved back to work" he said. "We can win and we will win!"



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Higher dole queues predicted.

According to a CBI forecast based on quarterly industrial surveys, the future looks bleak for the workers in Northern Ireland and Britain.

Dole queues are expected to lengthen drastically as according to the CBI survey 28 per cent of firms expect to lay off workers within the next four months, with only 9 per cent forecasting the prospect of more jobs.

According to the chairman of CBI David Wrigglesworth, "Domestic orders are falling. Out put is flat.

Prices are being squeezed by competition...

"Manufacturers are therefore having to cut their own costs whenever possible and this is being done primarily by reducing the numbers of employees and by holding back their investment plans," he said.

In other words the working people will suffer further hardship due to the British Tory Government's policies.

Manufacturing employment, according to the survey, is expected to all by 10,000 a month in the first quarter.

British Labour's trade and industry spokesperson, Gordon Brown, said: "With 28 per cent of firms now expecting to lay off workers and 43 per cent working below capacity, this pessimistic survey from the CBI emphasizes the need for an investment budget for industry and training."

But the opportunities for real job creation and an increase in production will not be forthcoming under the present British Government.

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