

Ireland

THE YOUNG COMMUNIST LEAGUE CALLS FOR:

POLITICAL SOLUTION

NOT MILITARY

THE CRISIS IN IRELAND CONTINUES.....

Over TWO THOUSAND civilians have been killed and 30,000 injured in the last 10 years. Over 250 soldiers have been killed and now bombs are exploding again on the British mainland. This follows only a few months after the H-Block crisis where other lives were lost.


WHAT IS HAPPENING IN IRELAND?

The 'troubles' in Northern Ireland are a direct result of British policy. In 1921 the country was partitioned against the will of the majority of its inhabitants and a sizeable Catholic minority was imprisoned in this forced 6 county state.

Partition was disastrous because it made the economy of Ireland very weak. In the South there was an artificial dependance on agriculture, while in the North the scarcity of jobs always kept alive the rivalry between Catholics and Protestants. In fact the Protestant-Unionists enjoyed a privileged position. Bad economic conditions and terrible unemployment allow this discrimination to remain a powerful force.


It was British policy to turn a blind eye to discrimination against Catholics. They consistently refuse to recognise that partition is at the root of the troubles, preferring to present the situation as a simplistic conflict between Catholic and Protestant.

The British Army in Ireland, reinforced in 1969 to 'defend' the Catholic population is now trying to impose a military solution to the political problem created. It has frequently carried out acts of brutality, torture and even cold blooded murder. This experience could easily be used against the civilian population in Britain if the authorities here felt threatened.




The I.R.A. Arose as a reaction to harassment of the catholic population by British troops and loyalist thugs. They see their bombings and killings as a war of liberation on behalf of the Irish people. Unfortunately their actions only make the situation worse as they divide loyalist from republican workers, and cause a lot of hostility from ordinary British people. The Young Communist League condemns the killings carried out by the Army, and the Republican and Unionist forces and campaigns for a political solution to the situation in Northern Ireland.

This must lie in the longterm in the re-unification of the 32 counties. To create the conditions for this the Young Communist League demands from the British Government:-

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- * A declaration of intent to withdraw completely from Irish affairs.
 - * The repeal of the emergency powers act and the prevention of terrorism act - these are amongst the most repressive laws in Europe and are used to harass any critics of Government policy.
 - * A Bill of rights for all citizens of Northern Ireland - this would ensure equal rights for all and help break up sectarianism.
 - * An end to direct rule and its replacement by an assembly with adequate powers, elected by Proportional Representation.
 - * The withdrawal of troops to barracks pending complete withdrawal - this would prevent possible sectarian strife until troops can be removed completely.
 - * The disbanding of the U.D.R. and the R.U.C. and the creation of a non-sectarian police force.
 - * Abolition of the 'non-jury' diplock courts and a re-trial for all those arrested under this system.

To help restore democracy in Northern Ireland so that Britain can withdraw completely, why not join the Young Communist League.



I wish to join/receive more information about Britains Young Communists.

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