

The

An Camchéachta

Starry Plough



Newspaper of the Irish Republican Socialist Party

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**RESTORE
POLITICAL
STATUS
NOW!**

IRSP 392 FALLS ROAD
BELFAST
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PRISON PROTEST WILL GO ON UNTIL VICTORY!

The Republican prisoners currently protesting against the forced integration policy of the NIO should be supported by all shades of republicanism and thankfully there are now signs that this is indeed happening. The ongoing protest will bring back many memories for members of the Republican Socialist Movement for members of the RSM were instrumental in the prison protests of the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s.

Members of the IRSP and INLA were among the first to go on the blanket in 1975. Three INLA members lost their lives on hungerstrike while two INLA volunteers were killed engaging the enemy following the announcement of deaths in Long Kesh during the 1981 fast.

Members of the National H-Block/Armagh Committee who were members of the IRSP and INLA were systematically assassinated in their homes by secret death squads whose identities to this day have yet to be known. There is widespread belief that the British contributed either directly or indirectly in their deaths because of their involvement in the prisoners campaign.

So the Irish Republican Socialist Movement knows only too well the realities of fighting an aggressive prison protest against the British. The IRSM know the dangers of embarking on principled protest on the inside of Britain's gaols in Ireland and know the risks involved in actively supporting the prisoners from the outside also.

But the IRSM also know that there is an inner strength amongst republican prisoners who know they are right and have a belief that they will eventually win. Following the 1981 hungerstrike concessions were made to the prisoners. They were recognised as political prisoners in all but name. They had their own structures inside Long Kesh and looked after their own affairs on their wings.

Republican Socialist prisoners were also involved in other prison protests that led to victories for themselves against a vindictive prison regime. Irish POWs in English jails were being denied repatriation to Irish prisons in the mid nineties until a protest started by INLA pows led to the prisoners being repatriated within weeks of the no wash protest starting. INLA prisoners in Portlaoise started a hungerstrike in 1995 against the refusal of the authorities to treat the INLA equally in terms of compassionate paroles with IRA prisoners and won concessions also.

It is victories such as these that inspire the men in Maghaberry today for they know that victory is in sight. They know they have the support of their friends and families on the outside and that will inspire them to victory. Political Status was signed away under the GFA even though ten men gave their lives to attain it in 1981. The prisoners of Maghaberry in 2003 are no different to the prisoners of Long Kesh in the 1970s. They were told "NO" by the British and they never gave up. The IRSP join others in the call for **"POLITICAL STATUS NOW!"**

EAGARFHOCAL
THIS IS NOT CULTURE!
Page2

ANAILIS
POLITICAL STATUS
NOW! Page3

TIONSCLAIOCH
THE CAPITALISTS
VETO Page5

MEMORIAL PROJECT
LATEST NEWS
Page 7,8 & 9

THE VOICE OF IRISH REPUBLICAN SOCIALISM!

Teagmháil Contact

The Irish Republican Socialist Party has established Cummain in all major cities and towns throughout Ireland as well as Republican Socialist Committees in Europe, United States & Canada.

Each IRSP cumann meets on a weekly basis to activate, educate and organise events locally such as public and political educational meetings, solidarity protests, pickets and demonstrations from community to workplace struggles.

The Irish Republican Socialist Party has active Cummain, as well as individual members and supporters in the following towns and cities across Ireland, to contact and get involved with the nearest IRSP Cumann in your area write to:

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Armagh: For further details Email: irsp@irsm.org	Dundalk: Email: dublinirsp@hotmail.com
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Derry: P.O. Box 1981, Derry, BT48 8GX. Email: derryirsp@hotmail.com	Limerick: Email: irsp@irsm.org
Donegal: Email: derryirsp@hotmail.com	Newry: Email: irsp@irsm.org
	Strabane: Email: derryirsp@hotmail.com

Europe: irsp@netwizards.net
 IRSP has members, supporters and contacts active in many working class campaigns and prisoner solidarity in towns and cities throughout England, Scotland and Wales, and across Europe, write to our International Department for further details on how you can actively participate.
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 IRSC has members, supporters and contacts active in working class struggles and prisoner solidarity throughout United States, Canada and Latin America. Write for further details on how you too can actively participate.

IRSM Online & Other Links
Official IRSM Website: <http://irsm.org/irsp/>
Prisoner of War Website: <http://irsm.org/irspows/>
IRSM Statements: <http://irsm.org/statements/>
Ex Republican Socialist POW Support Organisations:
Teach Na Failte (Strabane): 31 Patrick Street, Strabane, Tyrone
 Tel/Fax: 028 71 884616
Teach Na Failte (Belfast): 392b Falls Road, Belfast, BT12 6DH.
 Tel/Fax: 028 90238321
Solidarity with Turkish Hunger Strikers Committee (Dublin): www.geocities.com/turkishhungerstrike/
Free Dessie O'Hare Campaign http://irsm.org/irsp/free_dessie/
Republican Socialist Archieve Project P.O. Box 1981, Derry, BT48 8GX. or derryirsp@hotmail.com
James Connolly Society: www.wageslave.org/jcs/
Larkspirit: www.larkspirit.com
Star r y Plough Online www.irsm.org/irsp/starryplough

Got a Story? Let us know plough@irsm.org

If you would like to highlight an issue of concern in your area and would like to have it published in the pages of The Starry Plough then get in touch at the address above or contact a local IRSP representative, The Starry Plough is your paper.

For national and international news, or news for your workplace, community or action group then please send your articles, photographs, reports and any other information to The Starry Plough at the following address:

The Starry Plough/An Camchéachta
 PO BOX 1981
 DERRY
 IRELAND
 BT48 8GX

Deadline for next issue of An Camchéachta is 20th September 2003.

Apology
 The staff of the **Star r y Plough** apologise to our readership, supporters and subscribers for the non-appearance of the June/July '03 issue. This was due to a technical problem which has now been sorted out.

JOIN THE IRSP!

Send completed form to the address nearest to you on the above contact list.

Join Ireland's ONLY party dedicated to the removal of British rule AND capitalism!

Ainm/Name: **FOR NATIONAL**

Seoladh/Address: **LIBERATION AND**

..... **SOCIALIST**

..... **REVOLUTION!**

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Eagar fhocal

THIS IS NOT CULTURE!

All the loyalist factions in the year 2003 have been involved in either killings, gun running, targeting or random attacks on Catholic homes. The hatred and bigotry against Catholics is as strong if not stronger in many sections of the loyalist community. The failure of those who consider themselves British/Unionist to confront that hatred is an abject failure of leadership. Orange marches fuel that hatred. Feel the hatred around the 12th bonfires, watch the drunkenness the vomit the dancing of young people around those self same bonfires and tell us that is culture.

Unionist politicians place great store on their British or Orange culture. We now see huge amounts of money paid out to turn a local dialect into a language, which no body actually speaks. Attempts are being made to push the 12th of July as a sort of "Ulster Mardi Gras" Enough of this clap trap.

Republicans Socialists want to see unity between all sections of the working class, a unity based on class not religious interests. But we must challenge reactionary and wrong ideas and beliefs. We clearly recognise that reactionary loyalism and unionism do not speak for the vast majority of the protestant working class. But it is up to that class to challenge the bigotry and hatred that daily confronts us all.

One of the by products of the peace process was the growth in awareness by many of the views of others. New words entered the political vocabulary. "Inclusiveness" "bridging" "Bonding." " Reaching out" "single identity" "belonging" "dialogue" and "cultural identity."

Wonderful words that make those involved in community work and in conflict resolution sound sometimes like "spiritual gurus".

Don't be fooled. Smart language sometimes is used to hide the ugly reality of life. While the IRSP has no problems engaging in dialogue with our political enemies we have no illusions about them.

Most republicans and nationalists want to see better relations with unionists, acknowledge that there is some sectarianism within nationalist areas and work to combat that sectarianism. The leaders of Republicanism and Nationalism work hard to achieve some understanding.

The leaders of Unionism and Orangeism do not. They take part in the 12th's triumphalism, share platforms with loyalist gunmen and begrudge any gains that nationalist have made. The unionist leadership is imbued with sectarianism that they try to disguise as Britishness.

The reality is that sectarianism can never be defeated within the confines of sectarian British state. The consolidation of a Stormont assembly will be the consolidation of sectarianism.

Stormont rule - End British Rule - On to the Workers Republic!!

An Camchéachta

The Starry Plough or An Camchéachta was first established in 1975 as the national newspaper of the Irish Republican Socialist Party.

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 The Starry Plough/An Camchéachta,
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Star r y Plough

Fighting Fund Appeal

The Starry Plough is the only paper that stands firmly against British rule and for the destruction of capitalism in Ireland.

We need your support to enable us to continue the work of building a political newspaper that genuinely represents the interests of the working class. In order for us to do so, we urge you to make a donation to The Starry Plough 'Fighting Fund Appeal'!

Please send your donations big or small to:

The Starry Plough
 First Trust Bank, Derry, BT48 6BU.
 Account No. 14986015
 Sort Code No. 93-86-10
 You can also take out a standing order that will enable

us to plan on a more regular income for The Starry Plough.

I enclose:
 €1,000 €100,00 €50,00 €20,00
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 Other donation (please specify)
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PRISON CRISIS DEEPENS

SUPPORT THE FIGHT FOR POLITICAL STATUS AND SEGREGATION

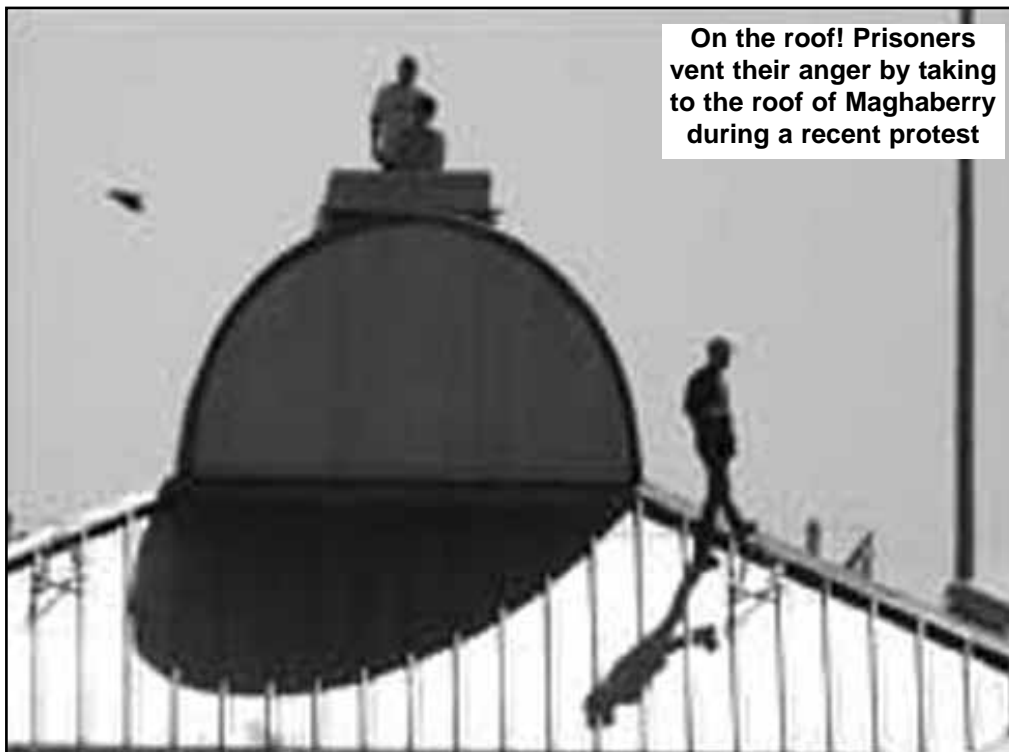


The ongoing protest actions by republican prisoners in Maghaberry prison show no sign of abating and are actually gaining strength and support on the outside. Protest rallies have been attracting bigger crowds as the protest gets more coverage in the media. Groups previously not overtly expressing support for the prisoners have also begun to come around and are issuing calls for segregation although some of these calls fall short of calling for full political status and this must come about.

Recently Republican prisoners took to the roof of Maghaberry after being forced to share cells with Loyalist prisoners. This is an intolerable situation and must be opposed by all right thinking people.

From the rooftop protest the situation has developed and the Republican prisoners have since embarked on a no-wash protest. This is where protesting prisoners smear the walls of their cells with their own excrement, a very unpleasant protest action but one that shows the resolve of the prisoners concerned. It began with some sentenced prisoners but spread to prisoners who were on remand. Details are sketchy but it is thought that currently there are around twenty prisoners involved.

There is now the very real danger that a threatened hunger strike could take place inside Maghaberry. This will be a very risky strategy for the prisoners involved although there is little doubt that the prisoners have the strength to carry this through to its conclusion if the NIO refuse to grant the prisoners the rights that were won in 1981 when the IRA and INLA POWS embarked on a similar protest for the same aims.



On the roof! Prisoners vent their anger by taking to the roof of Maghaberry during a recent protest

Anti-Social Behavior on the Increase

The IRSP in North Belfast are calling for a concerted community effort to tackle the problem of anti-social behavior in the Bone and Ballybone areas.

North Belfast IRSP representative Paul Little said: "The problem for residents of the Oldpark/Cliftonville has increased tenfold in recent years, and whilst most of the problems involve drink and drug abuse among young people, there is still the problem of massive social deprivation in the area.

"Community groups in the area are trying hard to alleviate the problem. They do so almost single-handedly and are massively under-resourced. In the most recent incident, an occupied house in Ballyclare Court was rendered uninhabitable by a gang of youths who smashed the toilet and sinks, and poured paint all over the interior of the house. The resident of the house, a young single parent who is suffering from drug and alcohol problems, is being exploited by the gang of youths looking for somewhere to 'party'.

"The IRSP was approached by the mother and father of the single parent, who were at their wits' end trying to give love and support to their kin, in an attempt, not only to highlight the problem, but also to try and combat this serious scourge against the local community.

"The IRSP are calling on all interested people but, most importantly, the local community to come together with local community groups to devise and put into action a programme specifically tailored to tackle this problem. Young people in North Belfast need to take responsibility for their own actions and understand that this type of activity destroys the quality of life for all the residents including themselves. Community groups, funding resources, and statutory agencies need to become more proactive in their activities to assist those young people who are most at risk."

The IRSP representative concluded: "The IRSP in North Belfast will be seeking meetings with those statutory agencies with a responsibility for youth provision in the Oldpark area to do a community audit, to ascertain exactly what is required and what can be achieved in the area. People who suffered so much during the conflict here deserve much better services than are presently available."

CAN'T PAY! WON'T PAY!

THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST WATER CHARGES GETS UNDERWAY

By Peter Black

The supply of clean drinking water to our homes must by anyone's definition be an important measure of the degree of civilisation attained by society.

The 22,000 kilometres of water mains pumping around 710 million litres into 98 percent of homes in the North of Ireland date largely from Victorian times.

As a result of years of neglect, this vital infrastructure is beginning to crumble. Environment minister Lord Dubs admits, "Although our water is safe to drink, customers do at times complain about the smell, taste and colour of the water coming out of their taps. Some of the main sewers in Belfast date from Victorian times and may in places be at risk of collapsing with unpleasant consequences. Some discharge untreated storm sewage into watercourses at times of high rainfall. Many of our waste water treatment works also need to be improved so that their discharges meet the higher standards."

That our sewerage and water supply system have been allowed to fall into such a state of disrepair tells us a great deal about the priorities of modern capitalism. We are all aware of the crimes perpetrated by the system in Victorian times, but one thing they did do was build the infrastructure of society, the roads and the sewers, without recourse to any quick return on

their investment. They were at least more far sighted in understanding that not only did business itself require that infrastructure in order to operate, but also it was necessary to provide clean water even to workers, or at least to some workers, to cut down on sickness and disease.

Having allowed the infrastructure to crumble, the British Government report now argues that at least £2.5 billion will need to be spent on repairs and modernisation in the next 15 to 20 years. That will mean an additional investment of £50 - 80 million per year over the period. Excellent. That investment is much needed and can serve not only to update our sewerage and water supply but also to create thousands of new jobs. It all sounds a little too good to be true. Where's the catch?

Environment Minister Lord Dubs lets the cat out of the bag in his consultation paper, "Northern Ireland must spend substantially more on its water and sewerage services. This will inevitably

mean higher charges for consumers."

So once again we are being asked to foot the bill for crumbling capitalism. That's what degree of civilisation this system offers us; it can't even guarantee to supply us with clean drinking water.

The British Government is only 'proposing' this of course in their consultation paper. It is for Stormont to decide. The dirty job of deciding how to make workers pay for the much needed investment in our infrastructure - direct charges, privatisation, higher rates or a combination of such measures - is a matter for 'local democracy'. However this 'democracy' is turned on and off like a tap by Westminster, and it is currently in the off position.

In the American Civil War they had a slogan, "No taxation without representation". The British government is currently withholding even the semblance of such representation, the assembly is suspended. In any case, even when it meets, Stormont does not constitute representation for the working class.

The interests of ordinary workers from all backgrounds are not present there. The establishment parties, whatever their shade of orange or green, comfortably ensconced in their Stormont

offices, all represent the interests of capitalism. They may disagree on which method to adopt to make workers pay, but they will all be agreed that it is workers from all communities who must pay for any new investment in public services like water supply. The proposed investment is urgently needed, but we should not foot the bill. Nor should private companies be allowed to squeeze profits out of such a basic necessity. Private contractors will not have quality of water supply, but profits for themselves and their shareholders, at the top of their agenda.

The deterioration of our water

NO TO WATER CHARGES!

THE IRSP BELIEVES THAT:

Water is such a vital utility to the people that it must remain in public ownership!

Any attempts to introduce water rates should be resisted!

In the event of water charges being introduced, a campaign of resistance against cuts etc be developed!

We call parties that call themselves "progressive" to make an explicit statement of intent that they will not pursue the introduction of water rates!

JOIN THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST WATER CHARGES IN YOUR AREA CONTACT:

Irish Republican Socialist Party
392 Falls Road, Belfast BT 12 - 028 90 321024
<http://www.irsm.org> - johnmartins@eircom.net

END SLAVE LABOUR

It is estimated that over 10,000 illegal immigrants who neither have a work permit or have applied for asylum are being employed in the 26 counties economy. They often work in precarious jobs, at very low wages and in difficult conditions.

Illegal immigrants are a source of cheap labour and a good means to create division in the working class. If they refuse their condition, the employers can threaten to report them to the Gardaí. Illegal immigrants are even more vulnerable because there are no legal sanctions for the employers who exploit them, apart from tiny fines up to €250!

In James Connolly's day, there had been an influx in Ireland of immigrants from Eastern Europe, mostly Jews fleeing persecutions. Connolly had his party's programme translated into Yiddish, because he thought it very important that immigrant workers be organised to fight in the class struggle.

Today, there are 10,000 illegal immigrants among the Irish working class. Added to all legal immigrants, this makes a significant amount of workers that are, for the majority, outside trade union and political structures. Republican Socialists should reach out and defend this immigrant Irish working class both against racism and exploitation by Irish employers. What can be done? Republican Socialists could organise to name and shame those employers, and campaign that any employer found guilty of paying illegal workers below the minimum wage should be prosecuted irrespective of whether the person is entitled to be in the country or not.

It is our task to win those immigrants to the cause of Republican Socialism.

TIONSCLAÍOCH

DECENT HOMES FOR EVERYONE!

IRSP SAY BERTIES HOUSING PLANS IS A JOKE!

The Irish Republican Socialist Party have rejected plans laid out earlier this month by the 26 county administration as a joke.

A spokesperson for the IRSP in Dublin said that "Plans set out by Bertie and his cronies are nothing but a joke to trick the people affected by raising housing prices into believing that they in some way care about them."

"The fact is that this may well be sighted as one of the biggest projects undertaken by any administration in decades however it is also the case that it has been decades since any of them have coughed up for decent housing in this country."

As part of the planned housing project, the administrations new initiative is said to be giving up waste land potted around the county which is own by the state in order to meet only half of the 10,000 new houses targeted over the next two to four years which

comes under the national pay deal drawn up between the unions, the bosses and the administration itself.

So far, The ICTU have come out and supported the announcement by the Taoiseach however a Dublin IRSP spokesperson angered by the decision said:

"There is already an estimated 50,000 families on the official housing waiting lists and for the government to simply build a fraction of homes required is not to be welcomed at all. Berties' lot have no intention to supplying affordable homes as they have already put a price on every house that is to be built in an attempt to get more people onto the property ladder. In say that these home will only be available to those who can actually afford the price!"

The Housing Market in the past number of years has priced thousands out of being able to live their own communities whilst a tiny few have creamed off the

HOUSING: NOTHING HAS CHANGED!

Over 40,000 homes across the six counties have been listed as being 'unfit for humans' by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive(NIHE).

The news broke as NIHE earmarked 41 million pounds to assist home improvement through grants for private sector housing. The Irish Republican Socialist Party in Belfast said in a statement that "Nothing has change in the way of social housing in some areas it is just as bad as the 1960's".

"It isn't that surprising when you look at the growth in the overall population here during the past decade or more, then take the fact that social housing developments have been reduced dramatically. Nothing has change in the way of social housing in some areas. Many who seek advice at our office have said that it is just as bad as it was the 1960's."

"For republican socialists it is completely unacceptable that many are still forced to exist in this day and age, in such conditions. To ask those who say that life is getting better, we would say, who for?"

"The crisis in social housing has got to a stage were it is directly affecting the lives and general health of thousands of people and their families. This is an issue that crosses the division of the working class communities and the Irish Republican Socialist Party believes that it is a another unifying struggle which requires the collective action of our class to ensure that is crime is brought to an end."

benefits from it. A worrying trend that looks set to continue.

Dublin IRSP spokesperson ended the statement saying: "The administration has even failed to take into consideration the views expressed by

anti-poverty support groups who work daily who the homeless which is also a great concern but can I state that it is the belief of the Irish Republican Socialist Party that this is not a project that will tackle the countries dire need for decent

social housing but rather an unacceptable stunt by those in power to assist the wealthy to cream off more profits for themselves and those in big business!"

FIREFIGHTERS STATE: WE'LL BE BACK HERE AGAIN!

In a three to one vote to end the nine-month battle, FBU union leaders accepted a 16% pay deal in what was one of the bitterest industrial disputes for years. At national gathering of the FBU in Glasgow, firefighter leaders voted for a 16% increase in pay based over two and a half years.

For many this was indeed a climb down by representatives as the clause will mean modernisation of the fire service, of which firefighters believe the lives of the general public will be put at risk.

In a 20 minute speech being booed throughout by many angered at its content, as FBU chief Andy Gilchrist called on officials to accept the deal.

The Starry Plough spoke to firefighters in the northeast following the Glasgow vote. All of who were involved in the 9 month strike, said that they felt "demoralised" by the way the "leadership handled discussions" to date. All of them agreed that the outcome would in turn concern public service workers generally on both islands.

One said, "There is an air about the place that wasn't here before. We truly feel as if the leadership has let us down, big time. We discussed it many times during the past months over a cuppa on the pickets and we said that 'no



matter what we would stick together!' even though most of us had a take-home-pay of £40 at the end of some weeks due to stoppages."

The Starry Plough asked another as to the mood following the vote he said, "It feels like a kick in the teeth. We feel demoralised at the way in which our leaders handled discussions and the votes that came thereafter, accepting something that none of us wanted!

"Many like myself had hoped for something higher than what has been agreed and the way in which New Labour intend to restructure the service complete-

ly within the next member of years."

That fear is now thought to be rumbling across the public sector as it is a sign that it may just be a draft or blue print on its future in terms of our hospitals, education other public services.

Continuing he said "This will of course mean cut backs due to safety and further job losses.

"The bosses (union leadership) have pulled the carpet from under our feet as we all had been prepared to give what ever it would take to get a level of pay that respected the work we do and to save us and other workers

from being 'streamlined' by fat cats.

"This won't be the end of it, not by a long shot. The reality is that there is now going to be for sure jobs lost. We are unsure just how many but it will make recent job losses look like a drop in the ocean.

"Lives will be lost because if this disgraceful settlement which was to the forefront of our concerns from the beginning. It's not over as public service workers will have to take stock of our actions and learn from the lessons we have went through.

"Despite all that let no one be

left in any doubt, no one can ever break the solidarity made between all of us, the workers that supported us and the communities where we come from.

"There is a feeling that we'll be back here again at some stage."

FEARS NEED TO BE ADDRESSED

An Irish Republican Socialist Party representative has spoken to our reporter on the setbacks now facing firefighters who stated "The result is that it could in one way be viewed as a setback for workers as many now face an uncertain period ahead with regards jobs losses and safety.

"However by their struggle they have gained an increase in take home rate of pay but when you take into consideration that that increase is tied to further modernisation plans it is obviously a concern to everyone.

"Our party fully agree with workers and we equally agree that safety above all else will be brought into question. Such concerns and fears need to be addressed with out delay!"

Developing A Healthy Scepticism: *A Critique of Capitalism*

By Kevin Morley

In today's world many people, that is those who take any interest at all in politics, rely on newspapers and television to do their thinking for them. For example a TV presenter is interviewing two politicians about health services. The politician from the party in opposition is angry about cuts in government support for hospitals: fewer beds, fewer nurses, closure of wards, machines lying idle.

The government minister is patiently explaining that the government is spending more than ever before on health, and therefore should not be criticized' (Economics David Begg, Stanley Fischer and Rodger Dombusch P. 8). An example of such media coverage of a politician's account of themselves and their parties performance would be Bertie Aherns defense against critics who are accusing him and his government of not delivering on their election promises.

On health the opposition parties, Fine Gael and Labour, pointed that health staffing has gone up by 5,000, but deadlines on waiting lists have not been met. Mr. Ahern responded by saying 'last term, we fulfilled 95 pc-plus of our programme over five years, and this government will do much the same (Fianna Fail and The progressive Democrats were re-elected). Government spending was up across a range of Government Headings' (ibid.) One of which can only be assumed to be health. The Irish Independent on Thursday 19th June 2003 reported Finance Minister Charlie McCreevy as saying 'reform of the hospital sector was "urgent" while at the same time warning government departments to stay within their budgets which have already proved, certainly in the case of health, inadequate.

People see and read lots of interviews like this every week in many different countries. What do they make of them? Their first instinct is probably that one of the politicians, or more to the point what passes for a politician, is lying. Perhaps then they try to decide which one of them looks the most trustworthy, or if it's a televised interview which one of them the interviewer appears to be attacking the more vigorously. Perhaps people tend to believe automatically the politician from the party they normally support. Alternatively a few, a very few people, could try and think for themselves about the arguments. What are they saying? What evidence would be needed to check them out? and so on.

In Britain, although health spending is a major public policy issue in every country, during the 1980s 'many people detected big changes in the state-funded National Health Service. Opinion polls confirmed widespread concern about cutbacks in services; people noticed (and minded) the changes' (Economics Begg, Fischer and Dombusch P.8). The same is happening today in the twenty six counties. The health

minister, Mr. Micheal Martin, has often argued the case that more money is being spent on the health service than ever before as is his British counterpart Mr. Alan Milburn, whose remit covers the six counties. In both cases opposition parties are demanding to know why waiting lists are still so long?, why wards are being closed and all the other arguments outlined above. Doctors are being asked almost to play god in deciding which patients get treatment, who can wait and who has an illness which could be described as self inflicted. This is a role which doctors are reluctant, understandably, to carry out. Of course by refusing to treat certain patients, under pressure from above, or postponing treatment the books can be artificially cooked creating the impression that the population is healthier than it is in reality.

The question is why is there such widespread perception that health services are being cut? There are many possibilities but two major reasons, certainly under the capitalist system which should not be reasons at all. Firstly we are all living longer. All over Europe the demographics representing age change in population are in evidence. The fraction of the UK population aged over 65 is projected to increase from 23 percent in 1980 to 31 percent by 2030 (and as much as 41 percent in Germany by this date). Older people need more health care than younger people' (ibid.). The second reason is the advancement in medical technology. These advances not only keep us alive longer, they make available some very sophisticated and expensive treatments. This begins to throw some light on the problem, which shouldn't be a problem at all if our affairs were run competently which they are not.

The real issue, under the present economic system, is one of scarcity and finite resources. Under capitalism 'our resources are limited, and we have to choose on what to spend them. If we want to maintain past standards across the population now comprising many older people, and if we want all medical breakthroughs to be widely available, we shall have to spend so much more on health that we shall have to spend much less on something else' (ibid.). However cutbacks on the something else's should not be difficult for example cut backs in the public sector in the form of defense cuts, in favour of health. The UK has recently spent a fortune on genocide in Iraq while struggling to



meet its commitments to health. In the twenty-six counties the government has, within the last three years, committed free state troops to the NATO led Partnership For Peace (PFP) at an astronomical cost. Question for what when this money is more urgently needed in the health service? What possible impact will Free State troops have in this venture? About as much as a molecule of dust in a coal mine. It has been suggested by some bourgeois economists that we shall have to ration people's access to health, which, incidentally, is already happening. Question why should working class peoples health be compromised while the capitalist economic system and their government lackeys squander money on such unnecessary projects as PFP, government jets and a ridiculous aluminum spike in the middle of Dublin's O'Connell Street (which could have a more sinister reason for existence). Answer nobody's health should be compromised in favour of such nonsensical projects.

The American and British capitalist class have just spent countless billions bombing Iraq, money which could and should have been spent on the health of their respective populations. This of course goes to show that oil revenue is far higher on the political agenda than people's health, American, British or Iraqi.

As was recently reported in the Starry Plough the twenty six county government 'plans to run three jets worth 100 million euro', this apart from the crass waste of money on very bored boys and girls playing soldiers, preparing to become one day American and British cannon fodder is a major reason why resources are scarce. Of course the people who pass themselves off as politicians will not tell you this.

It is not a question of scarce resources as bourgeois economists, who naturally support the capitalist system, would have us believe it is more a question of wanton waste of resources. The technology is available to provide the very best health care for all sick people without any of this so

called rationing which, it would appear, applies chiefly to working class people within the population. Of course for those who can afford private health care, which should and hopefully will be abolished, the waste of resources does not matter.

With the resources available to society, run correctly, people who work in the health service could and should be given a meaningful pay rise and reduction in working hours. For example on pay specialist nurses who work in the intensive care units are paid a poultry 700 euro per annum increment for their trouble. A shortage of such nurse has recently been a major factor in costing a two-year-old child her life. The shortage of ICU nurses meant that an operation on the little girl had to be postponed. She was sent home from Our Lady's Hospital For Sick Children where she was due an urgent heart operation and as a consequence tragically died.

Ultimately this farcical state of affairs will only be changed by working class people themselves. Not by turning out once every five years to vote (though this is not to suggest people do not exercise their right to vote) but by the forceful reform and, hopefully overthrow, of the capitalist system, not only in Ireland's 32 counties but ultimately across this planet. In other words if you want a health, or any other service, run competently and for the benefit of all the people you will have to fight for it.

The time when people could be fobbed off with such fancy statements as scarce resources and 'we can't afford it' along with other such nonsensical clap trap has surely, or should have, gone. The great appear great because we are on our knees let us arise. Remember your health is your wealth. Not the wealth of the fat cat class who decide if they can afford to keep YOU healthy or not.

THE CAPITALISTS VETO

By Liam O'Ruairc

The "Sunday Tribune" recently published a supplement on the 100 richest people in Ireland, North and South. This publication was very interesting, because it gave a good insight into the Irish capitalist class. The supplement estimated that about 50 000 people in Ireland could be considered very rich. This includes doctors, dentists, accountants, top civil servants.

Commissioners revealed that under 10 000 tax payers reported an income over 150 000 Euro, with another 12 600 people in the 100 000 to 150 000 Euro income bracket. Things are more complicated, as thanks to the help of their accountants and tax advisers, many rich are able to hide their real income from the tax authorities.

To quantify the decisive core of the native Irish capitalist class, with the bar set at an annual income of at least 150 000 Euro plus liquid assets of a minimum of one million Euro, the number of people drop to no more than 5000 or 6000. Of the top 100 richest people in Ireland, 27 come from the construction and property sectors, 12 from distribution, 8 from hotel and pubs, 7 from the food industry, and 6 from sport and entertainment.

Only 11 come from a manufacturing background, 5 technology and 5 from finance. Those people, through their economic power have more influence in this country than ordinary people. We are told that we live in a "democracy", that "the people" decide how the country is run. The citizens have an equal say, everybody can vote. So Sean in Ballymun or Mary in Tallaght have as much weight in running the affairs of this country than Tony O Reilly, Michael O Leary or Margaret Heffernan. But in practice, these people have far more influence than the ordinary citizens of this country. Let's take a recent example.

Fianna Fail is a populist party, claiming to represent the interests of the ordinary man and woman. As everybody knows, there is a housing crisis in the South, and the majority of the citizens want decent and affordable housing. Early in April, Taoiseach Bertie Ahern told the Irish Management Institute conference in Killarney: "I believe it is time that (property) development enriched the many and not the few", and promised he was going to solve the problem of affordable housing.

However, behind this pious rhetoric is the fact that Fianna Fail ultimately represents the interests of the business people, construction and property owners. One just has to glance through the official publication celebrating the 75th anniversary of the party (Republican Days: 75 Years of Fianna Fail) to see more than 30 of the country's leading property firms advertising in it. Building firms finance many TDs, be they Fianna Fail or Fine Gael.

According to the "Sunday Tribune" (20 April 2003), in 2001 Fianna Fail received donations from Treasury Holdings (21 432 Euro), Ballymore Properties (10 767 Euro), Cosgrave Developments (6 349 Euro), Durkan Homes (9 829 Euro), Maplewood Homes (3 911 Euro), Pj Hegarty (5 587 Euro). And the paper concludes "and that kind of money is nothing compared to the total sums thrown like confetti at individual politicians."

The Construction Industry Federation as a pressure group has an immense influence on shaping Fianna Fail's policies, far more than ordinary constituents have. In March 2001, the Irish government abolished the anti-speculative tax it had introduced nine months earlier under pressure. Then in December 2001, Finance Minister Charlie McCreevy introduced attractive tax breaks for property investors.

More recently, in December 2002, Minister for the Environment Martin Cullen diluted proposals contained in the Planning and Development Act which would have forced builders to allocate 20 percent of new private housing estates for social or affordable housing.

Ahern and Fianna Fail, contrary to what they state, will never be able to solve the problem of affordable housing or enable property development to enrich the many because they are tied in with and dependant on property interests and are therefore incapable of pursuing a policy of confrontation with the builders, landlords and property owners.

If at the end of the day the rich are always going to have their say, no wonder many people don't bother participating in elections. Citizens are formally equal but practically unequal. If democracy is to be meaningful this question has to be addressed.

Various shades of Republicans are faced with this question: if serious about democracy, what are you prepared to do to remedy this inequality of power and wealth? How can you "cherish the children of the nation equally" when 5000 to 6000 people, because of their money have more influence than 500 000 or 600 000? There is/was much talk about the "Unionist Veto", but Republicans have been silent too long about the "Capitalist Veto".

Minimum Wage or the Abolition of Wage Labour?

Liam O Ruairc

Figures released by the British Inland Revenue show that the Six Counties are the UK's low pay black spot. Around ten percent of arrears recovered from employers who failed to pay the UK's minimum wage in 2001, representing over one million pounds, was collected in the North, which represents only three percent of UK's population. The minimum wage in the UK is £3.20 per hour for those aged between 18 and 21, and £4.20 for those over 22. It has been proved that Derry is the worst place in non-payment of the minimum wage. The worst sectors are catering, cleaning, hairdressing and hospitality. Multinational companies are also amongst the offenders. (Sunday Business Post, 20 October 2002) This is not to mention jobs where wages are advertised officially over the minimum wage, but where workers end up with a pay package below it. Take for example the sort of jobs taken up by Portuguese immigrant workers in the agrifood industry in County Tyrone (like Moy Park Chicken Factory). Though the jobs are advertised in local papers at well over £5 per hour, the Portuguese workers, after deduction for tax and agency fees, are coming out with around £3.60 per hour (Sunday Tribune, 27 October 2002). Apart from low wages, employers and companies also impose workers longer work shifts. For example, according to the Economic and Social Research Council, women in the North are working an average of 2.1 hours more a week than a decade ago. The younger the woman and the lower paid the job, the highest the additional number of hours tended to be (Irish News, 24 October 2002).

What sort of strategies could be developed to fight such examples of exploitation? It should

first be noted that there is little official encouragement to resist. For example, social security agencies are encouraging people to tout on false claimants. People are also encouraged to tout on companies using software without licences. But there are no official campaigns of television, radio and newspaper advertisements encouraging naming and shaming companies employing cheap labour. So a campaign - such as that tried by the Socialist Party some years ago - could be launched against those exploiting employers by publicly naming and shaming them, boycotting their products and services, etc. However, such a strategy has clear limits. For the sake of argument, let's imagine that all employers in the North raised wages to £4.20 an hour; they could very well increase the intensity and number of working hours. And even if they didn't, it is still difficult to make a living on £4.20 an hour. So should the demand rather be to increase the wage to £6.20, £8.20, or £10.20 or more per hour? Such a demand, even if appealing is impractical and utopian. There is no way employers would concede it. From the employer's point of view, wages are a cost. The lower the costs, the higher the profits, the higher the costs the lower the profits. The employers will always seek to pay the minimum possible. Beyond fighting for the minimum wage, it is the abolition of wage labour and capital and the totality of their relations that Republicans and Socialists should be aiming at. Most of us would agree with the slogan "slavery should be abolished" rather than "slavery should be made more comfortable". So why not put forward "it is forbidden to exploit other people's labour" rather than "it is forbidden to exploit other people's labour below a determinate wage"?

"UNITY NEEDED IN PRISONERS' CAMPAIGN"



Poster calling for workers action during the Political Status protests over twenty years ago in the H-Blocks of Long Kesh. Workers unity is needed now to avert another tragic loss of life inside a British gaol in Ireland.

Speaking to a meeting of ex-INLA prisoners in Derry City Mr. Eddie McGarrigle, a member of the Ard-Comhairle of the IRSP said:

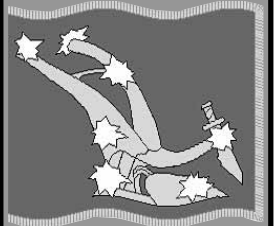
"Given the continuing dirty protest at Maghaberry involving Republican prisoners it is imperative that a united stance be taken by all Republicans in support of segregation. The IRSP fully support the right of the Republican prisoners to segregation.

"We clearly recognise that they are political prisoners involved in a legitimate form of protest within the jail. As a former prisoner myself I fully understand the frustrations that have driven the prisoners to undertake a dirty protest. I call on all former INLA prisoners to come out on demonstrations in support of the call for segregation no matter who calls those demonstrations.

"But the IRSP would like to see instead of the current divisions between republicans a unified campaign. Disunity among republican parties weakens the possibility of winning the justified demands of the prisoners.

"The IRSP are calling for the establishment of a broad based committee comprising representatives of all republican groups and other supporters to take up the demand for segregation. The history of the H-block mass struggles during the 81 hunger strikes show what can be achieved by a unified campaign drawing support from a wide base."

The STARRY plough



music and words by Len Wallace

Some may speak with patriot pride of the Harp without the Crown Or the day the Orange and Green went up and the Union Jack came down. But the rebel flag that I hold dear and sing it's story now Is the workers' flag of Freedom that we call the Starry Plough.

In 1913 life was hard in the working slums of Dublin. The Transport Workers called a strike at the urging of Jim Larkin. The bosses called a lock out and they starved and cut them down. The workers lost the battle, but they gained the Starry Plough.

So working women, union men they formed the Citizen's Army And found a leader brave and bold In the man they called James Connolly Says he "We'll raise this rebel flag above our Liberty Hall And march in ranks for Ireland's cause beneath the Starry Plough."

In 1919 Limerick workers rose in many numbers. In Munster, Meath and Kildare too they rose up from their slumbers. The powers of the Master class they did turn upside down To break the chains of slavery and fly the Starry Plough.

O'Duffy and his gang of thugs they roamed throughout the nation. With blueshirts and their jack-boots on the height of nazi fashion. Frank Ryan and his valiant band they took a solemn vow to fight the bloody fascists and defend the Starry Plough."

The history books are filled with pages of the rich man's story. Of kings and queens and generals and their ill-begotten glory. But here's to the ones who fought the fight and rose to Freedom's call - To the rebel workers and the flag We call the Starry Plough.

For the cause that never dies,

Len Wallace
http://worlddaccordion.tripod.com

FRENCH LESSONS

By Peadar Black

The French trade union federations, and in particular the communist-led CGT, are now involved in a very difficult and important political and economic struggle with the present right-wing government in Paris.

Millions of French workers responded to a call for a 24-hour general strike on the 13th and 14th of May. This struggle is not only important and vital for French workers but will have repercussions for working people throughout the EU states. The crucial areas are privatisation and massive job losses, pension rights, and the retirement age for workers.

Many of the rights and conditions won by working people over many decades of bitter struggle and sacrifice are now under threat and sustained attack from governments and corporations. The EU governments and monopolies are attempting a process of levelling down to the difficult and harsh living conditions and social and pension provision now pertaining in the United States.

The outcome of this struggle will set the stage for coming battles both in Ireland and shortly in Germany, where the government will be watching the outcome very closely indeed. French workers are showing the way forward. They need our support.

A victory for one is a victory for all!

GARDAI IGNORE PLIGHT OF BRAY ESTATE

Bray's Garda Superintendent has flatly rejected claims that the force is failing to properly investigate an ongoing vendetta in the area despite a wealth of evidence available.

The claims have been made by the Downey family and neighbours from the Ard na Graine estate in Bray. The residents have been under sustained attack by a drug related gang for some time now and the Gardaí have failed to act competently to protect them from the dealers.

Stephen and Donna Downey, who are parents of six children, say that they have had to install CCTV at their home following a spate of attacks, during which their cars have been damaged with acid, petrol has been poured through their letterbox and ignited, and their garden shed has been burned down.

Superintendent Phil Moynihan has denied suggestions though that Garda are not acting properly upon reports received. He conceded that attacks had been going on against the Downeys, but said

that each incident reported to them was investigated thoroughly.

"Everything reported to us is investigated," he said. "Where we have sufficient evidence, we will institute proceedings immediately." A laughable comment considering so many attacks have not ended up with proceedings against the perpetrators.

Stephen and Donna Downey are still unhappy with the Garda, however, and are now going to lobby the Minister for Justice, Michael McDowell, to get involved in their case.

The couple, who both come from the North and who are members of the Irish Republican Socialist Party, met with the IRSP's Terry Harkin, in an effort to get a meeting with the Minister.

Terry Harkin said afterwards that the IRSP executive was getting involved in the case, in order to protect their members and other residents of Ard na Greine.

"We have a special obligation to the people of Bray," he said, referring to the fact that the IRSP had been founded by a Bray councillor, the late Seamus Costello who was killed by an OIRA gunman in 1977.

"I was brought in here because, at senior level in the IRSP it was acknowledged that something ought to be done about the situation," he added. He said that through their ongoing contacts with the Irish Government, they were seeking to bring the issue to the attention of the Minister for Justice.



Easter 2003

This years National Republican Socialist Movement's Easter Commemoration in Belfast was attended by several hundred people.

The march began from Costello House making its way along the Falls Road, headed by a flag bearing colour party to the Republican Socialist Plot at Milltown where a wreath laying ceremony began on behalf of the RSM nationally and support groups across the world.

The main oration was delivered by former P.O.W and IRSP Ard-Comhairle member Willie Gallagher in which he told participants that "The Stormont Assembly established as part of the 'peace process' represents not an attempt to solve the problems facing working class people of all backgrounds but power sharing between representatives of the main sectarian parties.

"Stormont cannot seriously address the problems of the working class, not the day-to-day vital problems of health, housing and education, or the wider questions of the border and the national question. Stormont never had the potential within it to solve anything fundamental. New elections and a new period of 'power sharing' at Stormont will inevitably raise these illusions once more.

"There is a widespread disillusionment and cynicism amongst the population of the isle of Ireland as a whole. But it appears we are now at what is called the end game. 'The war is over' syndrome gathers apace. Someone however forgot to tell the IRsps. Neither the INLA nor the IRSP have been involved in any of the political talks or dialogue that have taken place to end conflict. The IRSP were never asked their opinions about any of these issues.

"There seems to be some assumption that this movement will accept whatever political settlement is reached regardless. Nothing could be further from the truth. 'Is the struggle for a Republic still on the agenda? Accordingly the leadership of the whole movement have agreed to open a period of debate within the Republican Socialist tradition. We call on all volunteers in particular to consider carefully and in a serious and political manner the direction that the INLA should take, what role they themselves can play and how best to contribute to the liberation of the Irish working class.

"The much-vaunted Irish neutrality is a figment of the imagination. Ireland is no longer neutral. It is part of Pax Americana. We are now once more a subservient part of an Empire. Was it for this that the men and women of 1916 faced the guns of the British Empire?

"The coalition of forces that met in Hillsborough on a Monday and Tuesday compromised what is called the Irish peace process and allowed men of war to pose as men of peace."

A full copy of the IRSM Easter statement can be viewed online by clicking onto:

<http://www.irsm.org/irsm.html>

Fallen Volunteers Remembered

Teach na Failte memorial project goes from strength to strength
Andersonstown, Belfast

22nd June 2003

Extracts of speech delivered at unveiling of plaque in memory of Miriam Daly and Brendan McNamee:

May I say that I'm honoured to be asked to speak at this unveiling. I first met Miriam in the late sixties. She was an academic, had a good career, and could have ignored what was going on in the wider society. But she threw herself into the struggle for justice and freedom.

Over the past 35 years there have been different methods of struggle employed by those seeking change in Ireland.

Initially the preferred method of struggle was lobbying, influencing the great and the good of those days and persuading labour MPs from Britain that the introduction of civil rights in the North of Ireland would be a good thing.

There was no more chance of the Stormont regime of 1967-68 conceding any justice to the lobbying approach than today there is of David Trimble even talking to the Garvaghy road residents. The more things change the more they stay the same.

So a group of militants forced the NICRA to take to the streets in the form of demonstrations to press the case for reform. The reaction of the State was repression. Batons and bullets were used against the civil rights marchers while unionist politicians and reactionary clerics wiped up the fears of working class protestants and awakened a sectarian monster.

The repression used by the Stormont state with the backing of the British forced Republicans to rearm and defend the nationalist areas from Orange pogroms. Thus was born another method of struggle as a combination of rural guerrilla warfare, civil disobedience, urban armed struggle and street protests brought down the old Stormont regime.



IRSM colour party at Daly/McNamee memorial unveiling

Both Brendan and Miriam played their part in that phase of the struggle, Miriam as a militant member of the NICRA, and then later the Northern resistance movement. Brendan was a volunteer in the Provisional IRA before recognising the importance of the class question and joining the Peoples Liberation Army the forerunner of the INLA.

Brendan died defending the right of the IRSP to exist. It's a sad thought to think that despite clear and present enemies available there were and are still republicans ready to kill fellow republicans first. A young man with so much to live for, he was denied his allotted time on this earth because small-minded people wanted conformity, unquestioning loyalty and blind obedience. But Brendan was a questioning independent individual able to think for himself and ask the awkward questions.

On behalf of the leadership of the Republican Socialist Movement may I say that this is exactly what is needed today--independent minded individuals able to ask the awkward question and see through the fog of confusion, spin-doctoring, censorship and bovine like loyalty that today passes for politics. We reject the latter and call on independent minded people to join us and help renew the republican dream.

Pro-imperialist forces took out Miriam because of her leadership of what was now another weapon of struggle, the mass movement. Her loss was not only a devastating personal blow to her family, but also a



Miriam Daly, Republican Socialist

major setback for the mass struggle.

While it is true that it is the masses that make history outstanding individuals like Miriam can greatly influence the direction that mass movements take.

Following the ending of the hunger strikes another major tactic was used in the struggle, that of fighting elections. Republicans successfully used that tactic to add to the pressure on the British to reach an accommodation. So friends and comrades we can see how over the past 35 years the full range of tactics have been used to advance the

republican struggle. Now for the hard question. Did those tactics succeed? Did armed struggle, mass mobilisation and electioneering bring us one step closer to the Workers' Republic we first set out to build all those years ago? I will not insult your intelligence by answering for you. That is for each one of us to decide individually. But this I will tell you--James Connolly needed no mandate to lead the linen workers in Belfast in the 1907 strike; he needed no mandate to form the Citizen Army to protect the Dublin workers from the scabs, employers, and police in 1913; he needed no mandate to march into the GPO on Easter Monday 1916 to begin the Irish Revolution.

Miriam and Brendan needed no mandate to do what they did. They saw injustice, they resisted; they saw repression, they resisted; they saw brutality, they resisted; and they saw the naked face of imperialism, they resisted. And they died. Comrades and friends, today we need no mandate to honour these two fine Republican Socialists. We need no mandate to be republicans. We need no mandate to be socialists. We need no mandate to oppose imperialism wherever we find it. It is enough for injustice to exist, for us to organise to oppose it.

For the essence of the lives of these comrades was that they organised. They organised either in the Party or in the Army or in the mass movements. But they organised. And, if their sacrifices are to have lasting meaning, then we too must organise. We must organise in the bodies we are members of, to ensure that the struggle for the liberation of the Irish working class is victorious. There can be no more sitting on the sidelines.

Today's plaque is a fitting tribute to these comrades. But if truth be told, they need no monuments. For so long as there is a republican still alive in Ireland, struggling for the Workers' Republic, then the spirit of Brendan and Miriam, and all the other men and women who died so that their country and their class could be free, will live on.

Comrades we salute you!!!

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QUOTE QUIZ!

"America is the only nation in history which miraculously has gone directly from barbarism to degeneration without the usual interval of civilization."

Who is said to have made the above observation of America:

A/ Charlie Chaplin

B/ Fredrick Engels

C/ Georges Clemenceau

The answer is on bottom of page 15

Fallen Volunteers Remembered

Teach na Failte memorial project goes from strength to strength

Lower Falls, Belfast:

10th April 2003

The Lower Falls area of Belfast was the scene of an unveiling in April when a memorial was unveiled to Volunteers and Comrades of the Irish Republican Socialist Movement who had connections with that area.

Among those remembered on this plaque was Vol Danny Loughran, the second member of the PLA (People's Liberation Army) to be killed in Belfast, later to be acknowledged as a member of the Irish National Liberation Army. He died at the hands of the Official IRA.

Rose Campbell, Nancy Tumelty and Anthony Dornan (former INLA chief of Staff, he had battled cancer for some time, finally succumbing to it in Cork City on 16 April 1999) are remembered on this plaque for their work both within and outside the IRSM throughout the struggle.

Matt McLarnon was killed while attacking members of the occupation forces just hours after the death was announced of H-Block hunger striker Francis Hughes.

Paul 'Bonanza' McCann was described in an INLA statement to Belfast news agencies as an "INLA staff officer in the Belfast Brigade and an outstanding worker in the republican socialist movement" as well as "one of our finest volunteers". Paul 'Bonanza' McCann was killed in questionable circumstances during a midnight raid by the RUC and British troops in a flat in Lenadoon, west Belfast.

Attempts by RUC and soldiers to stop a military-style funeral for McCann resulted in clashes after the route was blocked by security forces when four masked men lined up behind the coffin. The funeral was allowed to progress only when organisers agreed that the funeral would continue without the guard of honour being present.

Gino Gallagher, who was with Bonanza McCann when he was killed, was himself killed during a series of attacks on the IRSM in 1996. He was Chief of Staff of the INLA at the time.



Above: Gino Gallagher and his firing party and below: Colour party at unveiling ceremony.



Above: the plaque which was unveiled in the Lower Falls and below: Gerard Murray speaks at the event



Markets, Belfast:

11th May 2003

During a ceremony in the Markets area of Belfast to unveil a new memorial in memory of Jim and Ta Power, John O'Reilly and Emanuel Gargan (no photo available), Gerry Ruddy of the IRSP's Ard Comhairle made the following speech.

"Revolutionaries are dead men on leave" -- this saying sums up the type of life ahead for all who dare to oppose British rule in Ireland and indeed oppression and imperialism anywhere in the world. Life as a revolutionary offers no material rewards, no medals, only the joy of participating in the struggle for freedom. As individuals we only have a limited time to achieve this task".

Those words, written by one of those volunteers, epitomises best the spirit of republicanism. It is a revolutionary doctrine, it is a radical doctrine, it is a progressive doctrine. Those of us here today who call ourselves republicans should wear the mantle of republicanism with pride.



Vol John O'Reilly

For there is pride in participating in the struggle for freedom. Those who we honour today knew some of that for they played their very active part in the struggle against Imperialism. Dedicated soldiers of the Republican tradition they grew up amidst repression, violence discrimination and injustice. These things they observed but they did not ignore. They, like thousands of others, had enough of the daily humiliations from the Unionist state, enough of the casual brutality of the RUC, enough of the Imperialist swagger of the racists in the British army, enough of the "croppy lie down mentality.

They had had enough of the cant and hypocrisy of the ruling elites who preached passivity in the face of violence, preached acceptance in the face of injustice, preached resignation in the face of inequality. Like thousands others, Jim, Ta, John and Emanuel had had enough.

They did what any right thinking individual would do in the face of British and Unionist tyranny. They took up arms and fought in the streets of Belfast and elsewhere for the liberation of their people. In so doing they were following in a proud tradition stretching back to the United Irishmen, and including the Fenian Brotherhood, and the volunteers of the 1916-22 period.



Vol Jim Power

James Connolly was an inspiration, a guide, for all radicals and republicans. He inspired the volunteers we honour today. He was an example that each of those volunteers would have followed in their own ways if death had not intervened. They each had but a limited time to contribute to the struggle before death stole them away from us.

When we look at this memorial and when people think of the dead volunteers we should also spare a thought for the families of the same volunteers. They have had much pain to endure, sorrow to bear and grief to contend with.



Future Unveiling Events:

Dungiven, Co Derry
In memory of Vol Kevin Lynch
August 3rd 2003, Assemble 12.30pm Details locally

Strabane, Co Tyrone
In memory of Vol James McPhilemy & Vol Alex Patterson
3pm August 10th 2003. Assemble: Carlton Drive

Maghera, Co Derry
In memory of Vol Brendan Convery
August 17th 2003. Details locally or from IRSP Belfast

Bogside, Derry:

13th July 2003

Several hundred people turned out in fine weather to see the unveiling of a new memorial in the Bogside area of Derry to three young friends and comrades who all lost their lives in tragic circumstances.

On Sunday 13th July the crowd assembled at Free Derry Corner and after a short march led by an eight man IRSM colour party the crowd gathered at the new memorial at the corner of William Street and Rossville Street. The ceremony began with the chair of proceedings calling forward three young relatives of each of the men to perform the official unveiling. This was followed by loud applause from the assembled crowd. Wreaths were then laid on behalf of the Derry Brigade INLA, IRSP Derry, the Memorial Committee and family tributes.

The memorial is in memory of 18 year old Colm McNutt, the first INLA volunteer to die at the hands of the British in Derry. There was speculation that Colm was set up to be killed by notorious tout and liar Raymond Gilmore and circumstantial evidence surrounding the case certainly points to this. Colm's brother Davy used the unveiling to call for a full public inquiry into his brother's killing at the hands of the SAS. That call was supported by the memorial committee and the IRSP during the ceremony. The IRSP called on all those with influence to help make this inquiry a reality.

Davy McNutt also paid tribute to the family of Hussy Phelan who is also remembered on the memorial, particularly his mother Anna, for refusing to accept the official version of how her son died and for fighting for the truth to come out. Hussy Phelan was with Colm on the day he was killed and subsequently was imprisoned as a result. On his release he went to the US and it was here that he was killed by an off duty US policeman. The killer alleged that Hussy grabbed the gun and shot himself although after a fight by Hussy's family this version was rejected and Richard Molloy was convicted of killing Hussy and sent to prison.

The third person remembered on the memorial is Dermot 'Tonto' McShane. Another former Republican Socialist prisoner he was killed during fierce rioting in Derry after the RUC batoned nationalists off Garvaghy Road in Portadown to make way for an Orange march. Dermot was taking shelter behind a hoarding when a British Army Saxon vehicle crushed him beneath it.

Gerard Murray gave the main oration and used the occasion to call for support for the protesting prisoners in Maghaberry. Calling for unity Gerard said: "It would be remiss of me not to mention what is going on in Maghaberry today. Republican prisoners are being forced into a situation that is not of their own making and it is imperative that each of us here come out and support them."

The ceremony ended with representatives of the Kevin Lynch Memorial Flute Band playing the national anthem.



Above: The new plaque which was unveiled in Derry's Bogside in tribute to three friends who were all killed in separate but equally tragic circumstances and below: the IRSM colour party stands in formation behind the new memorial.



Left to right: Colm McNutt, Dermot McShane, Hussy Phelan and Davey McNutt speaking at unveiling ceremony.

The United Irishmen

Republican Socialists & Bodenstown

By John Martin, IRSP Political Secretary

It was a momentous day for Republicanism in Ireland. Tuesday the 23rd of September 2001 - the day the Provisional IRA decommissioned weapons in order to save not only the Good Friday Agreement but also the Stormont Assembly. The shock waves are rumbling through the Republican heartlands ever since.

A number of phrases are heard - "At least 'the stickies' didn't decommission", "an act of unparalleled treachery", "we told you so" and so on.

When the issue was first raised in the early days of the peace process the IRSP was sceptical about the whole process but did not believe that decommissioning was an issue or that any republican group would voluntarily decommission its weapons.

Representatives of the Republican Socialist Movement met with representatives of the Provisional Movement on a number of occasions over the last five years and were assured that decommissioning of weapons would not happen. We had no reason to disbelieve the sincerity of those we spoke with. It was a matter for them; it is still a matter for them.

But for all that there is no doubt that that shock, disillusionment, feelings of betrayal, and a shaken trust in the leadership, and a reluctant but necessary step all summon up what strong supporters of the provisional movement feel.

Emotions run high and talk of "what about Bombay Street?" etc echoes through the streets of Belfast. The image of the burning streets of Ardoyne 69 runs through the mind as the northern nationalist working class tries to come to terms with this event.

It is always a good thing to become disillusioned. That is the throwing away of false illusions and the start of seeing things as they really are. The Erps feel for those whose feelings of betrayal and disillusionment. Within our own history we have suffered our own disillusionments. So we understand why many out there are feeling bruised and sensitive to criticism.

But now is the time to see things as they really are not as we wish them to be. When the Civil Rights Movement started not only Republicans of all shades but Socialists of all shades didn't know how to react.

Those who later went on to form the Provisionals were reluctant to become involved in what was a reformist movement. Those who later went on to take the Official IRA down a dead end street of

arrogant political self seeking saw the civil rights movement as the only way forward and tried to suppress both the emergence of a more militant brand of republicanism and any manifestation of class struggle.

Those of us who consistently and persistently raised social and economic issues within the mass struggle that the civil rights movement became, were derided as ultra leftists, wreckers, trots and Looney lefties. Socialists veered between a full acceptance of the nationalist agenda or swallowing whole a form of British Imperialist socialism under the guise of an exotic form of communism.

Out of all this confusion the Provisionals emerged from the ashes of 69 and the failure of the Official leadership to re-arm the North in a time of increasing political tension. The Provos rejected a reformist agenda and launched an armed campaign on the single issue of Brits Out. Later in 73/74 the Official Republican Movement split again and eventually the IRSP/INLA emerged to re-establish the Republican Socialist tradition that they felt had been betrayed by the Officials. The programme the IRSP then set out has still not yet been met. We have not yet attained a Broad Front, removed the Brits or established the Socialist Republic.

Much water has flowed under the bridge since the seventies and there have been many changes. The Provisionals have accepted, albeit 30 years later, the reformist strategy first put forward by the Officials. The reason for armed struggle has gone and their goals can be achieved by political means and the growth of the catholic population. The Good Friday Agreement saw the Provisionals ditch one of the pillars of Republicanism, non-sectarianism when they accepted the sectarian headcount that gave them seats in the Stormont Cabinet.

This can all be very confusing for those who trust in leaderships and go for the personalities in politics. A trust in a Gerry, a Martin or even a Rauri will eventually lead to disillusionment. All of us as individuals are influenced not only by our parents and neighbourhood but also by the interaction between our core beliefs and our actions. We are formed in specific historical and economic conditions. We all are in a sense prisoners of history and also of the organisations we are members of.

The Provisionals were an all class alliance merging militarists, disaffected urban nationalist youths and traditional nationalists from rural areas. During the sev-

enties this alliance while capable of launching ferocious military attacks made no political progress. Sinn Fein in the 70's was a right wing pro catholic and anti-communist mouth piece for the IRA with the occasional radical articles to appeal to more left wing elements.

When the Hunger Strikes occurred the urban based northern seized the leadership, swung the movement towards the left to soak up the militant radicalised working class youth, the growing republican minded women's groups and the radical intellectuals politicised by the mass actions around the hunger strikes.

During all this time regular contact was kept up with the British Intelligence services through various contacts. This was because the Provo leadership recognised that eventually they would have to do a deal with their enemy. They knew from the mid eighties that the continuation of the armed struggle was a road to nowhere.

The Armalite and Ballot Box strategy saw the Provisionals make many political gains. They were able to exercise a strangle hold over most nationalist working class areas in the north and through the exercise of social and economic control which they had wrestled from the SDLP/Catholic Church were able to create a middle bureaucracy of supporters who formed the intellectual backbone for their control in the ghettos. All opposition whether militarily or politically was ruthlessly crushed within their areas of control.

Throughout all this they were able to retain the loyal support of their base because of their militancy and also their astute political leadership. This leadership was trusted. The development of their peace strategy was an advance from the Armalite etc strategy. It was strongly driven by their support base in the USA. The swing to the left of the early eighties was slowed, a distancing began with anti-imperialist movements worldwide, the suits came in and the advisers multiplied. Now they were appealing to the emergent nationalist middle classes within the north and they began to occupy the ground that the SDLP had once walked on.

That is because they represent bourgeois Ireland. That is why they can occupy seats in a capitalist Government and introduce privatisation schemes into the educational system. Of course they will oppose corrupt practices and use radical phrases but their whole function now as a political organisation is to make Ireland a more effective and efficient place for international capital to invest in. That is the importance of the



USA connections.

Obviously the creation of one Republican Governmental system on the isle of Ireland will reduce bureaucracy make easier access for multinationals to Government and speed the integration of Ireland into the whole NATO defence scheme. This will be in spite of the desire of individual Republicans to keep Ireland neutral. Their subjective wishes will come up against the brutal logic of Imperialism and objective reality will always overcome subjective wishes.

Witness the response to the Columbian Three, the Turkish Hunger Strike and the September the 11th massacres. There is no way that their principal leaderships will be identified with any radical movements from now on. No matter how much that leadership may support the cause of the Turkish Hunger strikers they can not be seen to do so. Some of the middle tier leaderships will be allowed to associate and participate with safe leftist tinged causes but not the leadership. He who pays the piper calls the tune and be under no illusions the tune is now called from Washington.

That is not to say that the IRSP have all the answers. We don't. It is always easier to criticise than to put forward solutions. Since the return of the Republican Socialist Movement to its political roots following a bitter political and military struggle in the mid nineties we have been measured in our criticisms of other Republicans. While critical of the Good Friday Agreement and the political basis of the peace process we accepted the verdict of the people of Ireland as expressed in referenda and per-

sued the leadership of the INLA to call an unconditional ceasefire. We are for peace. We are for politics. We are for the democratic road. We are against militarism.

But we are not for Republicans, or socialists for that matter, taking their seats in a capitalist Government. We are not for decommissioning and we are for the defence of working class areas from sectarian attacks.

Does that lead to political impotence? We don't believe so. Our politics have always been based on a class analysis and can be best summed up in the words of Seamus Costello, "I owe my allegiance to the working class".

The working class of all countries are our friends and allies. The capitalists of all countries are our enemies. Capitalism is ruthless in its logic as it breaks down national barriers and creates a global economy. There can be no Socialist Republic built in Ireland in isolation. The idea of a socialist paradise isle surrounded by capitalist states is a fantasy. That is why republicans have always been internationalists from Tone to Connolly from O'Donnell to Costello. Republicanism itself was an import to Ireland from France.

What is going on today in Afghanistan, in Columbia, in Sierra Leone and Iraq, impinges on the day to day life of people in Ireland. In its relentless pursuit of profit modern day capitalism is no respecter of states or governments. Hence the creation of super states like the European Union.

It is in this context that we in the IRSP are internationalist. The

international capital market profoundly affects the Irish working class. Many of the 1200 workers who have only recently been told that they are facing redundancies are instinctively aware of the internationalist nature of capitalism.

It is the task of socialists and Republicans to bring together the best elements of both republicanism and socialism and create an alliance of the dispossessed within this isle that can successfully challenge the cosy capitalist consensus that accepts the permanency of the capitalist system. The provisional movement has clearly shown by the actions of its leadership that it accepts that consensus. We do not.

An all class alliance of nationalist Ireland while it may weaken the unionist case also weakens the working class. It is a case of Labour must wait as De Valera said during the war of Independence. But now it is the current leaders of Sinn Fein who are saying labour must wait. We disagree. Labour that is the needs and aspirations of the Irish working class can not wait, must not wait. They are the only class capable of building a just and equitable society on this isle.

That is why we repeat the call we made a number of years ago for the creation of a Republican Forum with which to rally the disorganised and demoralised forces of the left. There is a way forward for the Republican and socialist left and we intend to play our full part in rallying the Irish working class. If you are radical, republican and working class play your part. Join us in the struggle .

On to the Republic.

The INTERNATIONAL View

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Road Map Into Another Cul-De-Sac

Almost three years ago, the never-ending Israeli-Palestinian "peace process" stalled when the US and Israel tried to bully the Palestinians into accepting a final settlement that amounted to the surrender of the Palestinian people. The Palestinians were expected to abandon the right to a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital and the right of return to their homeland for the 3.5 million Palestinian refugees. In September 2000 the Intifada against Israeli occupation of Gaza and the West Bank began again in earnest. During this Intifada, the Israelis have killed over 2,500 Palestinians, 85 percent of whom have been uninvolved civilians.

The Israeli army has imposed a web of 120 fixed checkpoints, carving the West Bank and Gaza into over 300 separate clusters that have been under curfew for over two-thirds of the 1000 or so days of the current Intifada. In fact the number of checkpoints on any given day is much higher due to the roving checkpoints, ostensibly set up to catch militants but really a matter of making life as difficult as possible for the Palestinians. Under these conditions, 75 percent of Palestinians live at or below the UN-defined poverty level of US\$2 a day, the Palestinian education system has shut down, and the health of Palestinians is deteriorating as malnutrition and infectious diseases spread with each passing month.

In the wider region of the Middle East, the United States has recently embarked on a campaign of military expansion, occupying Iraq, and has military bases scattered throughout the region. In the wake of this new phase of imperialist aggression the credibility of the US is declining, not only with the masses of ordinary peace-loving people world wide, but also with the other imperialist powers of Europe and the Pacific Rim. In an effort to reclaim some semblance of international legitimacy the Bush government has cobble together a new "Road Map to Peace" in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Another factor behind the Road Map may be that with the US projecting its power directly into the Middle East now, Israel may also be less important as a beachhead in the region for Washington. There is a possibility of a new US-dominat-

ed imperialist carve up of the region, in which Washington may favor trying to end the Israeli-Palestinian conflict by overseeing the creation of a Bantustan-like Palestinian state.

Thus US Secretary of State Colin Powell told the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee's National Convention Banquet to applause on June 13, "I am not only not your worst enemy, I am your friend." He went on to claim, "as President Bush has often said, even as we make the world safer, we must also seize the opportunities we see to make the world better. . . . President Bush has a powerful vision for a new Middle East, based on two democratic states living side-by-side in peace, security, and freedom." Interestingly, Powell openly stated that Washington's pressure for the expansion of "democracy" and "peace" in the region is linked to "economic reform, business investment, and private sector development" there and praised several Arab countries for recently putting "state-owned industries into more productive private hands". These countries would now be given a free trade deal with the US. Thus US policy in relation to Israel-Palestine is very much linked to wider US plans in the Arab world.

While the US develops a more active engagement with the Arab world, the details of the current Road Map are still skewed heavily in Israel's favor, however. Under the Road Map, the Palestinians are expected to give up (1) the right of return for refugees, (2) Jerusalem as the capital of Palestine, (3) significant portions of the land and natural resources in West Bank and Gaza Strip to Israeli settlements, (4) control over its own international borders, and (5) put off indefinitely the release of the 8,000 Palestinian prisoners now languishing in Israeli jails. One prominent Arab commentator, Hasan Abu Nimah (former Jordanian ambassador to the UN) has noted, the Road Map is "an awful version of the failed, and indeed disastrous, Oslo experiment (which) is bound to only extend the agony of both the Arabs and the Israelis and to engulf them both in more bloody violence."

Importantly, however, this Road Map differs from the previous



Bush's Road Map is nothing more than an expansion of US economic and political interests.

elevated "peace" schemes concocted by the Americans in two key areas. First, in the run up to the current negotiations, Yasser Arafat appointed Abu Mazen Ahmed Abbas to fill the newly created position of prime minister for the Palestinian Authority. Although Arafat formally appointed Abbas, Abbas was actually hand picked by the Americans and Israelis who see him as someone who will be compliant and cooperative with the Israeli agenda. Nimah notes, for instance, "Abbas was the chief architect of the scandalous Oslo deal which legitimized much of the Israeli aggression and occupation with the victims' leaders' consent." Second, Abbas is expected to disarm and dismantle the Palestinian resistance movement before the Road Map will be implemented. This will require him to stand down the Islamic parties, HAMAS and Islamic Jihad, the nationalist Al Asqa Martyr's brigade, which is a faction of Abbas' own FATAH party, and the socialist, PFLP and DFLP. The logic of the Road Map is to break Palestinian unity and turn the Palestinian Authority against the Palestinian resistance movement and into a pliable instrument of US policy.

There are three broad possible outcomes of the Road Map. First, it is possible that Abbas will be successful in disarming the Palestinian resistance movement, allowing the other components of the Road Map to go forward, resulting in a Palestinian statelet with the symbols of statehood (flags, stamps, and passports). In reality this pseudo-state will be an apartheid-style Bantustan. The Palestinians will be officially free and independent, but continue to live under the racist rule of Israel, and be

beholden to the US. Second, if Abbas is not successful in standing down the Palestinian resistance movement a civil war could ensue between the Palestinian Authority and the Palestinian resistance movement. Such a war would be in the imperialists' interests - at the end of it, winners and losers would be exhausted and Washington would have an even easier time getting its way. Third, in the context of renewed operations by the Palestinian resistance and increased repression by the Israelis, the current Road Map negotiations could fall apart and current levels of violence escalate.

The need for a reassertion of radical, secular Palestinian politics is urgent. After twelve years and eleven "peace" schemes aimed at resolving the conflict by creating a Palestinian Bantustan, it is clear that a "two-state" settlement with Israel is simply not workable. Forcing the Road Map will not bring peace and justice to either the Palestinians or Israelis, especially the 3.5 million Palestinian refugees or the 1.3 million who live as second-class citizens inside Israel. The Road Map leads right into a cul-de-sac. The real causes of the conflict - imperialist meddling and the nature of Israel as an intrinsically racist state - will remain untouched. The only viable strategy to end the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is to struggle for the creation of a multi-ethnic, single, secular, and socialist state for all Jews and Palestinians. This strategy is in the interests of the Palestinian masses, the masses of the Arab world, and the ordinary workers of Israel, and has the possibility of involving them all.

Important Political Declaration Issued by the PFLP

Yes to the intifada and resistance as the choice of our people until the end of the occupation!

Masses of our heroic Palestinian people!

Heroic intifada and resistance fighters!

At this time, pressure in various forms and coming from various sources is on the rise. This pressure is aimed at containment of the intifada and the heroic resistance of our people to the Israeli occupation and aggression against our land, our people, our rights, and our national honor.

We in the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, based on our responsible patriotic position, and mindful of the need for the unity of our people and in order to clearly address all of our Palestinian and Arab masses and all free and decent people and all fighters for justice and freedom, plainly state the following:

1. The Israeli occupation and aggression against our people constitute the ugliest and most repulsive form of systematic state terrorism. Zionist aggression and arrogance, the indiscriminate daily attacks on the children of our people, the killing off of all forms of life, including the uprooting of hundreds of thousands of trees and the bulldozing and expropriation of hundreds of thousands of dunams of cultivated fields, compel our people to resist this aggression, to defend their lives, their land, and their national rights.

2. The American Administration has intensified its efforts to contain the intifada and the Palestinian resistance struggle, that have gone on for more than a thousand days now, in preparation for totally crushing them. This is in accordance with the repeated declarations of this administration to the effect that it seeks not only a halt of the resistance struggle; it wants the resistance organizations completely broken up, the resistance fighters hunted down, and the resistance movements completely finished off.

3. This American pressure is a part of the American plan to reorganize the region so as to make it serve American interests. This in turn means the consecration of the state of Israel as the central and decision-making state in this region of the world.

4. In the framework of this plan, the American Administration has worked for the benefit of Israel and in complete coordination with it, to put a stop to the achievements and the positive effects of the intifada, which have begun to afflict the Israeli

enemy in all spheres - their security, politics, their economy, and their society. The intifada has compelled the American Administration and the government of the criminal Sharon to declare officially, openly, and for the first time in their history that a Palestinian state is a necessity for any solution or peaceful resolution.

Based on these facts, the Popular Front has worked and struggled with all its brothers and comrades in the Patriotic and Islamic action movements, with brothers in the Palestine Authority and the Palestinian Leadership, and with our Arab brothers. We have striven to give pride of place to the effort to continue the intifada and resistance, and to provide all possible types of support and assistance to our people that serve to strengthen our trust and that embody faithfulness to the martyrs, the wounded, the prisoners, and to all those who have made sacrifices among our great, heroic, and patiently persevering people.

The Popular Front affirms that the continuation of the intifada and the resistance, together with other forms of struggle, is the path to ridding our people of the occupation, to freeing the prisoners and detainees, and to the attainment of independence and the return. We will continue our efforts on all platforms and in all spheres for the continuation of the national dialogue with the aim of crystallizing the correct national position, and constructing a unified Palestinian institution on democratic bases so as to bring about the participation of everyone in political decision making and in following up on the implementation of decisions. We affirm this position of ours, even as we accept the principle of respect for various interpretations, in particular since some of the Patriotic and Islamic action movements have taken a position at variance with our position. We duly respect the initiative of our brother, President Abu Ammar [Yasir Arafat] who sent Brother Saeb Erekat to meet our comrade, the General Secretary Ahmad Saadat, to convey the viewpoint of President Abu Ammar. The Popular Front affirms to everyone that it will continue to be avid in its support of sound Palestinian national relations in order to deprive the enemy of any opportunity to transform the struggle against them into a battle among Palestinians on the Palestinian Street.

Long live the intifada and the resistance! - Glory to the martyrs! Freedom to the prisoners! - Victory to our people!

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

The INTERNATIONAL View



Take From the Poor and Give to the Rich:

*Robin Hood,
George Bush-style!*

By Peter Urban Coordinator, IRSCNA

The Bush administration and US Congress have just completed one of the most massive acts of theft in the history of the nation.

The recently approved income tax cut not only reduced government revenues by \$350 billion, with the vast majority of it going to the richest segment of the populace, it added insult to injury by denying a \$400 increase in tax credits for dependent children to low income families, so that the cut could be pared down by \$3.5 to an even \$350 billion.

Eight-million taxpayers lost any benefits they might have gotten when the exclusion of low income families from the child tax credit increase was made. Over all, however, there are 50 million households, or more than one in three throughout the country, who will not benefit one iota from the tax cuts.

Provisions in an initial version of the legislation that would have saved \$25 billion by closing corporate tax loopholes were deleted from the final version, though this would have provided more

than seven times the savings produced by taking the child tax credit away from low income families.

This is the second major tax reduction in as many years, ensuring that the government will be mired in financial difficulty for years, if not decades, to come. The ruling class loves to get the extra money, but the cost must be borne somewhere and it will be in further assaults on social welfare, education, Social Security pensions, medical insur-

ance for enable workers' to gain some benefit from the taxes they pay.

There is a class war going on in America, only not the one we had hoped for. Instead the American capitalist class has launched a relentless offensive against the working class and, unless American workers come to an understanding of where their interests really lie and rise to fight back, there will be casualties by the millions across the entirety of the United States.

GENERAL STRIKE HITS FRANCE HARD!

French public sector workers, joined by some private sector employees, effective shut down the operation of the government in a fight against plans to change government workers' pension plans, requiring additional years worked in order to qualify.

Transportation slowed to a crawl, causing widespread disruption, as France played host to the Group of Eight (G8) conference in Evian. It undoubtedly was an embarrassment for the government, but it was a fitting display of the collective strength held by the working class in the faces of the world's imperialist leaders.

Government workers in most departments were on strike and metal workers, auto workers from Renault, and workers from many insurance companies, department stores, supermarkets struck in solidarity with the public sector employees and joined in demonstrations.

It was reported that 50,000 people marched in Paris on the 2nd of June and over a million workers took part in demonstrations throughout France.

Eighty-percent of flights to and from French airports were cancelled and train traffic was reduced to virtually nothing as



French workers show that there is power in unified action

well. With many buses also affected, there were hundreds of miles of traffic jams leading to various cities throughout the country. Newspaper and postal deliveries were severely affected. Most schools were closed as well.

Didier Hotte, speaking for the CGT and FO workers' unions, historically close to the French Communist Party, called upon workers to stay off the job until the government agreed to negotiation. "The government never listened to us," he said. "We are

asking for them to reopen negotiations and listen to our demands."

The CGT is demanding that pensions be financed by increased corporate taxes, rather than the government's plan to increase to 40 from the current 37.5 years necessary to retire. When workers countered with a general strike and mass demonstrations in response to similar efforts in 1995, they were successful in forcing the government to abandon its plans. The government tried to divide the ranks of the

workers this time, by announcing on June 1st that it was postponing a plan to decentralize its school system, which has been another source of labour actions, but most teachers remained on strike anyway. The French teachers have been in the forefront of the of public sector protests over the course of the last three weeks and this is the tenth time classes have been shut down since the start of the school year, as part of a now eight-month long struggle to preserve the integrity of the French school system.

CGT union leader Bernard Thibault said the strikes were the only way of forcing the government to re-open negotiations. "The only thing that can change the equation is mobilisation and perseverance", Thibault said. "I want there to be a multitude of initiatives bringing together the maximum number of workers."

The IRSP express our solidarity with the striking workers in France and call upon government workers to remain united and private sector workers to continue their efforts in solidarity. For too long the capitalist class throughout the world has been on the offensive against our class. It is time we showed them, and ourselves, the power we can yield.

This is Republican Socialism!

The Irish Republican Socialist Party is an organisation created by and for working class people, to aid working class liberation in Ireland and internationally with others who share that common goal. The IRSP stands in the tradition of James Connolly, seeking an end to all forms of exploitation and the creation of a 32 county socialist republic, with the working class collectively owning the means of production, distribution, and exchange, as well as democratically administering society.

Socialism

The socialism we embrace is the kind that liberates, not enslaves. We strive towards a society that functions to meet human needs, not the need for profit. Our socialism is a means of liberating our class from all forms of oppression, whether economic, political, religious, cultural or social. It is a socialism that envisions our class controlling their own destinies and that of the nation as a whole.

National Liberation

The struggle for national liberation cannot be separated from the class struggle. Any attempt to isolate one from the other will result in failure. It is meaningless to speak of a free nation, if the overwhelming majority remain oppressed, and national sovereignty is lost through multinational corporate control of the economy just as much as by partition. At the same time, someone who refuses to challenge British imperialism in Ireland cannot claim to be fighting for socialism and the continuation of partition props up the divisions in the working class of Ireland that hold us back from our own liberation. We have no choice in whether or not we wish to consider the interconnection of the national and class questions, reality forces us to do so.

We define the national liberation struggle as that struggle which seeks to force a British military withdrawal from the occupied six counties. The destruction of the pro-British loyalist armed forces. The withdrawal of British political influence from all parts of Ireland. The ending the partition of the island of Ireland and the overturning of both the partitionist governments presently administering political affairs of Ireland. The gaining of collective economic control of the nation's resources by the nation as a whole and the eradication of any control or influence exercised by foreign capitalists over any aspect of the Irish economy. The recognition of a separate Irish cultural identity and the establishment of revolutionary 32-county socialist republic.

We aim to build a strong alliance in Irish society of our class in towns and cities, agricultural workers in the country-side, unemployed workers, working class refugees, linked as a movement internationally with other like-minded liberation struggles.

We firmly stand-by the struggle for a republic. On that we are inflexible, but our struggle for the republic is a means to an end. For us, the national liberation struggle is but an aspect of the struggle for socialism.

Loyalism & Nationalism

We distinguish between loyalism and Protestantism. We recognise the right of everyone to their own religious beliefs, provided they do not use these beliefs to oppress others. We have no quarrel with Protestant workers and welcome them to join us in struggle. However, we stand totally opposed to the political

ideology of loyalism. Loyalism is a reactionary, sectarian and pro-imperialist ideology, with which we can make no compromise. We recognise that nationalism in the context of the Irish struggle is progressive, but we also recognise that nationalism can play a reactionary role. The national chauvinism of the Tories, National Front, etc. is counter-revolutionary and anathema to socialists. The nationalism of an oppressed country is vastly different from such reactionary jingoism. We support all struggles against imperialism throughout the world.

Class mobilisation

Only by mobilising our class north and south - Protestant, Catholic and Dissenter - can the goal of national liberation and socialism be achieved. Workers have distinct interests as a class, ultimately opposed to any other class, we must join together as a class to win control of society.

For a fighting union

As republican socialists, we take lesson from battles that have gone before us, in the community and in the workplace. We must reclaim our unions and organise the unorganised. We remain committed to the revolutionary industrial unionism of Larkin and Connolly. As republican socialists we see the creation of a fighting 'rank and file' trade union movement as something that still holds potential and we support the building of a revolutionary shop stewards' movement.

Equality

Our class faces daily, relentless assaults inflicted on us from many quarters and a constant onslaught of attempts to divide us. The IRSP oppose and fight against all forms of inequality and oppression, including that of women, travellers, lesbians, gays, or other sexual minorities, refugees, Africans, Asians, and any other oppressed sector of the working class. We oppose racism, Zionism, sexism, homophobia, national chauvinism, and anything else which divides our class. We support reproductive rights and unhindered access to contraception, including a woman's right to choose abortion. We are opposed to religious sectarianism and seek the complete separation of church and state and a secular society.

Our Earth

The increasing destruction of our environment is due to mismanagement of industrialisation and the inevitable product of a system, which puts profit before all else, that is, capitalism. The IRSP is committed to sustainable and renewable energy sources, preservation of the ecology and biodiversity of our planet, with protection of all species and the promotion of a healthy environment for all people and animal life.

Revolution not Reform

The IRSP believe that the present class system cannot be reformed out of existence. There exists no parliamentary road to socialism and the liberation of our class. We need to build an organised working class movement with the politics capable of leading the fight against capitalism. Our class are entitled to control over all the wealth of society and to obtain it through any means necessary.

If you agree with us, then we urge you to join the Irish Republican Socialist Party and help build a movement that can accomplish these aims and objectives. Be part of the Irish revolution!

"United States Government Exceeds Its Authority in Deportation" -IRSCNA

In deporting John Eddie McNicholl, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement issued a statement that accused McNicholl of being a member of the "Irish National Liberation Army (INLA), a terrorist organization in Northern Ireland".

However, the INLA has never been included on the US State Department's Terrorist Organizations List. That the INLA is not on the State Department's list demonstrates that the The U.S. Department of Homeland Security Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement are ignoring the procedures mandated by the Congress of the United States for identifying an organisation as "terrorist" for state purposes.

Bernadette Devlin McAliskey has called the IRSP and INLA, "the most persecuted organisation in Irish history," and the deportation of John Eddie McNicholl is but the latest example of the vicious and vindictive actions taken against the movement by the British, American, and Irish governments since its founding nearly thirty years ago.

The Irish Republican Socialist Committees of North American (IRSCNA), the organisation which represents the Irish Republican Socialist Party (IRSP, the political wing of the INLA) in Canada and the United States issued a statement saying:

"The IRSCNA believe that the deportation of John Eddie Mc Nicholl was pursued not because he presented any threat to the people of the United States, but specifically because of his former membership in the INLA. This is most likely because of the refusal of the Irish Republican Socialist Party (IRSP) and INLA to support the failed peace process which culminated in the now discredited Good Friday Agreement, as well as the outspoken opposition by the IRSP and INLA to the imperialist misadventures of the present US regime in Afghanistan and Iraq.

"The INLA has been on cease-fire since Augst 22, 1998, when they recognised that there was no significant support for continuation of the tactic of armed struggle among Irish working people. Since that time, the IRSP has presented one of the most far reaching proposals for ensuring an end to violence in Ireland's occupied six counties, the Non-Aggression Pact Plan. This plan was designed to enable the working class communities on both sides of the sectarian divide--who have borne the brunt of the Troubles over almost four decades, without the intervention of the partionist governments on the island of Ireland or the involvement of foreign governments.

"Regardless of the what the INLA's present policies are, John Eddie McNicholl had been living quietly in Pennsylvania with his wife and three children for approximately fifteen years before being deported. There were no active extradition requests seeking his return to either Ireland or Britain and he had not been charged with having broken any laws while resident in the United States. Moreover, the Irish republican and republican socialist prisoners being held for offenses which took place prior to the Good Friday Agreement (GFA)--with the notable exception of fellow INLA member Dessie O Hare, who is still being held by the Dublin government--have all since been released under the terms of the GFA.

"McNicholl has a record of being a responsible and law-abiding American resident. His arrest and deportation violate both normal Homeland Security Agency and INS practice. They demonstrate not the slightest concern for the hardship imposed upon his family by the sudden change. John McNicholl's arrest and deportation were carried out in a manner which ensured the humiliation of arrest, incarceration, and being dragged through the court system with no consideration of either the changed political realities of Ireland today or of the changes McNicholl has gone through personally during his approximately fifteen years as a US resident. While normally an immigrant is served with a written notice telling him to report to the INS in about two weeks, McNicholl was taken from his home without notice, shackled and handcuffed, with no time to bring his personal affairs in order.

"The actions of the present US administration towards John Eddie McGarrigle further erode the civil liberties of all American residents and serve to demonstrate the continued disdain the American government has for the rule of law. From the stealing of a Presidential election, to an internationally condemned war of aggression against the people of Iraq, to the abrogation of existing treaties, to the violation of Geneva Conventions on prisoners of war, the present Administration and the US Government as a whole have increasingly provided a model of a descent into barbarism."

In concluding, the IRSCNA spokesperson said:

"It is imperative that Irish republicans and republican socialists in America, along with all others who seek to preserve the civil liberties of US residents and combat the trampling of those rights presently underway contact their representatives in Congress and oppose the manner in which the Administration continues to violate civil rights."

Send messages of opposition to changes to the US/UK Extradition Treaty. This revision removes the traditional "political exemption" safeguards. Individual senators email can be identified at: <http://www.senate.gov/>

MCNICHOLL FAMILY RESPONDS TO DEPORTATION

"I witnessed my father being kidnapped by strange men from our front door and bundled into an unmarked car. I ran down the street after the car but could not catch up to it. I later found out that these people were representatives of the United States Government.

"I am in high school. I am a citizen of the United States. I was born and raised in this neighborhood, in Upper Darby. This is my home. My friends are here; this is my country; my younger brother and sister and my mother are United States citizens.

"Can someone from the Bush Administration explain what we are to do, now that they have deported our father? Where is the justice, in the justice dept of the US for my family and me?"

The words of Sean McNicholl after witnessing his father, Eddie, being kidnapped from the street on his way to work before being forcibly thrown out of the United States.

LITREACHA DEARGA

RED LETTERS

Starry Plough Readers Views

BUS DRIVERS WANT ACTION NOT CROCODILE TEARS!

Dear Editor

Translink and the union ATGWU and some of our elected representatives will be interview they will cry about the vicious attack on an innocent driver, they will claim that some service's may have to be with drawn.

This is a typical and expected response after all words a cheap.

Over two years ago I made Translink the ATGWU," GS Bill Morris, Joe McCusker and chairmen of both Ulsterbus and Citybus branches John Coffey, Davey Glover, Northern Ireland Health and Safety Executive and all the political party's in Stormont aware of a plan introduce by Dublin Bus in 1996 following a report by a working group establish by the minister for justice Mrs Nora Owen T.D.

It was called the Edinburgh plan, the main body of the plan was:

(1) Drivers on longer handled cash "it fell into a secure box which the driver has no control off" this action would prevent robberies",

(2) Improved cab security better protection for drivers

(3) Better communication between the police, street cleansing department, local resident groups, Translink management, and the trade unions.

Translink and the union are serious about preventing attacks on drivers they should be calling on the security minister Jane Kennedy to establish a task force that should include all of the above. This morning Thursday 29th

May on radio Ulster John Coffey chairman of the citybus drivers union ATGWU threaten the withdraw of buses in working class community's in Northern Ireland as a result of these attacks.

Why, these thugs and hoodlums are not from the working class community's.

The working class community's do not support these thugs why do the ATGWU wantto punish the working class instead of attacking the scum who attack public service workers?

Talk is cheap, the drivers want action not crocodile tears.

S Smyth
Belfast

Housing Shortages

A Chara,

The housing shortage in Derry could be greatly eased if the Housing Executive were given the houses, soon to be evacuated by the British Army families in the waterside area of the city.

Also the British Army should be

forced to evacuate the former American naval in the same area which was given to the people of Derry when the Yanks left.

By the way, I hope the City fathers have been charging the Brits plenty of rent and maybe they could tell us some how much it was and what they spent

it on.

Almost 30 years rent, boy should amount to a pretty penny.

All in all the housing problem could be greatly eased if these scoures could be tapped, don't you think so?
REDEYE, Derry.

REWRITING OF HISTORY

A Chara,

I was shocked and amazed to read reports of a Conference organised by Coiste, in Lisburn to discuss turning the old Long Kesh site into a museum.

Obviously the invitations were sent out only for a selected few. For the record, Teach Na Failte, which represents the interests of republican socialist ex-prisoners was not informed or invited to the conference. This despite the fact that Teach Na Failte has fully supported and involved itself in other projects initiated by Coiste such as the Processes for Nation Building project.

There have been hundreds of INLA prisoners who served time in Long Kesh. Three of our prisoners, died on hunger strike there, Patsy O'Hara, Kevin Lynch and Michael Devine. INLA prisoners escaped from the camp participated in the blanket protest and executed loyalist Billy Wright. Like it or lump it the INLA

are a part of the history of Long Kesh.

Mr. Paul Butler, one of the organisers is quoted in the newspaper as saying "we have tried to reach out to ex-loyalists prisoners and unionists" We would endorse those sentiments but would ask why Mr. Butler and Coiste failed to reach out to other republicans?

Whether the failure to invite Teach Na Failte was deliberate or an oversight is irrelevant. When one thinks of Long Kesh one thinks of the prisoners and their organisations. Did nobody at that conference notice that the representatives of the ex-INLA prisoners were absent?

Is this part of the rewriting of history to exclude those who do not conform to the views and opinions of Coiste? How can Mr Butler talk about the necessity for the museum idea to have the full backing of all sections of the community when one of the

groups closely identified with the history of Long Kesh is absent from the whole debate?

The failure of Coiste, which incidentally only represents those ex-prisoners associated with the Provisional IRA, to invite Teach Na Failte, which represents those ex-prisoners associated with the INLA, is regrettable. In these days of inclusiveness and reaching out to others the failure to invite Teach Na Failte would seem to indicate a mean minded spirit. It was disrespectful to the whole republican socialist community. It was disrespectful to the ex-prisoners themselves who endured so much in Long Kesh and it was disrespectful to the wives, mothers and children who wearily visited the prisoners over the years.

Yours sincerely,
Eddie McGarrigle

On behalf of the Management Committee of Teach Na Failte

BELFAST HIGH COURT ATTEMPTS TO BLOCK CONVERY MEMORIAL

A High Court judge has attempted to halt the erection of a memorial to an INLA volunteer killed by the RUC.

Brendan Convery was one of two INLA volunteers killed by police on August 13, 1983, when a four-man gang tried to ambush security forces. The other volunteer was Gerard Mallon from County Armagh.

At the time of writing the foundation stone had already been laid for the memorial at the rear of Tamney Crescent housing estate in Maghera, Co Derry. The ground is owned by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive and it was granted an injunction to stop building work continuing. A spokesperson for the committee told the Starry Plough:

"This is the first time to our knowledge that this type of action has been taken by the NIHE and should be condemned outright. The volunteers of the INLA have as much right as any other combatants who died during various conflicts to be remembered by their friends and comrades. The RUC have been harrasing workers but the memorial will be built and unveiled on 17th August!"

Y faner goch for a free socialist wales

Publication of *Cymru Goch*, Welsh Republican Socialists

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Appreciation: "Red" Micky Doherty

By a former comrade

Derry lost one of its true gentlemen when "Red" Micky Doherty lost his fight for life in May 2003.

Micky, who had not been active in the political scene for some time, was a committed and dedicated Republican Socialist nonetheless. A lifelong activist and former OIRA member, he was wounded on Bloody Sunday whilst defending his people from one of the most ferocious attacks ever witnessed in Derry, he survived and went on to become a founding member of both the INLA and IRSP a few years later. He was instrumental in the emergence of the INLA, particularly during and around the time of the 1981 hunger strike when the INLA were at their most

active in terms of attacks on the British presence. Micky's politics never left him, even when he retired from the Republican Socialist Movement, he lived his life as an example to the rest of us. Generous to the core.

Micky was held in high regard amongst his generation and this was borne out by the many friends and former comrades who paid their respects during the wake and at his funeral. His former comrades paid their own small but significant tribute by draping Micky's coffin in the flag of the Irish working class, the Starry Plough.

Rest in peace, comrade.



Former comrades of "Red" Micky Doherty help carry his remains on the journey towards his final resting place in Derry's City Cemetery

Miriam Daly: Republican Socialist Leader

The Irish Republican Socialist Party is proud to have had a woman as its second chairperson. That woman, Miriam Daly, was a dedicated fighter for the Irish working class.

Miriam Daly grew up in Dublin and attended UCD, where she later lectured in Economic History. Following her first husband's death, she married Jim Daly. Though married in London, Jim got a job at Queen's University in Belfast in 1968, prompting the two to move there, where Miriam got a job teaching Economic and Social History at Queen's soon after.

Miriam immediately became involved in the Civil Rights movement and was swiftly recognised as an effective public speaker. Jim Daly recalled, "What she said was genuine and from the heart. She was direct and honest and people responded to that."

Around the same time, Miriam began writing for Republican News. When Official Sinn Fein split in late 1974, Miriam became a founding member of the IRSP. After the murder of Seamus Costello in 1977, Miriam she was elected IRSP chairperson, during a period of great vitality. When the prison protests began to escalate, Miriam was elected onto the national leadership of the H-Block/Armagh Committee.

A tireless campaigner, Jim recalled of her, "People called her in the middle of the night to come to an RUC station to help out...She never stopped. It was amazing how much dedication she had. She was always upbeat and confident and optimistic."

People's Democracy informed Jim and Miriam that they were on a loyalist death



list, as were other H-Block Committee leaders. In Miriam's case, it was more than her leadership in the prison struggles involved. British intelligence are believed to have drafted the list as part of "Operation RANC", which was set up after the assassination of Airey Neave.

Neave was a key Tory party figure, with links to British intelligence and is believed to be one of the "puppet-masters" that put Thatcher in charge of the Tory party and later Britain. Because the INLA carried out the bombing that killed Neave, Thatcher's government sought revenge on the INLA and its IRSP comrades.

On 26 June 1980, Miriam was in her home on Andersonstown Road, while Jim was away in Dublin. As best as can be deduced, Miriam left the door open when she went next door to the shop. When she returned, assassins were waiting for her. At age 51, Miriam was shot five times in the head. Her nine-year-old daughter, Marie, found her body when she came home from school.

Jim recalled, "The RUC took away Miriam's handbag, a large book we had

with phone numbers... there were five spent cartridges lying on the floor, which they didn't pick up. They were more interested in a political witch hunting than trying to find out who carried out this murder."

Though the UFF claimed the killing, it is believed the SAS actually carried out the murder. The same SAS unit is suspected to have also killed Bunting and Lytle in October 1980. In both cases the weapons used have not been tied to any other loyalist paramilitaries' actions and the level of professionalism in the assassinations is not typical of loyalist murders.

Miriam Daly was buried in Swords, County Dublin. A four-man INLA honour guard joined the funeral cortege as it halted outside the Daly house in Andersonstown on its way to the requiem Mass and fired a volley of shots over her casket in a tribute to the fallen martyr. She is remembered with pride by her comrades in the IRSP and INLA as a dedicated Republican Socialist.

Cuimhneam

Fallen Volunteers and political activists remembered

The staff and volunteers of the Irish National Liberation Army remember with pride our comrades whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Vol. Brendan McNamree	Assassinated	6 June 1975 Co. Antrim
Miriam Daly, IRSP	Assassinated	26 June 1980 Co. Antrim
Vol. Paul McCann	Killed in Action	15 June 1984 Co. Antrim
Vol. John Morris	Killed in Action	5 June 1997 Co. Dublin
Vol. Kevin Lynch	Died on Hunger Strike	1 Aug 1981 Co. Derry
Vol. Michael Devine	Died on Hunger Strike	20 Aug 1981 Co. Derry
Vol. Brendan Convery	Killed in Action	13 Aug 1983 Co. Derry
Vol. Gerard Mallon	Killed in Action	13 Aug 1983 Co. Armagh
Vol. James McPhilemy	Killed in Action	10 Aug 1988 Co. Tyrone

"When the freedom of our country and class has been won, let us guard it well, remembering it was paid for in the blood of those now dead. The building of the revolutionary party is the only tribute befitting our comrades."

The Ard Comhairle and Membership of the Irish Republican Socialist Party remember at this time our comrades who died in the struggle for a Socialist Republic.

Vol. Brendan McNamree	Assassinated	6 June 1975 Co. Antrim
Miriam Daly, IRSP	Assassinated	26 June 1980 Co. Antrim
Vol. Paul McCann	Killed in Action	15 June 1984 Co. Antrim
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Vol. James McPhilemy	Killed in Action	10 Aug 1988 Co. Tyrone

"If you hoist the green flag and remove the English army...unless you set about establishing a Socialist Republic all your efforts will have been in vain."

Republican Socialist POWs in Maghaberry, Portlaoise and Castlereagh remember with pride the volunteers of the Irish National Liberation Army who gave their lives in the struggle for Socialism.

Vol. Brendan McNamree	Assassinated	6 June 1975 Co. Antrim
Miriam Daly, IRSP	Assassinated	26 June 1980 Co. Antrim
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"Whenever death may supound us, let it be welcome, provided that this, our battle cry, may reach some receptive ear and that other hands reach out to pick up our weapons, to entone our funeral dirge with the staccato of machine gun fire and new cries of battle and victory ever onward, Venceremos"

Insertions:

If you would like to place an notice into Cuimhneamh then please contact the Starry Plough office with details as soon as possible before you want it to appear. Our contact details are on page 2. Family notices are especially welcome.

Quiz Quote

The answer to Quote Quiz is:

C/ Georges Clemenceau

An

The Starry Plough

Camchéachta



Pairtí Poblachtacht Soisialach na h-Éireann

FOR NATIONAL LIBERATION AND SOCIALISM!

SUPPORT THE TRANSPORT WORKERS

PUT

A

STOP

TO

PRIVATISATION!



Ireland's Transport workers has taken its first steps in the war against forced privatisation straight to the bosses door in what is being scene as a series of 'hard hitting' strikes by an increasingly militant section of the public service, as workers prepare to go all the way to protect jobs and the public service nationally.

PUBLIC SUPPORT

The Irish Republican Socialist Party, who have spoken out against the 26 County Administrations handling of transport workers concerns in the past and the lack of funding of Ireland's public transport industry in comparison to other European countries spending levels in particular. He said "The only people that we can see who look set to benefit from

the break up of Ireland's Bus and Rail company (CIE) will be the grubby hands of those controlling privatised projects themselves, the wealthy few on this island.

"Brennan's outlook for CIE as well as Aer Rianta, spells out further destruction of our country's transport industry, public service jobs within the transport sector and the public who need and cry out for a decent effective service!

"Recent action taken by on the bus and rail networks has shown those in power that 'labour will not wait'. The same also goes for any union bosses supportive of or influenced by 'Public Private Partnership' deals. They too have got to be challenged directly by workers to ensure unity at this

stage of the game remains high and focused."

NO FARES!

Many have said the one-day strike was more than effective as it killed two birds with one stone. The public got to travel for free and the bosses lost out on millions of Euros besides.

At the end of the day, privatisation will affect all of us and pressure will be increased in the months ahead as national demonstrations, rallies and further protests are being organised.

The country is fully behind our public transport workers as witnessed during the first 'No Fares' day. All the way from Cork to Malin, support is now there

against any plans to sell-off CIE. On the picket line, growing news of a possible sell-off has been met with outright condemnation.

Many say the strike was more than effective as it killed two birds with one stone. The public got to travel for free and the bosses lost out on millions of Euros besides. At the end of the day, privatisation will affect all of us.

The IRSP are encouraging everyone to help assist Bus and Rail workers actions in the weeks ahead by distributing information leaflets and posters against Brennan's plans. Solidarity is Strength against Privatisation!

THE VOICE OF IRISH REPUBLICAN SOCIALISM!