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IRSM - 30 Years



Of Struggle & Resistance!

SPECIAL 30th ANNIVERSARY EDITION!

Back To Connolly, Back To Costello

IRSM 30 Years On

This year marks the 30th anniversary of our movement, and the theme of the 2004 Ard Fheis was "Back to Connolly, Back to Costello", as our Republican Socialist movement stands in the tradition of Connolly and Costello. Connolly and Costello were more than just Republicans because of their class orientation. Although Irish Republicanism has a 'popular' orientation, it does not explicitly and specifically represent the interests of the working class. While Republicanism is progressive and democratic, it stands for 'the people' or 'the Irish people', not just the Irish working class.

The Republican Socialism of Connolly and Costello primarily stood for the interests of the working class. What distinguished their Republican Socialism is that their ultimate aim was to establish the Workers Republic, not simply the Republic. Republicanism at best stands for a socially egalitarian Republic while the goal of Republican Socialism is for the working class to take power. Their Republican Socialism drew its inspiration first and foremost from the struggles and ideas of the working class in Ireland and worldwide rather than simply the Republican tradition. Republicanism is not part of the global working class movement. It may be in sympathy with it, but it is not organically part of it. It does not see itself as part of the global class struggle like the Republican Socialism of Connolly and Costello.

Connolly and Costello were more than just Socialists because their ideas also had roots in the Irish Republican tradition. Their roots are in left Republicanism, as opposed to say Maoism, Trotskyism, social democracy or international communism. This is not simply a genealogical or historical question. It means that no serious revolutionary movement or process can be built in Ireland outside or apart from the Republican tradition. It played a significant historical role, and is still a major element in Irish political life today. To ignore it would be ignoring the experience of history and a major political force today.

Also, for Connolly and Costello, there was a democratic content within Republicanism that had not yet exhausted itself. Their Republican Socialism was an attempt to develop and actualise the radical potential within Republicanism. What were the core principles of the Republican Socialism of Connolly and Costello?

Their ultimate aim was for the working class to take power and establish Socialism in Ireland. But they were clear that you cannot establish socialism in Ireland unless you resolve the national question, and that national liberation is meaningless unless it also means the liberation of the working class. The national struggle and the class struggle are organically linked. The struggle for national liberation is not opposed to the struggle for socialism, but an integral and necessary part of it.

This is why "The cause of labour is the cause of Ireland, the cause of Ireland is the cause of labour. They cannot be dissevered." When the national struggle and the class struggle have been separated, it has led to disastrous results. The separation of the movement for independence from the struggle for socialism is always resolved against the interests of the masses. Although the fight for national freedom takes a logical priority in that it represents an attack on the most immediate and most tangible manifestation of domination, it cannot be chronologically separated from the struggle for social liberation. To postpone the objective of socialism to a distinct "stage" in the future invites a form of independence which is necessarily on the terms favouring vested interests.

On the basis of a concrete analysis of social forces in Ireland, Connolly and Costello concluded that "only the Irish working class remain as the incorruptible inheritors of the fight for freedom in Ireland." The genuine motor of the national liberation struggle is the working class. The working class has no interest in the current status quo, and has neither wealth nor power to lose. But while Connolly and Costello also recognised that national liberation required the sup-

port of different social forces, they insisted that the working class had to organise itself independently to ensure that the struggle would not be degraded by the narrow concerns of the Irish capitalist class. Its independent organisation is paramount.

The working class cannot wait until after independence to fight for its own separate interests. Labour cannot wait. Connolly and Costello insisted that the task of Republican Socialists was to provide political leadership to the economic, political and ideological struggles of the people, not tail ending them. This means that Republican Socialists should not simply 'participate' in various grass roots movements and struggles, but seek to lead them. The creation of a strong political leadership is essential for Republican Socialism to be successful.

Finally, their Republican Socialism was internationalist in nature. They were not narrowly concerned with Irish issues, but saw the struggle in Ireland as part of a global struggle for socialism. Most of you present today will almost certainly be familiar with those principles. Unfortunately, too often have we failed to make those principles concrete and relevant for our people today; instead they have become tired old slogans used and reused. One of the problems of our movement is that it has used revolutionary rhetoric and slogans as a substitute for its lack of concrete politics. We have worn Connolly badges and T-shirts to hide our failure to play a historical role as important as that of Connolly. Going "back to Connolly, back to Costello" in 2004/2005 does not mean going back to whatever slogans their principles have been reduced to, but back to the original spirit of their Republican Socialism. Their strength was to have made Republican Socialism relevant to the lives and experiences of their contemporaries.

Connolly and Costello emphasised and developed the egalitarian and popular aspects of Irish Republicanism, they stressed not just the democratic but also the social content of Republicanism. That is also our task today. Connolly and Costello also understood that in order to liberate itself, the working class needs to be organised, and organisation will not happen spontaneously. The task of Republican Socialists is to help train and prepare the working class to take power. This is what Connolly and Costello attempted to do politically, militarily and industrially. The central task of the Republican Socialist party is to try to direct the struggles of the working class by organising and leading all the oppressed on the road to power by engaging with all struggles and point them to a political struggle against the capitalist state. That is also our task today. The only possible conclusion is that if we are serious about going back to Connolly, back to Costello, there is plenty of hard work ahead.



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The Starry Plough

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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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.

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INLA OFFERS SOLIDARITY TO IRSP

The Starry Plough received the following statement from the leadership of the Irish National Liberation Army on the 30th anniversary of the founding of the IRSP.

"We send warmest congratulations and fraternally greetings to our comrades and friends in the IRSP on the 30th anniversary of the founding of our movement. We salute your courage and determination in keeping the Party alive through good and bad times. We both share a common heritage, a common outlook and common politics though we have different roles. We salute our fallen Army volunteers and our fallen Party comrades. We remember them equally with pride for they shared the same goals and aspirations.



We also remember with pride our hundreds of volunteers who carried the war to the enemy in the fields, on the streets and in the gaols. And we acknowledge and acclaim the support we received from countless homes and families, from countless individuals who contributed in great and small ways to maintaining the integrity of our struggle.

We both were founded to bring national liberation and socialism to the working class of Ireland. We are delighted to state that after 30 years this movement at least remains faithful to its founding principles. While our ceasefire declared in 1998 is secure, out of respect for the wishes of the vast majority of the Irish work-

ing class, we will remain vigilant on behalf of that same working class.

Today the difficulties we all face are very different from those we faced 30 years ago. The weapons we use today must be different from those we started out with. Now having accepted the primacy of politics as outlined by volunteer Ta Power we see the continuing development of the Party as crucial to arming the Irish working class with the basic political weapons to stand up to exploitation.

Comrades, remain true to the interests of the Irish working class and INLA will always be there to defend your right to exist. You have proved by your survival and by your recent growth even in the face of immense dangers and difficulties that you are in the fine tradition of Connolly, Mellows and Costello. Continue to struggle for National Liberation and Socialism.

On behalf of the leadership of the Irish National Liberation Army

IRSP Ard Fheis 2004



I.R.S.P. ARD FHEIS HELD IN DERRY ON NOVEMBER 13TH

The Irish Republican Socialist Party held its Ard Fheis on Saturday 13th November in a venue in Derry city centre. Delegates from throughout Ireland, Britain and the United States attended this year's event.

The main speech on the day was given by outgoing political secretary Gerry Ruddy who outlined the successes and failures of the last two years since the previous Ard Fheis.

He began, "This the 30th year of the founding of our Party it is an honour and privilege to address you as Political Secretary. Although 30 years old, we are also a relatively new Party, because we have had to re-build from scratch. Many in the Party have no long-term experience of political work and maybe lack the skills that other more professional parties may have. But comrades while the Party may be organisationally in its infancy we are not children when it comes to the politics of Ireland. We are, and I say this without arro-

gance, the most principled radical revolutionary party in Ireland precisely because we have stayed true to the core principles of Republican Socialism."

Among the other items highlighted in his speech were the current political situation and the Stormont Deal.

Comrade Ruddy said "Our political analysis of the pacification process and the signing of the Good Friday Agreement was and is spot on. The strategy of Sinn Fein brought them electoral gains and bourgeois approval. So much so that they now cannot condemn the election of Bush. It brought them an almost mafia like control of many nationalist areas. The slow spread of corruption within formerly staunch republican areas is alienating many not only from the provisionals but also from any politics." Some motions that were passed at the Ard Fheis are highlighted on Page 13. Full Text of speech on www.irms.org

Christmas Fundraising Event in Dublin

The Irish Republican Socialist Party will be holding a fundraising event in Dublin on Saturday 18th December in aid of Republican Socialist Prisoners. The event will include a sponsored Hair Shaving Event. A raffle will also be held and prizes on offer include a Portlaois hand made mirror, a bodhran and a harp made in Castlereagh prison.

Members of the IRSP and supporters locally as well as four current prisoners will be shaving their heads as part of the fundraising event.

The event begins at 8pm in Saints and Sinners Pub, North King Street in Dublin. All are welcome.

Speed Ramps for Glenard Area

Teach na Fáilte North Belfast have today welcomed the preliminary proposals set out for the traffic calming measures proposed by the Roads Service. After a campaign, lasting almost two years, addressing the need for speed ramps in the Highbury Gardens and greater Glenard area, which consisted of petitions and a long tireless process of letters and telephone calls to the Road Service, Teach na Fáilte representative for the area and organiser of the campaign, Paul Carson, said,

"Teach na Fáilte North Belfast welcome the proposals set out in the plans for this traffic calming initiative. After campaigning for this for the last two years, I am pleased to see that our cries haven't fallen upon deaf ears. The need for these speed ramps throughout the area should be the priority of the Road Service.

"Too many children in this area are constantly running the risk of being knocked down by drivers speeding excessively throughout the streets. There is also the fact that the black taxis and private hire vehicles are using these small streets as short-cuts through the area, in order to escape the speed ramps in other parts of the district. This can no longer be accepted in this day and age. Speeding drivers are capable of so much death and destruction, and as the streets of Ardoyne are our children's playground, we have to ensure their safety at all times. Their very lives depend on us.

"What needs to be addressed now is the size and position of the individual ramps and for us to ensure that we have the right ramps for the area. The increase in death driving and drink driving throughout the Glenard area highlights the urgency of this matter.

"While we welcome the initiative we must be mindful that time is of the utmost urgency for this to be completed, before some child is killed on our streets. Teach na Fáilte would call upon the Black Taxi Association to ensure that the drivers on the Ardoyne run are complying with the designated route for the area and desist from using the other streets as 'short-cuts'.

"We would also call for the co-operation of the various taxi depots in the area to ensure that their drivers drive responsibly throughout the district. Taking short-cuts is all well and good, but a life is invaluable."

Teach na Fáilte would encourage residents of the working class communities to begin to take ownership of these initiatives. We offer our full help and resources to the community in order that they can carry out these projects successfully. Teach na Fáilte encourage and support all initiatives that bring about self empowerment to the working class.

IRSP WELCOME RELEASE OF SEAMUS DOHERTY

The IRSP welcomed the release of Derry Republican Seamus Doherty from his illegal incarceration at the hands of a British Dirty Tricks department. We also take this opportunity to congratulate Seamus' family, supporters and legal team for a hard fought battle that in the end proved the folly of Britain's continued policy of singling out those opposed to the current political process for special treatment.

The campaign run by Seamus' family and friends will serve as an inspiration to all those fighting for human rights and those fighting against an illegal, unjust and unfair British legal system in Ireland. We offer our deepest congratulations to all involved.

We are glad to see that the position of the Free Seamus Doherty Campaign has been vindicated and that an innocent man has now been freed. This acquittal, while late in coming, is welcomed nonetheless. Seamus will now be able to get on with his life but will no doubt be affected by what the British State has put him through in the last year and a half in what was undoubtedly a political frame up. Seamus called into the Derry IRSP Cumann meeting a few days after his release to personally thank the party for helping with the campaign to secure his freedom. He also gave a report on the current situation in Maghaberry and the lack of proper facilities for the POWs. More on this in later editions.

Bloody Innocent!

Sunday Victims After Saville

In November the Bloody Sunday Inquiry finished four years of witness testimonies and evidence gathering By Saville as another chapter closed with his closing speech.

That event had been earmarked to take place back in October however it was again delayed. Leading Republican Socialist and Civil Rights Association founder, Johnny White who was due to speak to the Inquiry was unable to attend on health grounds.

The Saville Tribunal, which began back in March 2000 is expected to cost in total 155 million pounds after hearing from 505 civilians, 9 forensic scientists, 49 journalists and photographers, 245 military personnel, 34 'paramilitaries' 33 RUC officers, 7 Priests and 39 politicians including civil servants and intelligence officers to name but a few.

The Starry Plough spoke to Terry Hakin, London based IRSP member, following the closure of Saville Inquiry. Comrade Harkin's mother Kathleen, a prominent socialist and civil rights activist in the city at the time was part of a delegation who travelled to number 10 handing in a petition on behalf of the marchers as the first shots were being fired in the Bogside.

Comrade Hakin said: "I think the whole thing is going to come to nothing. At a time when the Brits are up to their old tricks in Iraq there is no way they can hold their hands up to Bloody Sunday. Britain's commanding general (Mike Jackson) is one of those who ordered his men to open fire and indeed fired off a few rounds himself on the day. They would never let anything that could call into question their army's action's never mind their top soldier's action's into question at such a delicate time. Can anyone really say they can see Tony Blair sending the Peeler's down to Horse Guards to trail Mike Jackson out while stopping off to pick up Ted Heath on the way to Belmarsh? Not a chance of it."

The Starry Plough reporter asked as to what possible outcome does he himself foresee as the Bloody Sunday Inquiry concludes (summer of 2005) he said: "Best case scenario is that they sit on the report for 30+ years and then let it come out when those responsible are dead as will be most of the family's and most of those who cared about the issue. It will then be just a historical foot note like the Amritsar Massacre.

"Or, worst case is another whitewash with the blame being placed on individual Para's and not the chain of command that ordered the actions on the day.

"I think that a third option, would be for the Brits to acknowledge the the recent conflict was indeed a war and give a general amnesty to all combatants.

"The unfortunate thing about this is while it decriminalises every one who threw a brick or fought the war at a stroke it also let's individual



Civil Rights marchers are blocked by the British Army

Brits off the hook for war crimes like Bloody Sunday" he said.

"However, the General Amnesty should go hand and hand with a form of Truth Commission that would see organisations like the INLA, UDA, IRA, Free State and British governments taking responsibility for actions carried out in their name' giving full and frank accounting for those action rather than individuals. In this scenario the British would be obliged to appear before the commission to give an accounting for their actions on Bloody Sunday, stating the thought process that went into it, the orders given and where those orders came from i.e. the PM's office as opposed to the PM.

"Then the best case scenario becomes the Brits are forced to admit policy decisions gave rise to the notion that the Para's should "go in and clean out the Bogside," orders were issued in line with this policy. They then conducted operations on the day that left civilians dead and not combatants. Then they should reparate the families and the City.

"This gets every one off the merry go round of who did what to who. We are already starting to see the reopening of Birmingham and who knows what will be next. The blame game is starting and Ireland is too small an island for that."

The entire history of that period, and none more so than the developments surrounding Bloody Sunday has created a wound deep within all of us which affects not only the families of those murdered or even the people of Derry but to the people of this country as a whole.

What do you think would actually be good enough to heal that wound?

Comrade Hakin said "I can't speak for the family's, but I know Mike Jackson and his Para's

Murdered 14 in Derry on Bloody Sunday. I know Ted Heath gave him and those above him the orders to do so.

"I do not need some over paid parasite in a wig to waffle on for a few years to convince me of it.

"I want to hear the Brits say it, I want to see Blair or some other Brit PM stand in front of an international tribunal and say yes. The then British Government gave orders to attack the Civil Rights' march in Derry, yes our troop's acting on Cabinet orders shot those people. That's what I want to hear, what I do not want to see is some squadie dragged before a court to take the blame for something Ted Heath told him to do.

What do you feel would be the point of that?

Comrade Hakin explained: "Better to get the truth, the policy, thought processes that lead them to the conclusion that Irish life was so cheap that they could kill 14 of us at the one time to teach us a lesson.

"That's not what we're going to get though, not by a long shot. What we will get will be some where in-between the two scenarios above. We may even get a few sacrificial ex para's. We'll not get the truth but. No Government is ever going to give up an ex PM and their army commander during a war, no matter how one sided that war may be. Not in this time space continuum any way.

"The Brits however can never abrogate their responsibility for illegality or reparation as their act's were carried out as acts of Government policy and involved using troops against the general population they all took others to protect. Also this took place when only the liberation forces had declared war, not them."

IRSP: Class Unity Will Defeat Privatisation & Water Tax!

Irish Republican Socialist Party representative John Hogan, has expressed anger at any possible introduction of a Water Tax and has called on working class communities to avail of continuing public meetings within Derry to voice their opposition to it. His statement followed public meetings in Derry in which the IRSP attended and advocated strong protest action against the introduction of water taxes.

At one meeting in Galliagh which was called by the Galliagh Community Development Group the IRSP, SEA and local community activists put forward the policy of non-payment. Others attending, including local Sinn Fein and SDLP MLAs were much more muted in their opposition to this British imposed stealth tax.

Comrade Hogan said "The constant drip, drip, dripping of information and news stories churned out in recent months has everyone's head turned when it comes to the issues involved with Water Charges. Our party has attended what hopes to be a series of community public meetings in an effort to create a confident grass-roots fight back against any possible job cuts or the introduction of a Water Tax.

"There is sadly a strategy now in motion to frighten people into accepting that they are in a no-win situation. That is simply music to the ears of those who are wishing for an easy life as the axe and privatise public service jobs and introduce further forms of taxes, be it a water tax or something else by the back door.

"It is up to each and everyone of us be it here in Derry or elsewhere in the north west to organise both within each and every community and workplace organisation. For republican socialists we call for all those opposed to it to directly get involved in developing an organised united campaign of mass rejection and non-payment which will show the councils, Stormont and the Northern Ireland Office where they can strick their Water Tax.

Comrade Hogan concluded: "The IRSP are urging all who are opposed to this tax to get involved in the forthcoming public meetings in the city. There a number coming up including another in Galliagh and one in Ballymagroarty.

WE CAN DEFEAT THIS AS THEY CAN'T JAIL US ALL!

Plaque to be unveiled in Memory Of "Red" Mickey Doherty

The Republican Socialist Memorial Committee in Derry are currently finalising plans to unveil a plaque in the Bogside area of Derry to honour a founding member of the Irish Republican Socialist Movement, "Red" Mickey Doherty.

Mickey was wounded during the British attack on the civilian population of Derry on what became known as Bloody Sunday. He had fired on the British to deter their ongoing attack when he himself was hit but managed to escape.

The unveiling takes place at 2.30pm on Saturday 22nd January 2005 at the bottom of Lisfannon Park near to Free Derry Corner. All are welcome. Social afterwards

Bloody Sunday Commemoration

March & Rally

Sunday January 30th 2005

Assemble: 2.30pm Creegan Shops, Derry

All Areas Requested to Bring Flags & Banners

The Health Service:

Dare To Complain? See A Psychiatrist!

As the health service in the 26 counties limps along from bad to worse it would appear that the pressure of the often intolerable conditions is telling on staff and patients alike. These of course are the two groups of people which should be least affected by incompetent government policies and crass management practices. The staff of the health service, a very professional and dedicated body, are there to help sick people recover and therefore should not be subjected to even greater pressures than they are already enduring due to the chaotic conditions they often experience during their working day. The other group who are often at the receiving end of this pressure valve are the patients, the very people who are seeking medical help for their illness.

The frustration of some patients was seen in evidence on the streets of Dublin on Saturday 13 November 2004 when a group titled 'Patients Together' organised a protest over, among other things, "the horrendous conditions in A&E hospital departments all around the country". Upwards of 500 people marched from The Garden Of Remembrance in Dublin to the Dail in order to register their anger at these conditions. Hospital patients are not normally the highest politicised body in society and Patients Together claims to be a "non political group" the demonstration was political by virtue of the fact that conditions in our health service are, either directly or indirectly, a consequence of governmental decisions. Don't Argue The problems in the health service are not only confined to the A&E departments other areas are also feeling the strain.

Patients are not only organising demonstrations on the streets but are now raising their voices of discontent in the hospitals themselves. As a result of these voices of dissatisfaction under paid and overworked health service staff are forced to endure even more pressure than they are already under. A kidney patient awaiting dialysis treatment told The Starry Plough that on arriving at the hospital for their 4pm appointment they were told that "the machine was not ready", which undoubtedly was the case but not the point. The patient was still waiting for their treatment at 5pm one hour later. In a modern hospital of the 21st century in the so called developed world this is hardly a credible explanation for one hours delay in an acute illness unit. It would be fair to say that a wait of one hour is miniscule compared to the waiting time experienced by patients in the A&E department but we are not talking about the A&E but an acute treatment unit, and even if we were it is not the point.

After a heated discussion the patient was referred to a psychiatrist, strange one would be forgiven for thinking to send a kidney patient to see a psychiatric specialist. Even stranger when the reason for this bizarre decision was that this was part of the "procedure for kidney patients awaiting transplant" (the patient in question is on the kidney transplant waiting list). However the plot thickens so to speak because when questioned further by the patient the psychiatrist stated that the real reason for the patients referral was "because of their (the patients) attitude it was necessary for a psychiatric analysis". The psychiatrist tried to say that "these delays occur in any health service and that the patient should be prepared for that".

This is questionable and again is not the point. A kidney patient in any health service should not be kept waiting for an hour until the dialysis machine is ready, was there not another machine?, and then when they complain be sent for a psychiatric analysis. What Should Be Done The example briefly outlined above is perhaps one of many such occurrences in different departments of various hospitals on a daily basis. When looking for the root cause of the problem it is no use pointing the finger of blame at already over burdened staff. If, as in the case above, the machine was not ready the question must be asked why and why was another life saving machine not available? Could the answer be that the money is not available to purchase more dialysis machines? if not why not?

Perhaps the answer may lie in the blatant squandering of money by the government on such useless projects as the giant knitting needle (the spire) in Dublins O'Connell Street. Or perhaps the Minister for Health, Mary Harney, should redirect staff and resources. For example one patient in Dublins Mater Hospital told The Starry Plough that "during their two week stay on a trolley in the A&E department they were asked the same set of questions on four separate occasions by four different non medical members of staff". Multiply this by the number of patients waiting in the A&E for a place on a ward at any given time in any A&E and we can see

what could be described as a waste of resources. How many times does a hospital need to know a persons religion, next of kin, parents occupation etc. ? surely once is enough. Common sense must suggest that instead of having all these people asking the same questions the emphasis must be placed on recruiting more nurses, doctors etc. into the health service, especially nurses who specialise in a particular field. This would open up wards presently closed, often due to staffing shortages, thus relieving pressure on the A&E departments as the conveyor starts to move. More nurses qualified to work in the acute unit areas, as it would appear there is a shortage of such nurses, would help relieve the pressure in such departments as the kidney dialysis areas, then perhaps psychiatrists can concentrate on their own field of medicine (how long before the psychiatrists need to see referred for psychiatric treatment themselves?).

However for any progress in this direction to be seen in the health service employment must become more attractive. Non Consultant Hospital Doctors, Nurses, Phlebotomists, Hospital Porters etc. must have their pay increased and hours reduced. It is not so much a case of people, particularly young people, not wanting to seek a career in the health service but more a question of being able to afford such employment. For many who could perhaps afford to go into, for example, nursing many are deterred by the excessively long hours forced upon them. The scenario is similar for some with the academic ability to study as doctors many are put off by the long period at university with little or no money and then rewarded with excessive hours of work.

This also then raises the question of more cash availability for students in full time education. The health service presents a strong case for governmental economic planning. It is a strong argument for socialism in Ireland as the only way forward to genuinely benefit society. Socialist economic planning will not, can not, be achieved within the parameters of the capitalist system. It is pointless to expect Mary Harney or any other so called minister of the capitalist system to do a great deal to alleviate the problems in the health service simply because they don't know what to do. The latest half baked effort to help aide the ills of the sick health service is to introduce more medical cards with a difference.

These new cards will allow a patient on low income to see a doctor free of charge. That, it would appear, is where the benefit stops as all medication prescribed by the doctor, according to the proposal at the time of writing, will have to be paid for by the patient. Not a great deal of use to a person or persons who are working on low income but needs long term medication. There is a way in which full comprehensive medical treatment can be provided for all at the point of need, Cuba does so despite all the problems forced upon her by the United States.

However for this provision to be realised it would mean an end to the capitalist system of government and economics based on greed and profit for the few at the expense of the many. This will not, can not, be achieved by filing Dail Eireann or any other parliament with well meaning but fundamentally useless TDs or MPs. The present system is irrefutable and must, for the future of humanity, be replaced by whatever means necessary.

Kevin Morley

Stick Yer Tax!

Dublin Irish Republican Socialist Party hit out at Dublin City Council as further increases in Bin Charges look set to spiral from January 2005.

A spokesperson for Dublin IRSP told the Starry Plough that "We have been directly opposed to the introduction of refuse charges and assisted the fight within our community. Our party are on record that by stating that in no time at all charges would spiral and sadly this is now the case.

"Those involved in pushing up the prices are openly out to squeeze what little working class families have, to merely exist from day to day. This latest 'pay as you go' scheme introduced by the the powers that be, is not about the protection of our environment by the reduction of waste that comes out of this and other cities. It's just another way to suck more taxes from those of us. It's time we rid the city hall of the rubbish that has gathered there for many years."

Revolusioin At Gas Attacks

The IRSP condemn outright the tactics employed by the RUC / PSNI against residents. Residents of the Catholic Westland Gardens were met with the sectarian hatred of the loyalist supporters of the UDA 'K' Coy, faction that controls the Loyalist Westland estate. This area, although witnessing some of the most serious violence in north Belfast has remained relatively calm in the last year. IRSP member, Cathal O' Cleirigh claims that the use of CS gas by the PSNI was unwarranted and completely unjustifi-

able. "It has emerged that in the early hours of the morning a catholic family who were returning home from a night out with friends, stumbled across two loyalists from the lower Westland estate, who were tampering with a car belonging to their friend across the street from them.

"When confronted, the two loyalist supporters of the infamous UDA 'K' Coy claimed that they were from Ardoyne and were there to take the car away. The two made fast their getaway and upon further inspection it was discovered that the car had had its tyres slashed." He added "Things remained quiet for a short while, but was later flared by the involvement of large crowds from the loyalist estate. The residents kept vigil from the safety of their own street. After a while

the PSNI responded to the incident that had since died down and after calm had been restored. They toppled around the corner of Westland Gardens where some female residents were standing and proceeded to alight from the landrover.

"Residents from the street claimed that they produced CS gas canisters and began shouting at them. At this they began to fire the CS gas at the female residents. This only goes to prove that we, the working classes of this island have no acceptable police force. There is no change to the tactics used by the unionist controlled RUC of the past and that which we have witnessed here by the PSNI in Westland Gardens. The only thing to have changed is the name."

Robbing The Poor To Pay The Rich:

How Irish the government has picked your pocket.

The government has turned Ireland into a tax heaven for the wealthy, paid for by the less well off through stealth taxes. The government is rewarding the rich to the tune of 8.5 billion Euros while simultaneously clawing back billions from low and middle earners a Sunday Tribune investigation has revealed (14 November 2004).(...)

Over the last few years, Minister for Finance Charles McCreevy introduced a range of stealth taxes and charges, steadily increased vat-, which has pushed up prices in shops- and sanctioned massive price hikes in electricity, gas, postal service and waste charges. In short, McCreevy was robbing Peter to ensure Paul stayed wealthy; robbing from the poor to give to the rich. ... His switch to stealth taxes has hit the lower paid hardest because they spend a larger proportion of their income on consumer goods.

These concern smoking, VAT, bank cards, electricity, waste and water charges, TV licence, driving and public transport. In the five years to 2004, consumer prices in Ireland have risen by 17.5 percent, over twice the EU average, and government led decisions have contributed to almost half of that increase. On the other hand, a whole series of generous tax reliefs means that many of our multi millionaires pay no tax at all.

A group of 41 people who last year earned over 500 000 Euros a year paid no tax at all. According to Revenue figures presented to the government last week, the exchequer loses 8.5 billion a year through those various tax breaks. As the government needs 40 billion Euros to run the country, this is a big chunk out of its budget.

Protest At Continued Job Cuts

As part of a planned one-day stoppage in protest against continued job cuts in the public sector, Civil service offices in Enniskillen, Belfast, Antrim, Coleraine, Newry, Derry and Lisburn closed.

An estimated 2,000 public service workers walked out in the six counties and right across Scotland, Wales and England to show their disgust and anger at proposed 10,000 job earmarked to go by the British government.

A spokesperson for the IRSP said "It is out of order at the way in which workers are being treated. The establishment are hell bent on demoralising public sector workers. It is about time that this behaviour gets a firm reaction by the entire trade union movement if has any fight left in it.

"In the coming months many workers will be thrown into the dole with compulsory redundancies as offices close. This has nothing to do with creating a better service for the people of the six counties as in fact working class communities will suffer at the loss of 10,000 job losses."

Decentralisation Chaos Continues

The Irish Republican Socialist Party in Dublin again voiced its concerns at the 26 county administrations planned decentralisation policy as Workers at Bus Eireann began protests in Dublin.

A spokesperson said "We are in full support at todays protest by staff at Bus Eireann. We have been informed that the number of workers who will be affected by the proposed decentralisation programme will hit over eighty jobs. Workers have now been told that these positions are to be transferred to the Cork area of Mitichelstown which the majority of workers are opposed to.

"This is not just an issue of workers opposition to job creation away from major areas such as Dublin but in fact this is a clear objection by workers at the away in which they have been treated over this whole debacle that is the decentralisation programme itself."

Life After Arafat: What Next For Palestine?

With the death of Yasser Arafat on 11 November Mahmud Abbas (Abu Mazen) stepped forward as the heir apparent to Arafat's leadership of the Fatah party, the PLO and Palestinian Authority (PA).

Officially, elections for the office of President of the Palestinian Authority are scheduled for 9 January 2005. And yet, fissures are emerging, indicating that the transition in Palestinian leadership might not be as smooth as Abbas hopes.

Just days after Arafat's passing, while Abbas was visiting the traditional mourning tent for Arafat in Ramallah, members of the Al-Asqa Brigades, the most militant and radical faction in Fatah, held a show of force on the streets and chanting broke out amongst the crowds, calling Abbas an American agent. Then, later that same day, members of the Al-Asqa Brigades opened fire on the Abbas entourage. Abbas had held informal power for less than a week and already survived one assassination attempt at the hands of elements from within his own party.

Abbas's closest ally is Mahamad Dahlan, minister of internal security. Where Arafat was respected for both his perceived military prowess and diplomatic ability, Abbas is solely a diplomat and Dahlan is solely a soldier. The Abbas-Dahlan alliance is powerful but unpopular. Abbas is actively disliked among wide swathes of the Palestinian masses for ignoring the needs and concerns of the 7,000 to 9,000 Palestinians languishing in Israeli jails, and for his willingness to wind down the Intifada and sign any agreement Israel deigns to put on the table. Dahlan is even less popular than Abbas. Dahlan has cooperated with the CIA and is responsible for the corruption and torture practiced by Preventive Security agency in Gaza over the past decade. Subsequently Abbas-Dahlan alliance in place at this time has its power base in the labyrinthine police and bureaucracy of the PA and PLO, the tightly controlled Palestinian parliament (PNC), and the Central Committee of Fatah itself.

The other pole of attraction within Fatah is Marwan Barghouti, the Al-Asqa Brigades, and the Palestinian freedom fighters in Israeli prisons. Barghouti is currently serving five life sentences in an Israeli prison. He is widely respected both within Fatah and with some elements in the Muslim and Leftist parties. Barghouti came up through the ranks of Fatah during the first Intifada. He initially supported the Oslo process, rose to become Fatah's leader in the West Bank and was elected to the Palestinian Parliament. However, with the emergence of the second Intifada in the fall of 2000, Barghouti became a leader and key force in the militant Al-Asqa Brigades. The Al-Asqa Brigades are tremendously popular with the Palestinian street due to the military operations they carry out against



Israelis. Similarly, the Palestinian prisoners are recognized and respected for their sacrifices in the struggle against Israeli occupation. Importantly, the Prisoners at Nafha prison, in the Negev Desert, released a statement calling for the election of Barghouti to lead the Palestinian people. Despite the popularity of Barghouti, his support from the Al-Asqa Brigades and the prisoners, Barghouti is not a central committee member of Fatah and lacks influence with the hierarchy of the PAV/PA and Fatah. In addition, either the Israelis releasing Barghouti, or Barghouti running an election campaign from prison, seem unlikely at this juncture. Both the Americans and Israelis would take a dim view of Barghouti as Palestinian leader. And yet, ironically, because of his militancy against Israel, Barghouti is probably one of the few Palestinian leaders capable of persuading the Palestinian people to accept an Israeli "peace" offer in the future.

The position of both the Muslim parties (HAMAS and Islamic Jihad) and the Left parties (PFLP and DFLP) on the upcoming elections is unclear at this point. On one hand, these parties have said they are most likely abstaining from the upcoming elections, due to their overall opposition to the Oslo process. And yet, there has also been some discussion among the Muslim and Left opposition groups about nominating a respected non-aligned cultural or intellectual figure, like Professor Abdul Satar Kasem, to run as a protest candidate. In the case of HAMAS, opposition to Oslo is not the only factor explaining why this powerful organization is not running for President of the PA. Support for HAMAS, although wide, is thinner than many western commentators suggest. This is especially true when it comes to issues other than fighting the

Israelis and providing charity for the poor. Despite fifty years of slow motion ethnic cleansing, compared to other Arab cultures Palestinian culture is still relatively urban, educated, secular, and has been historically oriented more towards the Mediterranean than Mecca. The Palestinian masses respects HAMAS, but at this point they do not seem ready to become a fully Islamicist state and culture.

Overall, a smooth transition from Arafat to Abbas-Dahlan increases the likelihood of the Intifada coming to an end, most likely to be followed by another round of "peace" talks followed by broken promises from Israel and more misery for the Palestinians. Furthermore, in his time Arafat could invoke a "red-line" limiting how far opposition from the Muslim or Leftist parties could go. In contrast, even if successful in consolidating power within the PLO and PA Abbas and Dahlan will face a far more aggressive Muslim and Left opposition. Another possible scenario is that the coming power struggle will work itself out within Fatah. An internal power struggle with Abbas-Dahlan on one side, versus the forces around Barghouti and the Al-Asqa brigades will significantly weaken Fatah, the PLO and PA in the short term. Such a struggle might benefit both the Muslim and Left opposition groups (at least in the short term).

Most importantly, such an internal Fatah power struggle would decrease the likelihood of a new deal with Israel in the near future. In any case, significant internal struggle, if not outright civil war, seems more likely than a smooth transition of power for the Palestinians at this time.

Sean Noonan IRSCNA

health, increasing homelessness, unemployment, and skyrocketing prices for basic necessities are the conditions faced by ever growing numbers of Iraqis. This needless human suffering is a consequence of the logic of US and British imperialism. The goals of the US and British imperialism in Iraq include:

The US and the British are seeking to control Middle East oil supplies in order to slow the pace of their competitive decline as the EU integrates and China industrializes.

US military in Iraq to threaten disobedient peoples in the area, including the Iranians, Syrians and the Palestinians.

Privatization of the Iraqi economy including oil, water, electricity and

all major industries. This impoverishment of the Iraqi people will enrich a handful of Western corporations.

The war in Iraq is an unavoidable reality. The issue of "war or peace" is no longer a realistic or practical question. Instead, solidarity with those who are resisting US and British imperialism is the duty of all freedom loving people.

Today insurgent Iraq is a central front in the struggle for social justice globally. Falluja, once a stronghold of resistance, is currently being decimated as an example to the Iraqi people. The US and British neocolonial project must be stopped - by any means necessary!

A WORLD TO WIN!

The State continues to Jail those Who fight

Political prisoners in different parts of Argentina in spite of an intense campaign of harassment and persecution prompted by the government and by economic power to domesticate social protest. Thousands upon thousands mobilized. There were actions in the Plaza de Mayo, in the Pueyrredón bridge, in the ticket stations of Constitution, at the Casa del Chaco, and in Resistencia to reject the criminalization of protest and to demand the immediate freedom of all political prisoners, and to continue with the piquetero struggle for work to alleviate this reality that beyond Kirchner's fine speeches continues to be one of misery, hunger and repression.

Riots In Uruguay

In Montevideo, Uruguay, A police station was set on fire by angry locals in east Montevideo during severe rioting following the cold blooded murder of two children by cops. Speaking to the local radio station El Espectador residents said that a policeman, opened fire on a group of youngsters who were having fun on the street in an attempt to disperse them. Cops later admitted that the policeman involved had overreacted and the incident led to the violence in the Euskal Erria 70 zone, where people set fire on a police station and threw stones at ambulances and firemen sent to the spot.

Protest Against Pre-paid Meters

In Johannesburg, South Africa, hundreds of people from a diversity of backgrounds came together today to protest the installation of pre-paid water meters in Soweto and other townships. The march was organized by the coalition Organizations Against Prepaid Water that included amongst others the Anti-Privatisation Forum, the Community Independent Development Forum, Independent Baptists, Jubilee, SOPA, PAC, the Coalition Against Water Privatisation and taxi associations.

Death in Custody

Aboriginal leader called for national action day at Police use of stun guns and semi-automatic weapons on Palm Island north-east of Townsville, (Queensland, Australia). At Palm Island, an Aboriginal man was arrested, just over an hour and a half later he was dead in a police cell.

In response to the Coroner's autopsy report which found that the death was an accident hundreds of people rioted setting fire to the court house and other government buildings and storming and torching the police station. The Island had been placed in a state of emergency and more than 100 police have been sent to the Island. 18 members of the Aboriginal community appeared in the Townsville Magistrates Court on numerous related charges.

Hospital Workers Locked Out

Around 7,000 nurses and hospital workers have been locked out of 13 of Sutter's hospitals in the Bay Area of San Francisco for five days, following a one-day strike. Caregivers and other workers say Sutter is putting CEO pay before patient care.

250 filed suit in San Francisco superior court against Sutter Health and the strike-breaking firm Modern Industrial Services (MIS), "America's leader in strike re-staffing," for alleged violations of criminal and civil codes. The California Nurses Association (CNA) filed an unfair labor practice charge against Alta Bates Summit, citing the lockout as "illegal."

Victory To Insurgent Iraq!

Twenty months on from the US and British invasion of Iraq, occupation has taken its toll. Over 100,000 Iraqis have been killed and many more wounded. Political repression is the order of the day.

The US puppet Allawi regime has declared a state of emergency, banned opposition newspapers, carried out thousands of arrests,

and used torture against the Iraqi people. The Allawi regime have put into place an illegitimate constitution serving the interests of their US and British masters.

Under these conditions, the Iraqi economy is in shambles. Many Iraqis lack water and electricity. Schools and hospitals have been closed, leaving Iraqis without essential services. Declining

Support the Turkish Death Fasters

Three years ago, on 5 November 2001 the Turkish state murdered four people who had acted in solidarity with prisoners on a death fast to bring an end to isolation of political prisoners within the jails there. At that time, the struggle had already been ongoing for a year, today, as the protest enters its fifth year, 117 lives have been lost in the fight to oppose isolation in the prisons.

It was the 20th of October 2000 when the Turkish state decided it would break the will of the political prisoners it held by ending their right to association and introducing a new system of isolation. The prisoners responded with a death fast, which is a less austere form of the hunger strike tactic employed by prisoners in Long Kesh in 1981. After only the 59th day of the death fast, on 19 December 2000, a military assault was launched on the prisoners' compound, resulting in the murder of 28 prisoners, including six women prisoners who were burned alive in their cells.

Following the massacre, the state was able to gain greater isolation of the prisoners, so their supporters on the outside took up the death fast. When that resistance couldn't be broken, the area in the Armutlu district of Istanbul where



In 1981 we lost 10 men on hungerstrike. In Turkey hundreds are dying!

the protesters resided was attacked. The result was the four deaths whose anniversary we observe today.

Throughout the past four years, the Turkish state has been unable to break the resistance of these political prisoners and their supporters.

Resist today to exist tomorrow

"Resist today to exist tomorrow. Reasons and horizons of the support to the struggle of the Iraqi people for liberty and self-determination". This was the topic of the national convention which took place on November 27 in Florence, Italy. The gathering was dedicated to the city of martyrs, Falluja, and the 80,000 Iraqi prisoners held by the occupation forces. Many of those are desaparecidos which means that the US army does not give any notice on them. This is also the case for Abduljabbar al-Kubaysi, secretary-general of the Iraqi Patriotic Alliance.

The criminal aggression on the city of Falluja by the US and their Iraqi henchmen seems to have resulted in a massacre also in Italy. If in Falluja tens of thousands of civilians were killed, in Italy the killing affected consciousness, reason and politics.

Falluja is a new climax in the row of exterminations Anglo-American imperialism is to be held liable for. We are faced with a new Dresden, an Iraqi Hiroshima, perpetrated not only to destroy the resistance, but also to terrorise and annihilate the Iraqi people and to deter people from resisting all over the world.

While in Iraq the aim of the terrorist troika of Bush-Blair-Berlusconi miserably failed, in the Western fortresses it had devastating effects, especially in Italy. There were no pacifists on the streets protesting the killing of Iraqi children, no one contested the ongoing torture and the demonstrations against the genocidal war have been virtually fading away.

One of the tasks of the convention was to break this asphyxiating silence about the occupation of Iraq and the accompanying crimes against humanity.

Preceded over by Alessia Monteverdi the following people addressed the meeting: Sammi



Alaà, Giovanni Bacciardi, Aldo Bernardini, Luigi Cortesi, Roberto Gabriele, Ugo Giannangeli, Alessandra Kersevan, Willi Langthaler, Alessandro Leoni, Miguel Martinez, Roberto Massari, Moreno Pasquinielli, Costanzo Preve e Pietro Vangeli. Three of the scheduled orators, Andrea Catone, Domenico Losurdo and Giancarlo Paciello were absent for force majeure. They conveyed their statements. The meeting was closed by the spokesman of the Free Iraq Committees Leonardo Mazzei. The respective intervention will be published in a booklet which will soon be available.

Following only some aspects of the keynote address of Sammi Alaa, communist militant of the Iraqi Patriotic Alliance. Alaa underlined that there are three fundamental aims of the resistance: a) throw out the occupants, b) national independence, c) democracy within a unified state.

For the resistance not only all the institutions created by the occupants are regarded as illegitimate, but also the fraudulent and faked elections scheduled for January 30.

Referring to the European left (including some communist denominations) Alaa attacked the widespread reluctance to support the resistance and denounced this refraining as an absorption into capitalism and imperialism.

Despite solitary confinement, torture, arrests, force-feeding of hunger strikers, brutal assaults, and more, the fight continues. Though it is estimated that as many as 600 people have sustained permanent damage to their health and 117 lives have been lost, the struggle continues. Comrades of the Irish Republican Socialist Party have stayed with the death fasters in Armutlu. The comrades of the death fasters have visited the graves of hunger strike martyrs of the Irish National Liberation Army. We have both attended conferences that drew activists from around the globe to speak out against state isolation of political prisoners. The death fasters in Turkey and their comrades have our deepest solidarity.

We call upon all those who believe in social justice, all those who oppose fascism, to join us in supporting Kurdish and Turkish political prisoners in Turkey and fighting against the state campaign of isolation. Only an end to the campaign of isolation will bring to an end the struggle and martyrdom of these revolutionaries.

The congress closed outlining the central activities of the campaign in support of the Iraqi resistance:

- 1) Prisoners: A campaign to denounce the crimes against humanity perpetrated by the occupation armies including the question of the prisoners and the disappeared is necessary. Reality should be poised in contrast to the US lie of bringing democracy.
- 2) Elections: A denunciation of the faked elections is indispensable also in Europe. Their anti-democratic character and their functionality for the occupation must be exposed.
- 3) European conference: In order to prepare a broad and including co-ordination of the forces in support of the Iraqi resistance we will organise a preparatory meeting preliminarily scheduled for January 16 in Germany. The immediate aim of the meeting is to prepare a European-wide congress in support of the Iraqi resistance.
- 4) Meetings with the Iraqi resistance: The apparent success of the current tour of Sammi Alaa throughout Italy indicates a grown interest in and an increased support for the Iraqi resistance. We will therefore continue to promote such meetings and gatherings with representatives of the Iraqi resistance.

Eventually, the debates at the convention indicated the necessity to find forms to organise the opposition to the American empire and its pre-emptive and permanent war also on a mass level, which we believe to be indispensable to give continuity and perspective to the movement in support of the Iraqi resistance - which is today the first line of the struggle.

Committees Free Iraq, November 29, 2004
(The IRSP are the only organisation in Ireland calling for support for the Iraqi Resistance)

IRSP EXPRESS SOLIDARITY WITH PALESTINIANS

Despite supporting the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine over his Fatah movement, the Irish Republican Socialist Party took the occasion of the death of Yasser Arafat to reiterate its solidarity with the struggle people of Palestine.

In a statement from the IRSP's International Department, spokesperson Peadar Baile said of Arafat's death in Paris at the age of 75: "Arafat has long been a symbol for the struggle of the Palestinian people, both within their homeland and abroad. And, because he is such a symbol, the IRSP believes it is important to take this occasion to reiterate our solidarity with the Palestinian people, in their struggle for national liberation and socialism in Palestine.

"Arafat was also a scapegoat for the Zionists occupying Palestine and their American puppet-masters. In response to their own propaganda, rather than political reality, Arafat had been held personally accountable by US imperialism and the Zionists, for the breakdown of peace talks and the continuing intifada. The reality was that Arafat had long been prepared to compromise and capitulate to Zionism on most key issues for years and, far from being the revolutionary voice of Palestine, represented the reformist section of the Palestinian community.

"The Zionists and their American allies also held Arafat responsible for the continued use of suicide bombing attacks on the Zionists, when it was clear that their destruction of the Palestinian Authority and undermining Arafat left him unable to control the tactics of Hamas or various militant factions within the PLO, despite his own desire to reach an accord with Israel, regardless of the cost. The reality is that it was Ariel Sharon who personally and deliberately provoked the outbreak of a renewed intifada with his visit to Temple Mount. Moreover, it was the Zionists complete failure to negotiate in good faith and to meet their obligations under the Oslo Accord that caused peace talks to collapse.

"We in the IRSP, therefore, raise our voices in solidarity with the Palestinian people and we pay tribute to Arafat, as a symbol of their continued struggle for national liberation and social justice. With Arafat's death causing him to leave the political stage, the Palestinian people will be searching for new leadership. We encourage them to recognise that nothing will be changed through attempts at compromise and conciliation towards the Zionists. The Zionists will never respect Palestinian sovereignty. The way forward, as the PFLP have said, lies through the defeat of Zionism and the establishment of a unified, secular, democratic, and socialist Palestine."

He concluded, "Accordingly, we in the IRSP do not mourn the end of the undemocratic and reformist tactics of Arafat, but we grieve at the sense of loss experienced by the people of Palestine and we salute their determination in carrying their struggle forward in the wake of Arafat's death."

Uncovered:

Teenage Drugs Ring in Ardoyne

North Belfast Teach na Fáilte have uncovered the sick truth surrounding the drug trade that is plaguing our areas. Illicit drug barons who operate from the luxury of their North Belfast homes have been swamping the area with tens of thousands of pounds of narcotics a week - which is being directed at our youth.

This revelation came to light when a concerned parent of a 14 year old was directed to the Teach na Fáilte offices in Ardoyne so that they could benefit from the confidential Grass Root's Justice Initiative which operates there.

Teach na Fáilte voluntary workers for the area, Charlie Clarke and Paul Carson said that no one could have been prepared for what was unearthed. "This all started last week when a concerned mother and father approached the case workers of Grass Root's Justice.

The distraught couple had come to the offices for help and direction to help them ascertain whether or not their 14-year-old son had been dealing drugs in the area. "The parents of this young lad had become suspicious when they noticed remarkable changes in his attitude and behaviour" said Mr. Clarke. "Money, jewellery and electrical objects started to go missing, minimal at first, but then progressed into a weekly and then daily occurrence. This was accompanied with a change in his social activities. The parents, who cannot be named due to the confidentiality of Grass Root's Justice, claimed they were at their 'wit's end' with the catalogue of events that had prompted them to come forward to seek help."

After listening intently to the parent's fears, Paul Carson stated, "It was when we heard everything that the mother and father were describing to us it became quite clear that there was some truth in the case. We agreed to help and arranged to speak with the child in the presence of his parents, at our offices. "After meeting the young lad, around the same age as my own children, it was evident that he was hiding something." Paul went on to add, "Eventually he came clean and told the truth about his actions. This child had been smoking cannabis from the age of 12 and had been supplied on 'strap' to satisfy his addiction.

After running up a bill of £350 or so, he was approached by this drug baron who originally hails



from the Carrickhill area of Belfast, when he began to be threatened with physical violence and the possibility of hospitalisation. The teenager was then told that he would have to get the money by whatever means he could." "The youngster then began to pilfer whatever he could lay his hands on, mostly around the house at first and from family and friends who would leave things lying around unsuspecting" stated Charlie Clarke.

He went on to add, "It was when this wasn't enough that he was 'teamed up' with another lad, 15, so that they would carry out 'sleepers' which are robberies conducted in houses at night when the owner lies asleep in bed. "All the proceeds of these robberies was handed back to the gang lord in order to pay off this debt. "Eventually when this couldn't subsidise the still growing bill, they were directed to the 'big house' where they would be given their stash of drugs. They were recruited as dealers and were told to specifically target their friends and family.

"The extent that these leeches will go to is frightening. Luring children unsuspectingly into this sordid world is diabolical and I fear we have hit a new low. These children, and I am concerned that we have only just scratched the surface, are forced to break into houses alongside having to deal drugs so that they can keep this scum in the lavish lifestyles that they are accustomed to. Their children live sheltered lives away from the dangers of this illicit trade while ours have to run the gauntlet of drugs, threat from paramilitaries, jail and even death. This cannot be allowed to continue. I ask the apologists for criminality what do they have to

Unearthed from a garden in part of Ardoyne by Teach na Fáilte voluntary case workers was a staggering £3,500 - £4,000 cache of drugs, hidden in a paint tin and accompanied with an arsenal of weapons consisting of knives and hammers.

The weapons were for protection whilst carrying out the 'sleepers' in case their plundering downstairs disturbed the owner, and they risked being caught. Concealed in the tin were 'nine bars' worth in the region of £3,000; two bags of cocaine; numerous bags of anti-depressants, blood pressure tablets and high strength painkillers. There was also a lethal concoction of powder called 'snowball', which is slipped into certain alcoholic drinks. This substance has been blamed for the death of a young teenage girl from the Shankill Road last week.

This thingytail of drugs was distributed within Ardoyne to children as young as 12 right through to adults who would call and pick these children up at pre-arranged places within the area. These teenage dealers were instructed to 'strap' drugs to younger children who couldn't afford to pay up front for their orders.

"The result, according to North Belfast Teach na Fáilte coordinator, Charlie Clarke is a concoction of death and destruction which is being dished out to children as young as 12 across the Ardoyne area. "This is extremely worrying. I think the most worrying aspect is that the drugs we uncovered were to be sold in one week! That was just one week's worth of debt to

of weapons as well is worrying, as is the fact that these teenagers are selling these pills to even younger children. If a child took an assortment of these pills, I would have no reason to doubt that this could result in the death or overdosing of that child."

Mr. Clarke and Mr. Carson concluded, "We in Teach na Fáilte would like to appeal to parents and children to please come forward to us if they know anything about this horrifying drug ring that is preying on our children. We would appeal to the wider community that if you suspect this is happening near you or to someone you know, then please do not wait until it is too late.

"Teach na Fáilte can be contacted in complete confidentiality and with the guarantee of anonymity. We operate the Grass Root's Justice programme, which will help you with your problem. This can be dealt with in any of our offices throughout the country, were our caseworkers can be contacted."

Grass Root's Justice can be contacted at any of the Teach na Fáilte offices by calling in or by phoning for an appointment. All cases and discussions are completely confidential.

Teach na Fáilte Costello House
392a Falls Road Belfast Tel: 028 9023 8321
Teach na Fáilte Unit 8
Flax Centre Ardoyne Avenue
Belfast Tel: 028 9075 1705

Check Out TNaF Report: Page 17

Irish 'Democracy' Requires the Separation of Church & State

The Irish Republican Socialist Party recently added its voice in support of trans-sexual rights in Ireland. The party's international department spoke out on the issue, because the Irish government's position on the issue has recently been at the centre of a controversy regarding the rights of two foreign-born individuals to gain full residency status in Ireland.

Peadar Baile said on behalf of the IRSP; "Ireland has once again been found in the company of those hopelessly stranded in the past when it comes to matters of social equality and personal liberty. Along with Albania and Andorra, the 26-county partitionist statelet refuses to permit post-operative transsexuals to have their birth certificates altered to reflect the change of sex that they have undergone.

"The reason why the refusal of the Dublin regime to accept the changed reality that follows such surgery is of importance, is that by insisting that a person who now possesses male rather than female genitalia, male secondary sex characteristics, and who lives as a man is not a man, the government also prohibits him from getting married to a woman."

"As a result of the reactionary position the Irish government has taken, Nicholas Krivenko, an Irish resident, originally from Russia who was born a woman, has been forced to take legal action to compel the government to accept that he is now a man and that his marriage to Sybille Hintze (originally from Germany) should be viewed as legal.

"They were married five years ago, in a civil ceremony in Limerick City, and now reside in Quin, Co. Clare. Nicholas had sexual reassignment surgery in Germany ten years ago and, if the couple were in Germany, the marriage would be accepted as without question. Mr. Krivenko is the co-chairperson of the Transgender Equality Network of Ireland.

The IRSP spokesperson continued; "The Irish state's refusal to accept the physical and social reality that results from sexual reassignment surgery is yet another attempt by the Dublin regime to align its laws to the dictates of the Roman Catholic Church.

"As with the still greatly restrictive laws on divorce and the ban on abortion, the Irish government continues to act as the legal wing of Catholicism and in doing so, meddles in the private affairs of the Irish people. Moreover, the retention of such archaic social legislation reinforces the contention of Protestants within the six counties that ending partition would subject them to Papal dictates of a Catholic majority.

"The Irish Republican Socialist Party has repeatedly made clear its view that church and state must be separated in order to ensure the full enjoyment of democratic rights by the people of Ireland. While the Catholic faithful or the pious Presbyterians of Ireland are entitled to observe the religious prohibitions of their respective religions regarding pre-marital sex, abortion, contraception, divorce, homosexuality, and transsexualism, these are matters for individuals to determine for themselves, not for the state to force upon them.

Mr. Baile concluded, "We in the IRSP call upon the Irish government to end its attempt to police the private behaviour of the Irish people and ensure the democratic rights of all members of Irish society."

Teach na Fáilte

Are you a Republican Socialist ex-prisoner? Do you find it difficult to get employment? Do you need help with social, welfare, housing or counselling issues? Do you need help with training? Are you a relative of a republican socialist ex-prisoner and need help with any of the above?

WE CAN HELP!

Simply contact any of the offices below and arrange an appointment.

NORTH BELFAST: Unit 8, Flax Centre, Ardoyne Avenue BELFAST BT14 7DA - 9075 1705 **WEST BELFAST:** Costello House, 392a Falls Road, BELFAST BT12 6DH - 9023 8321 **STRABANE:** 31 Patrick Street, Strabane, Co. Tyrone BT82 8DQ - 7188 4616

Or maybe you are a republican socialist ex-prisoner and would like to help others by becoming part of Teach na Fáilte? If so, contact any of the T na F offices and give your full name & details and someone will be happy to speak with you.

**HAVE YOU
VISITED IRSM
ONLINE:
www.irsm.org**

In Solidarity

Celebrating 30 Years of Struggle and Resistance!



The James Connolly Society of Canada and the U.S. salutes the Irish Republican Socialist Party on its 30th anniversary.

The Palestinian Solidarity Committee of Binghamton, New York in the United States sends our support and solidarity to the IRSP and INLA on their 30th anniversary. We admire your courage and strength in the global anti-imperialist struggle that maintains a revolutionary focus and avoids going down the road of reformism currently undermining the national movement in Ireland. Your continued defense of the working class while linked to an agenda of anti-sexism, anti-racism, anti-Zionism and for equality for all is a struggle that should be replicated, especially in light of the general decline of class-based, socialist politics across the world. The survival and growth of the IRSP is truly an accomplishment and necessity for our collective struggle.



The Palestinian Solidarity Committee of Binghamton, New York, USA



The Central Virginia Chapter IRSCNA extends its solidarity and best wishes for the IRSP and INLA 30th anniversary. **Saoirse Go Deo!**



Break the Chains Collective recognise the IRSM as perhaps the most radical and visionary tendency of Irish republicanism. Best wishes on your 30th anniversary.

The Palestine Solidarity Group (USA) congratulates the Irish Republican Socialist Party on its 30th Anniversary. We recognize the struggle of the IRSP against imperialism, capitalism and all forms of reaction in Ireland as the same struggle the Palestinian people face in Palestine. We know how hard it is to organize for a progressive politics based on the social power of workers (and in our case including peasants and refugees). Subsequently, we are encouraged to see the growing strength and activity of the Irish Republican Socialist Party. We also, appreciate the solidarity the IRSP has consistently shown for the Palestinian people over these last 30 years. For a single, secular and socialist Palestine. For a single, secular and socialist Ireland.



Palestine Solidarity Group, USA



The Austin, Texas Chapter of the IRSCNA sends solidarity greetings to the IRSP and INLA as they celebrate 30 years of revolutionary struggle



The Freedom Socialist Party sends solidarity greetings to the Irish Republican Socialist Party as they celebrate 30 years of struggle for socialism in Ireland

The Chicago branch of the Irish Republican Socialist Committees of North America extend revolutionary greetings to the comrades, volunteers and POWs of the Irish Republican Socialist Movement on this, the 30th Anniversary of the founding of the IRSM. Over the course of these past 30 years the IRSM has faced British and Free State repression, attacks from counter-revolutionaries, the hardships of armed struggle, and countless campaigns of black propaganda. And yet, in the face of these combined forces of oppression the IRSM has remained steadfast in asserting (in the fields, streets and prisons) the unity of the anti-imperialist struggle and the class struggle. The IRSM is a revolutionary socialist party with an ideology, organization and practice dedicated to preparing the working class for the seizure of state power and the creation of a socialist republic. On to the Worker's Republic!

Chicago Branch of the IRSNCA



The San Francisco Bay Area Chapter, IRSCNA salutes the Irish Republican Socialist Party on its 30th anniversary. **Beir Bua!**



The Missouri Chapter, IRSCNA expresses its solidarity with the IRSP and INLA as they commemorate their 30th anniversary



Solidarity greetings to the IRSP and INLA for their 30th anniversary celebration from the **Puget Sound (Washington) Chapter IRSCNA**



The North American Coordinator's Office IRSCNA salutes the IRSM as the Inheritors of the mantle of James Connolly on its 30th anniversary.



All-African People's Revolutionary Party salutes the Irish Republican Socialist Party for 30 years of struggle against national oppression and imperialism.



The Secretary, **Federation of Irish Republican Socialist Committees Abroad** reiterates our solidarity with the IRSM as it celebrates its 30th anniversary.

Fraternal greetings from your comrades in the Scottish Republican Socialist Movement. Let us hope that the next 30 years brings the victory of the Irish and Scottish working-class in the struggle for national liberation and socialism.

Scottish Republican Socialist Movement



The Ireland Solidarity Group, Sweden extends its solidarity and best wishes for the IRSP and INLA 30th anniversary. **Saoirse Go Deo!**

worked diligently for the liberation of the working class, and we support you in your efforts, as we support all peoples oppressed by imperialism and greed, and the political prisoners who pay the dearest price for their bravery.



The Kansas City Chapter of the IRSCNA sends solidarity greetings to the IRSP and INLA as they celebrate their 30th anniversary.

They, the Powerful, those who hood-wink us, want us divided so they can enjoy the benefits we create while they watch our class fight amongst each other. But for those of us who have lost so many battles, we fight, we resist and we learn that in our unity we gather our strength. The oppression that our brothers and sisters suffer where ever in the world, it is directed against us. Their struggle is our struggle. There is no dream, there is no future that we can not make reality. As resisting is overcoming necessity. Solidarity is a duty, to organise is a necessity

Communist Party of Spain (Reconstituted)



Dear Comrades, from the fascist spanish jails we send you our best combative regards. We hope your fair aim of a free and socialist Ireland will get each time closer to all those workers and people of the world who struggle for a fair society which can live in solidarity with one another. No matter how difficult our path to defeat imperialism will be, we are determined to resist til the end. We Will Win!

Prisoners of the First of October Antifascist Resistance Groups (GRAPO) & Communist Party of Spain (Reconstituted)

The Irish Political Status Committee sends greetings of solidarity to our comrades in the Irish Republican Socialist Party as they commemorate their 30th anniversary in the struggle against British oppression. The IRSP has established its righteous presence throughout Ireland, including the still-occupied north. It has*

As IRSP's Patsy O Hara once declared, "We stand for the freedom of the Irish nation so that future generations will enjoy the prosperity they rightly deserve, free from foreign interference, oppression and exploitation." And we in the IPSC send our sincerest support to the IRSP, who, amid all the political upheaval and betrayal of the working class by the Provos and others in recent years, continues to grow as a solid revolutionary force; continues to strengthen its political leadership; continues to address both prisoner and community issues; and continues to lead its growing group of activists in the right direction.

Our motto is, "there is no peace without justice"; and to that we add that there would be no social and political awareness in these times of extreme US-UK supremacist oppression of peoples worldwide, if not for the tenacity, conviction and foresight of the IRSP. Carry on comrades; we salute you in your efforts!

**The IPSC is a London-based, broad committee of Irish solidarity organisations, progressive individuals and socialist organisations. We work primarily for the reinstatement of political status for Irish Republican prisoners, but inevitably, we are also concerned with the struggle for Irish independence, which has led these young men and women to be imprisoned in the first place, and with political and human rights struggles worldwide. Contact us at politicalstatus@aol.com or visit our website at <http://humanrightsonline.net/IPSC>.*



Solidarity greetings to the IRSP and INLA for their 30th anniversary from the **Regina, Saskatchewan Chapter, IRSCNA**

A History Of The Irish Republican Socialist Movement

This is the first chapter in a series of detailed contributions surrounding the history of the IRSM from a Republican Socialist perspective.



The IRSP was founded thirty years ago on Sunday December the 8th 1974, the 52 anniversary of the murder of Liam Mellows, Rory O'Connor, Dick Barrett and Joe Mc Kelvey, republican prisoners in Mountjoy by the Free State Government. It was summary execution without trial. Unfortunately some of those who attended the founding conference of the IRSP suffered the same fate. It is the risk those who challenge the status quo always take. The ideals, which motivated the establishment of the IRSP, were originally formulated by James Connolly, Ireland's leading Marxist, executed for his role in the Easter Rising of 1916. His analysis was that upon which the movement was founded: that the struggle for national liberation and the fight for socialism in Ireland are inseparable. The central political thesis of the IRSP is that only a socialist revolution is capable of providing a means to address the needs of the Irish working class. The IRSP rejects a 'stagist' concept of the struggle - that first we must win national liberation and then we can press forward towards socialist objectives - understanding the national liberation struggle is but an aspect of the struggle for socialism.

The Official IRA launched an all out assault to kill the movement from its birth. There were casualties on both sides as during 1975 the IRSM defended its right to exist. Seamus Costello outlined the range of measures used by the OIRA to try to crush the IRSP. At a recent meeting of the IRSP National Executive, a full report was received concerning attempts to destroy our organisation in the Belfast area.

Since the formation of our Party on the 8.12.74, a concerted campaign of intimidation has been carried out against our members and supporters in the Belfast area by members of the Official Republican Movement. During the course of this campaign the following attacks have occurred.

12.12.74. 7 members of the party were kidnapped by members of the Official I.R.A. All of them were taken to various detention centres and beaten, in some cases severely. In addition some of them were hooded in typical British Army fashion. All of them were threatened with death if they did not resign from the IRSP.

19.12.74. One person who resigned from the Officials was beaten up and warned not to join the IRSP.

5.1.75. Two IRSP members were shot and seriously wounded by members of the Officials. One

shooting occurred on the street in the Beechmount Pass area and the second incident at a house in the Twinbrook area.

12.1.75. An Official I.R.A. murder gang called to R. Bunting's house and attempted to murder his wife and eighteen month old daughter Fiona, by firing through the front window when she refused to open the front door. I.R.A. murder gangs also called to the houses of three other IRSP members in the Belfast area on the same night. None of the intended victims were at home, all of them having received advance warning regarding the intended assassination.

Following the shooting at the Bunting home, a spokesman for the Officials denied that any of their members were involved, however the IRSP is aware of the identities of the two gunmen involved and both of them are active members of the Official I.R.A. We are also aware that they were acting with the complete approval and on the instructions of their own Command Staff. We are also aware that in the event of a successful attempt on the life of R. Bunting, the intention of the Officials was to blame his death on a Loyalist murder gang, in a callous and cynical attempt to escalate sectarian tension in Belfast.

16.1.75. 1 member was kidnapped and threatened and told to get out of the IRSP. An attempt was made to kidnap a second member.

17.1.75. Two 16 year old members of the party were kidnapped and taken to an Official "Detention Centre". They were both hooded and severely beaten, and told to resign from the

IRSP. A flat in the Turf Lodge area was raided and wrecked by members of the Officials. The flat is occupied by a member of the IRSP. During the course of the attack, his wife was assaulted.

18.1.75. Members of the Officials entered and wrecked the house of an IRSP supporter in the Monagh Drive area. The owner of the house, his wife and 8 children were present at the time. One of the young children was receiving treatment for a nervous disorder, caused by constant British Army raids on the same house.

19.1.75. Two cars belonging to members of the IRSP were burned by the Officials.

20.1.75. 4 members of the IRSP were kidnapped in the Andersonstown and Whitecross areas. They were taken to two different "torture centres", hooded and very severely beaten. Attempts were made to break their legs by holding them on the ground and throwing heavy tables on their legs. They were all told to resign from the IRSP or they would be shot dead.

21.1.75. An attempt was made to murder 2 IRSP members on the Springfield rd. The attempt was made by prominent members of the Officials. The shots which were fired missed and the 2 members escaped.

21.1.75. An attempt was made to murder 3 members on the Falls RD. The attackers again were identified as members of the Officials. The shots missed their intended victims and struck a passing car, which was been driven by a nun.

22.1.75. A petrol bomb was thrown through the bedroom window of a supporter's house in the Twinbrook area. His mother and 2 younger brothers aged 7 and 5 years were present at the time.

24.1.75. 1 IRSP member was kidnapped in the Twinbrook area. He was taken to an Official torture centre, and severely beaten. He was also told to resign from the IRSP.

All of the above mentioned attacks have been carried out in pursuit of a policy decision made by the Army Council of the Officials to smash the IRSP at any cost. During the course of their present campaign of terror and attempted murder, they demonstrated once again their total irrelevance as a political force in Ireland. They

have clearly shown that they are prepared to adopt the tactics of the British Army terror groups in pursuit of their goal to smash a legitimate political organisation. Apart from the physical attacks, which have been carried out, a decision was also made to portray members of the IRSP as criminals, and to portray the IRSP as a paramilitary organisation. This decision was made in the hope that the British Occupation Forces would then take action against the party and complete the task, which the Officials had started. In pursuit of this black propaganda campaign Mr. Sean Kenny has been sent to Belfast by the Sinn Fein Ard Comhairle with instructions to devote all of his energies to the campaign against the IRSP.

Economic Pressure

7 members of the party in the Belfast area have been forced to leave their jobs and are now unemployed as a result of threats made by members of the Officials. Attempts have also been made to pressurise the families of the IRSP members who are now in Long Kesh. Money which has been contributed to Cabhair, the Republican Prisoners Dependents Fund, has been withdrawn from the dependents of prisoners who have joined the IRSP. In one particular case money was taken from a prisoner's wife on Christmas Eve in Belfast, because he joined the IRSP in Long Kesh.

The National Executive of the IRSP is aware that the vast majority of ordinary members of the Officials are in total disagreement with the campaign of terror and intimidation, which has been embarked upon by their own national leadership. We are also aware that the rank and file members have been intimidated into taking part in this campaign, in an attempt by the leadership to create bitterness and hostility between sincere Republicans and Socialists. We appeal to them to refuse to allow themselves to be manoeuvred into conflict with fellow Republicans. Let the armchair generals who have chosen to ignore the fact that British Imperialism is the main enemy do their own dirty work. In conclusion, we wish to state that the IRSP is a legitimate political organisation, established to campaign for the creation of a Democratic Socialist Republic in Ireland. We intend to pursue this legitimate political objective despite harassment from British Imperialism

and her agents in Ireland, and we appeal to all genuine Republicans and Socialists to join us in this struggle. SIGNED By Seamus Costello. Worse was to follow.

Hugh Ferguson was a 19-year-old construction worker and IRSP branch chairman, assassinated by OIRA on 20 February 1975 - Daniel Loughran was a 20 year old expert marksman and former soldier in the Irish Army assassinated by the OIRA close to his home in the Divis Flat on 5 April 1975. Brendan McNamee was assassinated by the OIRA on the Stewartstown Road on 5 June 1975. From west Belfast, the 22-year-old McNamee joined the IRSP when it was formed. He was a staff officer in the INLA.

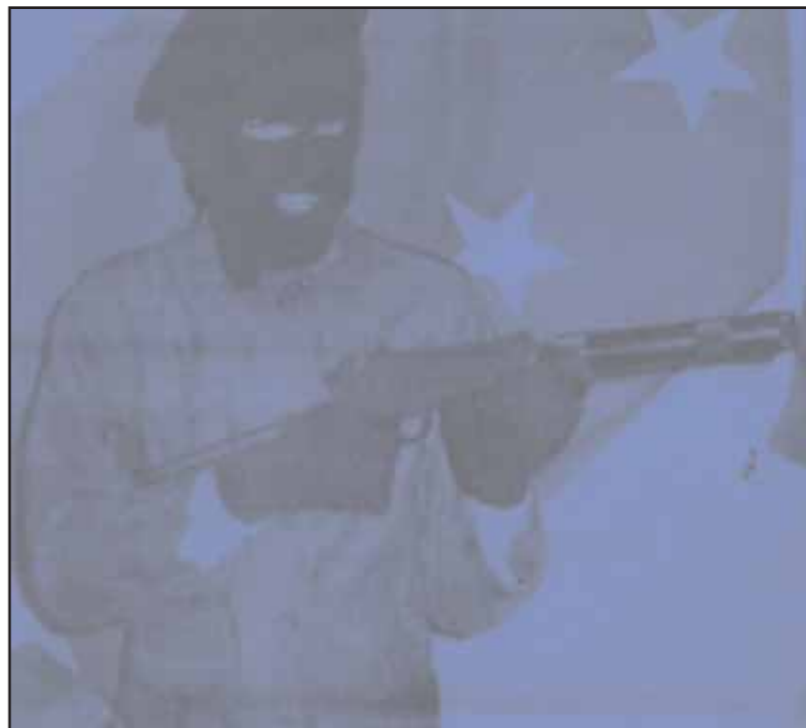
These deaths by fellow republicans and former comrades seriously damaged the development of the movement. An image of feuding was then attached to the movement by those in the media friendly to those who drove the official republican movement towards its Workers Party reincarnation.

Of course the reality is different. Below we print the numbers we estimate killed in what is often called by the media internal feuding. It paints a very different picture to that presented by the media. It also paints a depressing picture of the way Republicans treat dissent.

Killed By:
Provisional IRA 22, Official IRA 16, INLA 16, IPLO 9, Saor Eire 2

Of course the threat to the development of the republican socialist movement came not only from former comrades. The loyalist murder gangs were then at the height of their frenzied murder campaign against Catholics. IRSP member Ronnie Trainor aged 17 was killed on 15 December 1975 when he died from injuries received when his home at Ballyoran Park, Portadown, was bombed by the UVF.

Internally while this was going the Party was trying to build a firm footing in the working class movement. Many fine socialist militants had been attracted to the Party and tried to steer the party towards militant class and anti-imperialist activity. But with the movement under armed attack the political development was painfully



slow and among some excellent comrades frustration grew. The frustration and impatience exploded when within ten months of the Party's foundation Costello moved a motion of support at an Ard-Comhairle for the I.N.L.A. A major row broke out.

A section of the leadership, who had previously established a secret grouping called the Left Faction, believed that the I.N.L.A. must come under the political direction of the Party and be answerable to the Party. Costello was having none of this and when the vote was taken there was a one-vote majority for Costello. At that stage what then constituted the left faction walked out. **(The 11 who walked out were referred to by Costello as "the 11 dwarfs").**

This was a major political blunder by the left faction and seriously weakened for many years the lefts creditability with the rank and file of the

INLA. Another external threat came from the Dublin regime, a regime which for 7 years from 1968 had directed the main bulk of its intelligence operations against the socialist republican left unleashed what would become known as "the Heavy Gang" within the Garda against the young movement, arresting and torturing virtually the entire IRSP leadership at one point.

The arrests stemmed from accusations of INLA involvement in the robbery of a mail train, despite the PIRA taking responsibility for carrying out the action. The charges against all of the republican socialists were eventually overturned on the basis of evidence that the Garda had used torture to extract confessions from the accused, Nicky Kelly was finally pardoned, after a lengthy hunger strike in Portlaoise Prison nearly toppled the Dublin government.

But the biggest blow to the development of the

movement was the assassination of leader and founder Seamus Costello. A committed Republican from the age of 15, Seamus Costello was a veteran republican who had fought in the military campaign against the British occupation of the northern six counties in the 1950s.

The campaign fought in the mountainous border regions did not have the desired result. People throughout Ireland were more concerned with the pressing social problems of the day, with increasing unemployment and mounting emigration. Seamus advocated a more political approach and closer links with the workers' movement. Imprisoned during the 1956-61 campaign of the IRA in the Curragh where he studied the Vietnamese struggle Seamus left gaol recognising the importance of a deep political ideology.

In the sixties he began to build a base for republicanism in Wicklow by participating in activities that involved the interests of the working class. He was instrumental in getting Sinn Féin to subsequently drop its abstentionist policy. Seamus remained a revolutionary, maintaining that parliament should be used, but totally rejecting that there was such a thing as a parliamentary road to socialism.

He advocated a socialist line in Republicanism and wanted a return to the traditions of Connolly, a tradition that had been obscured by more right wing "catholic" republican interested only in physical force. He understood that the national question could not be separated from the struggle for socialism and that the armed struggle was worse than useless unless it was linked to the mass struggles of the working class. He saw that it was necessary to combine the struggle for democratic demands and a flexible attitude to the use of parliament and the electoral plane with an uncompromising fight for socialism. In 1966 he had given the historic oration at the Wolfe Tone commemoration in Bodenstown, which marked the departure to the left of the republican movement, the result of years of discussions within the movement in which he had played a key role. He argued in favour of a socialist policy based on nationalization of all banks, insurance companies, and loan and investment companies.

Continues Page 12

Founding Statement of the IRSP 13th December 1974.

At a meeting held in Dublin on Sunday, 8.12.74, a decision was made to form a new political party, to be known as THE IRISH REPUBLICAN SOCIALIST PARTY.

The inaugural meeting was attended by approximately 80 delegates from Belfast, Armagh, Co. Derry, Derry City, Donegal, Dublin, Wicklow, Cork, Clare, Limerick and Tipperary. It was unanimously agreed that the objective of the Party would be to "END IMPERIALIST RULE IN IRELAND, and ESTABLISH A 32 COUNTY DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC WITH THE WORKING CLASS IN CONTROL OF THE MEANS OF PRODUCTION, DISTRIBUTION AND EXCHANGE". To this end, it was agreed that the Party would launch a vigorous campaign of political agitation and education, North and South, on the following issues:

SIX COUNTIES

1/ Recognising that British Imperialist interference in Ireland constitutes the most immediate obstacle confronting the Irish People in their struggle for democracy, National Liberation and Socialism, it shall be the policy of the Party to seek the formation of a broad front on the

basis of the following demands:

- A/ That Britain must immediately renounce all claims to Sovereignty over any part of Ireland and its coastal waters, and should immediately specify an early date for the total withdrawal of her military and political presence from Ireland.
- B/ Having specified the date for her total withdrawal from Ireland, Britain must immediately withdraw all troops to barracks, release all internees and sentenced political prisoners, grant a general amnesty for all offences arising from the military campaign against British Forces or through involvement in the Civil Disobedience Campaign, abolish all repressive legislation, grant a Bill of Rights which will allow complete freedom of political action and outlaw all discrimination whether it be on the basis of class, creed, political opinion or sex. Britain must also agree to compensate the Irish People for the exploitation, which has already occurred.
- C/ It shall be the policy of the IRISH REPUBLICAN SOCIALIST PARTY to seek an active working alliance of all radical forces within the context of the Broad Front in order to ensure the ultimate success of the Irish Working Class in their struggle for Socialism.
- D/ It will be an immediate objective of the Party to launch an intensive campaign of opposition to the E.E. membership. We, therefore, intend to play an active part in the E.E.C. referendum in the Six County area and through our support groups in Britain.
- E/ Recognising that sectarianism, and the present campaign of sec-

tarian assassinations arises as a direct result of British manipulation of the most reactionary elements of Irish Society, we shall seek to end this campaign on the basis of united action by the Catholic and Protestant working class against British Imperialism in Ireland.

TWENTY-SIX COUNTIES

- 1/ We will seek to have a United Campaign of all democratic forces against repressive legislation in the south, and against the policy of blatant collaboration with British Imperialism, which is now being pursued by the 26 County Administration.
- 2/ THE IRISH REPUBLICAN SOCIALIST PARTY is totally opposed to the exploitation of our natural resources by multi-national Corporations. It shall therefore be our policy to give active and sustained support to the present campaign for the nationalization of these resources.
- 3/ Recognising that the rapidly increasing cost of living and rising unemployment are to a large extent a direct result of our EEC membership, it shall be the policy of the IRISH REPUBLICAN SOCIALIST PARTY to actively support the formation of people's organisations to combat rising prices and unemployment.

ELECTIONS

THE IRISH REPUBLICAN SOCIALIST PARTY is not an abstentionist Party, and will decide its attitude towards the contesting of any partic-

ular election, on the basis of a thorough analysis of the conditions prevailing at the time. In keeping with this attitude we have decided, in principle, to contest the forthcoming Convention Elections in the Six County Area.

As the vast majority of those involved in the formation of the IRISH REPUBLICAN SOCIALIST PARTY are people who have recently resigned from Sinn Fein (Gardiner Place), we feel it may be necessary to give a brief outline of the reasons for our resignations. They are as follows:

- A/ The refusal of the Sinn Fein Ard Comhairle to implement the democratically decided policies on the National Question as laid down at the 1972 and 1973 Ard Fheiseana.
- B/ The lack of internal democracy within Sinn Fein. This became particularly noticeable during the course of the past year when many dedicated members were purged from the organisation because they dared to question the reformist approach of the Ard Comhairle on many vital questions. This purge culminated in attempts by members of the Ard Comhairle to intimidate delegates to the recent Ard Fheis, when many of them were threatened with expulsion if they did not vote in accordance with the wishes of the leadership.
- C/ The decision of the Ard Comhairle to contest the Six County Assembly Elections, when it was perfectly obvious that the elections were clearly designed to re-establish a British controlled puppet

Parliament for the Six Counties. In our view, this particular decision was indicative of the reformist and counter revolutionary attitudes, which prevail at Ard Comhairle level in Sinn Fein, Gardiner Place.

D/ The unprincipled betrayal of the internees arising from the decision to take seats on local councils in the North. This decision was made despite the fact that the Ard Comhairle had made repeated statements attacking the treachery of the SDLP for taking their seats. We are of course aware that the vast majority of rank and file members are completely opposed to this decision. We urge the ordinary members of Sinn Fein to refuse to accept this unprincipled attitude on the part of the Ard Comhairle. We call on all Republican Club Councilors to stand by the Internees by upholding the peoples' pledge, which they signed before their election.

E/ The general drift towards almost exclusive participation in reformist activity, and the total abandonment of agitational political action in pursuit of their objectives. Under its present leadership, Sinn Fein has been reduced to a position of almost total irrelevance in the context of the present political situation.

ORGANISATION

Since last Sunday we have had enquiries from practically every area in the country regarding the formation of branches. During the period since the Sinn Fein Ard Fheis, at least 14 Cumainn and two Comhairle Ceantair have resigned in bloc and indicated their intention of forming

IRISH REPUBLICAN SOCIALIST PARTY branches.

We are at present engaged in an intensive recruiting drive, and will organise a full delegate national conference at the earliest possible date. A permanent National Executive will be elected at the Annual Conference.

In conclusion, the IRISH REPUBLICAN SOCIALIST PARTY extends its support to all peoples struggling for Democracy, National Liberation and Socialism.

In Ireland, we appeal to all of those who are genuinely interested in the establishment of a Socialist Republic to re-examine their present position and give their support to the IRISH REPUBLICAN SOCIALIST PARTY.

Those elected to the Temporary National Executive are as follows: Sean Flynn (Belfast) Seamus Costello (Wicklow) Theresa Gallagher (Dublin) Anne Webb (Dublin) Mick Plunkett (Dublin) John Lynch (Cork) Stella Mackowski (Clare) Joe Quinn (Limerick) Tony Quinn (Tipperary) Bernadette McAliskey (Tyrone) Joe Sweeney (Derry City) Johnny White (Donegal) Manuel McLroy (Belfast) John McAlea (Belfast) Charlie Craig (Belfast) Seamus O'Kane (Co. Derry) Terry Robson (Derry City).

A History Of The Irish Republican Socialist Movement

This is the first chapter in a series of detailed contributions surrounding the history of the IRSM from a Republican Socialist perspective.

Continued from previous Page

A key political strategy he developed for the IRSP was The Broad Front strategy, which represented his consistent and clear-cut political approach to the problems of national and social liberation.

The Broad Front strategy was presented for discussion to the talks held between various socialist and anti-imperialist groups in 1977.

Costello had his document to the Ard Comhairle of the IRSP as the party's response to a discussion document circulated at the talks, and, while adopted as official IRSP policy, it was made clear that the seven demands included were in no way regarded as preconditions for the establishment of a broad front.

BROAD FRONT

The IRSP fully endorse the sentiments, expressed in the basic discussion document regarding the seriousness of the present political crisis in Ireland and fully support the call for the maximum degree of anti-imperialist unity.

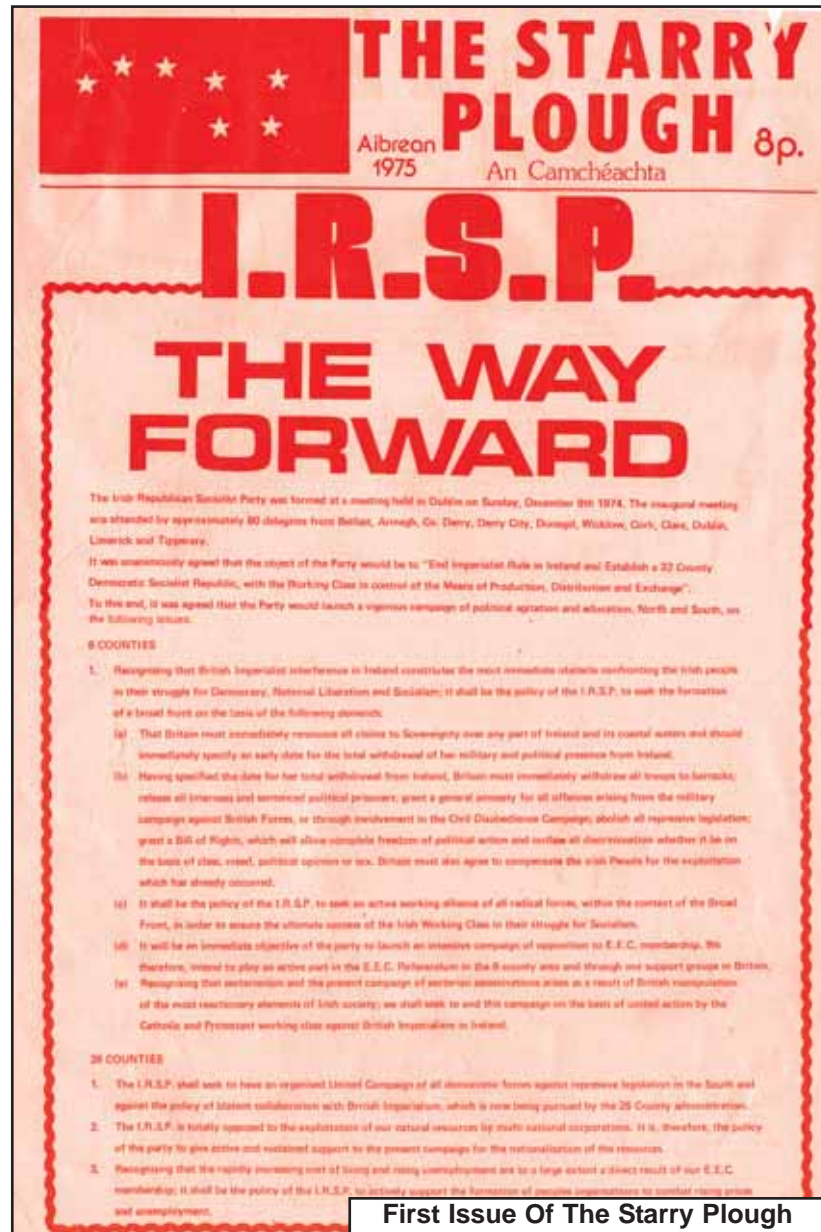
We feel that genuine anti-imperialist unity can be achieved and that the basic discussion document lays the basis for such unity provided those present at this conference can agree that the document needs clarification and amendment on a number of important points.

As a socialist party, our ultimate political objective is the creation of a unified 32 county Democratic Socialist Republic within which the Irish working class will control the wealth and resources of the nation. This objective can only be achieved through the efforts of a unified and politically conscious Irish working class.

The fact that a unified and politically conscious Irish working class does not exist is a direct consequence of the creation of two partitioned states in Ireland, and of the continuing imperialist interference in both parts of the country. The problems arising from this lack of working class unity are painfully obvious.

The working class people of the South have been skilfully divided by the allies of British imperialism since the establishment of the 26-county state. For 50 years the Southern working class have been conned into supporting political parties who held out the illusion of radical solutions to both the national question and the class struggle, while in reality they used the working class as a power base for their continued betrayal of both struggles.

In the North the Protestant working class were led to believe that the only way in which they could preserve the marginal supremacy which they held over their Catholic counterparts in jobs and housing was through supporting corrupt Unionist politi-



First Issue Of The Starry Plough

cians and through them the Union with Britain. Their genuine and well founded fears regarding the preservation of their religious and civil liberties in the context of a united and clerical dominated Ireland were also exploited by the same corrupt politicians.

At the same time the Catholic working class were conned into believing that their salvation lay in supporting green tory politicians who, while hypocritically advocating the reunification of Ireland, as a guarantee of their ultimate salvation, complete-

ly submerged themselves in corrupt Unionist politics in exchange for favours for the class they really represented, the Northern Catholic middle class.

As history has shown, the working class, North and South, Protestant and Catholic, have been victims of the so-called solutions to the 'Irish Question' imposed by Britain and her subservient native parliaments.

It is still Britain's objective to find and impose a

political solution, which will guarantee the continued protection of Britain's economic and strategic interests in both parts of Ireland. Britain is also acting as the local protector of the interests of other imperial powers in Ireland. Some of the EEC countries as well as America and Canada have powerful vested interest in supporting a British imposed 'solution' in Ireland.

Britain also has to consider the possible effects on internal British politics of the emergence of a united and independent state in Ireland. In our view, if an independent Ireland is to be viable in economic terms, and if it is to provide a reasonable standard of living for the majority of our people, it can only be done through a radical change in the ownership of wealth and resources.

In these circumstances Britain and the EEC countries would have every reason to worry about the effects on working class opinion in their own countries. Finally of course Britain's strategic interests must also be protected through the imposition of a 'solution', which will ensure that Ireland continues its present policy of pro-imperialist 'neutrality.' Every British imposed solution including the original partition of the country, the Northern Ireland Assembly, the Convention and direct rule, has been designed to protect these economic and strategic interests.

The present policy of the Ulsterisation of the conflict is also clearly designed to perpetuate the division of the country, and the sectarian divisions of the Northern working class.

The native capitalist class, acting through the political parties which represent their interests in both parts of Ireland have played a fundamental role in supporting British imperialist interests in Ireland. They have done so because they have now accommodated themselves to the role of overseers for the British and other imperialist economic interests. They have clearly thrown their weight behind the various solutions put forward by British imperialism over the past eight years, and will continue to do so in order to ensure that the one solution which would end their role as the native agents of foreign imperial interests does not emerge.

As a party we therefore recognize the absolute necessity of securing a constitutional solution to the present crisis which will allow the Irish working class the freedom to pursue their interests as a class in the context of the development of normal class politics. In our view the first step in securing a constitutional solution which meets this requirement must be for Britain to concede the right of the Irish people to exercise total sovereignty over their own affairs.

This objective can only be achieved through the creation of a unified struggle on the part of all anti-imperialist organizations.

We would therefore support the formation of an Irish anti-imperialist Front composed of delegates from affiliated organizations who support the agreed political programme of the Front.

The primary objective of the Front would be to mobilize the maximum degree of support for its declared objectives throughout Ireland.

The Front should have sufficient support and assistance from its affiliated organizations to enable it to open a head office with a full time staff. We propose the following (see below) political demands as the basis on which an Irish anti-imperialist Front should organise.

We feel that these demands would secure the active support of all genuine anti-imperialists in Ireland and that they should form the basis for an agreed programme of action by the Irish anti-imperialist Front.

We are submitting them to this conference in the hope that we can make a serious contribution towards overcoming some of the problems caused by the divisions existing between the anti-imperialist organizations.

His tragic loss to the movement undoubtedly set us back many years. A leadership vacuum was created. There was no obvious successor nor was there the ideological clarity for a collective leadership to emerge.

Gerry Ruddy
IRSP Ard Comhairle

The Broad Front Proposals

1. That Britain must renounce all claims to sovereignty over any part of Ireland or its coastal waters.
2. That Britain must immediately disarm and withdraw the UDR, RUC, and RUC Reserve and withdraw all troops from Ireland.
3. That the British and 26 County governments must immediately release all political prisoners and grant a general amnesty for all offences arising from the current conflict.

4. That Britain must agree to compensate all who have suffered as a result of imperialist violence and exploitation in Ireland.

5. Recognizing that no country can be free and independent while it permits imperialist domination of its economic life, the Irish anti-imperialist Front will oppose all forms of imperialist control over our wealth and resources.

6. That the Irish anti-imperialist Front rejects a federal solution and the continued existence

- of two separate states in the 6 and 26 counties as a denial of the right of the Irish people to sovereignty and recognizes the only alternative as being the creation of a 32 County Democratic Republic with a secular constitution.

7. That the Irish anti-imperialist Front demands the convening of an all Ireland Constitutional Conference representative of all shades of political opinion in Ireland for the purpose of discussing a democratic and secular Constitution which would become effective immediately following a total British military and political withdrawal from Ireland.

International Support For The Irish Republican Socialist Movement

History Of the Irish Republican Socialist Committees of North America (IRSCNA)

The earliest support for the IRSM came not from the traditional source of the Americas, but from an even older source of support for Irish republicanism, France. The activists of *Irelande Libre* in France were the first to actively campaign on behalf of the IRSP and the prisoners of the INLA, beginning sometime in the late 1970s. In 1982, French supporters sponsored a speaking tour for Tony O'Hara (ex-blanket man and brother of INLA hunger strike martyr) and Eilish Flynn of the IRSP. Eilish joked that Tony would speak, she would translate into English (Tony who has a tendency to speak very rapidly with a heavy Derry accent at the time was also suffering from a serious stammer, which developed as a result of the nervous strain of his brother's death on hunger strike), and then an *Irelande Libre* translator would translate her words into French.

Support from North America followed soon after. The first supporter from the USA that I am aware of came from an Irish American activist in Detroit, Michigan who moved to Ireland sometime in 1980, was a member of IRSM for a number of years, and eventually went on to be a lecturer at Queens University in Belfast. Most of the early supporters of the IRSM in North America, however, first became active in the H-Block/Armagh Committees. Under the auspices of the H-Block/Armagh Committees' a speaking tour for IRSP Belfast City Council member Sean Flynn was organised in the autumn of 1981 to build support for the hunger strikers and Flynn shared information with various hosts about who else involved in the tour had identified themselves as supporters of the IRSM. The H-Block/Armagh Committees provided a vehicle for action in line with the IRSP's position on the Broad Front and for those of us who wanted to engage in support for the hunger strikers, but were not supporters of the Provisionals it provided a valuable alternative to Irish Northern Aid.

Personally, I had become active in late 1980 in support of the initial hunger strike. I was then a manager of punk rock bands and decided to organise a punk rock concert at a club in San Francisco to raise money for the hunger strikers' support. By the time the event took place, in February 1981, the initial hunger strike had ended, but having been informed that another was anticipated to begin again the next month, we went forward with it anyway. The show was headlined by one of my bands, the Toiling Midgets, and a band from Sacramento, California produced the concert's highlight, an a cappella version of the Bogside Man. I began



Peter Urban Addressing 2004
IRSP Ard Fheis

correspondence with the IRSP in the spring of the year, then traveled to Ireland in August, where I met with members of the party leadership and had the honour of speaking at a hunger strike rally in Dublin. Before leaving, I submitted my application for membership and was admitted in October 1981, with my comrade Caitlin Hines (now deceased) being admitted shortly thereafter.

By 1983 increasing sectarian hostility towards the IRSM from the Provisionals made it impossible to restrict support work to the Broad Front-style H-Block/Armagh Committees and a proposal was made to the IRSP to establish a specific support organization for Canada and the United States. This was undertaken at a founding conference of the Irish Republican Socialist Committees of North America (IRSCNA) in March 1984, in St. Paul, Minnesota. Supporters of the IRSM attended the conference from Washington, DC; New York City; San Francisco, California; Eugene, Oregon; Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minnesota; and greetings were sent by a comrade in Regina, Saskatchewan who couldn't attend. Brigid Makowski attended as the IRSP's representative. Later in 1984, I had the privilege of attending the IRSP's Ard Fheis. The IRSCNA has been represented at every Ard Fheis held by the party since that time.

The IRSCNA has carried out support work for the party and INLA prisoners since its founding, highlights in the initial years being sponsorship of speaking tours by Niall Donnelly and Suzanne Bunting of the IRSP, the establishment of an annual holiday shipment of gifts of books for all INLA POWs, financial support for prisoner welfare, and the establishment of the Irish Political Prisoners' Children's Fund (IPPCF), which brought children of INLA POWs' to the US for six week vacations each summer. The IPLO attacks of 1987, however, resulted in serious injury to the IRSCNA, as it did to the IRSM.

Because the coordinator of the IPPCF in Belfast had a son in the IPLO, the IRSCNA lost the popular program and INLA POWs' lost an important benefit that we had been able to provide. Moreover, important IRSCNA members in New York and St. Paul who had been especially active in the IPPCF were lured into the IPLO's camp, forcing the IRSCNA to expel them. A visit to Libya on behalf of the movement by two members of the IRSCNA in 1988

was rendered useless when communication with the IRSP's leadership became interrupted for as much as nine months at a time. Though the IRSP briefly regained its prior momentum, by 1991 the party was virtually moribund, with a number of its leading members withdrawn into the Liam Mellows' Society and others fallen away, only the efforts of Suzanne Bunting, then acting as the Prisoner Welfare Officer, kept the party alive. Virtually all that remained of the IRSM was rare actions by the INLA, the INLA prisoners and Suzanne's work on their behalf, and the IRSCNA. The North American organisation, in cooperation with the INLA prisoners, stepped up its propaganda efforts to ensure that the premature claims of the IRSM's demise by the Provos and others were refuted and kept from becoming a reality.

The IRSCNA is especially proud of its efforts during this bleak period. A new holiday program was established for INLA prisoners' families, this one employing a caravan in Donegal. A quarterly periodical, *Irish Workers' Republic*, was produced by the IRSCNA to help fill the gap left by the interruption of the *Starry Plough*. The IRSCNA produced a cassette of original songs written in tribute to the martyrs of the IRSM and published a number of original pamphlets as well as re-prints of IRSP pamphlets. As the party began to regain its footing, the IRSCNA launched a Web site for it. We established the James Connolly Society and through it brought the entire in-print works of Connolly to the Marx/Engels Internet Archive. When the IRSP began to regain its former momentum around 1994, the IRSCNA did as well, increasing its membership, establishing internal discussion email lists for both the IRSP and the IRSCNA and an email news service for potential supporters.

At the 2000 IRSP Ard Fheis a resolution was passed which created an International Department of the IRSP and made the North American Coordinator of the IRSCNA and the IRSP's national coordinator in Britain the joint International Secretaries of the IRSP. At the following IRSP Ard Fheis, the full members of the IRSCNA were given voice and voting rights at party Ard Fheisanna, essentially providing them with membership in the party and also approved the establishment of the Federation of Irish Republican Socialist Committees Abroad (FIRSCA) to create a means of coordinating the efforts of supporters in Continental Europe and elsewhere around the globe. Since its founding FIRSCA has seen the creation of a Swedish section and we believe we will soon see the creation of at least two more national sections in Europe. We have just concluded discussions with Teach na Failte about resuming a children's holiday program next summer, which will bring children of present and former INLA prisoners to the USA and will be providing support for a contingent of IRSM members who are planning to visit Cuba next spring.

As we look back on the 30 years of the IRSM, and I personally begin my 24th year as a member of the IRSP, we are proud of the history of our movement and we are proud of the work performed by supporters of the IRSM abroad. We also look forward to the next 30 years as well, as we continue the task of increasing awareness of and support for the IRSM around the world and serve as a sort of diplomatic corps of the IRSP, extending solidarity to other anti-imperialists and socialist and paving the way for alliances in the future.

Peter Urban (IRSCNA)

Ireland Information Group National Meeting

Congratulations were extended to the Ireland Information Group, Sweden, for their successful annual conference which was held on 13th November in Stockholm. It is noted that the group held its conference on the same day as the IRSP's Ard Fheis in Derry.

Delegates from several towns attended the successful meeting to discuss and evaluate the previous year's activities and to decide plans for the coming year.

The meeting sent solidarity greetings to our friends and comrades in Ireland and especially to the republican prisoners that we know suffer from British repression, isolation and injustice. You are not forgotten! Keep up the fight!

A. Kjellström, General Secretary, Ireland Information Group, Sweden

Some Motions Passed at IRSP Ard Fheis

Ard Fheis reaffirms that the IRSP is a republican socialist party influenced by the writings of Tone, Marx, Engels, Lenin, Connolly, Mellows, Costello and Power.

Cork

DECOMMISSIONING AND POLICING

Ard-Feis believes that this Movement should not have any contact whatsoever with bodies such as the District Police Partnership Board, the P.S.N.I. or the I.M.C. The IRSP declares its opposition to republicans ever taking seats on the Northern Ireland Policing Board. The IRSP declares the police force of the six counties to be irreformable, no matter what name, uniform, or emblems it uses.

Strabane
IRSC

Ard Fheis calls for no decommissioning from the Irish National Liberation Army or disbandment of the INLA no matter what pressures or inducements are offered from the British occupiers of our country and following on from the Northern Ireland Secretary of State's meeting with representatives of the UDA and the buying off of that group with £3Million it is our view that the IRSM under no circumstances enter into any similar negotiations.

Kevin Lynch Cumann, North Derry
Derry City
Strabane
Dublin

YOUTH AND WOMEN

Ard Fheis believes that a political priority is work amongst young people and the incoming AC encourages all IRSP members to be involved reaching out to young people and encouraging and promoting political awareness among our youth by making Republican Socialism relevant to the lives of young people.

Derry City

Ard Fheis calls on the incoming Ard Comhairle to do more to promote the active participation of women at all levels within the Irish Republican Socialist Party.

Brendan Convery Cumann, South Derry

INTERNATIONAL

Ard Fheis recognises the achievements of the Cuban, Vietnamese, Chinese and Venezuelan revolutions and that these be presented as reasons that socialism can work.

This Ard Fheis expresses its solidarity with protracted people's wars for socialism in Nepal, Peru, India, Turkey, the Philippines and Colombia.

LOR

Other motions covered areas such as: STRATEGY, CLASS ISSUES, PRISONERS, PROTESTANT WORKING CLASS, HOUSING & EDUCATION etc.

All of which can be viewed by logging on to:
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The Ta Power Document by Thomas Ta Power
An historical analysis of the IRSM. Parts 1 & 2

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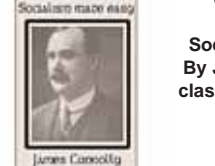


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Order No: **6322351**



IRSM poster calling on British and US Imperialists to get out of Ireland and Iraq. Size: 11" x 17"

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A Political Assessment:

Thirty Years Of The Irish Republican Socialist Movement

The thirtieth anniversary of the Irish Republican Socialist Movement provides the opportunity to look back and assess its successes and shortcomings.

What have been its positive achievements?

First of all, the IRSM is a serious organisation. The best proof of this is the fact that dozens of its members have died because of their involvement in the movement, and hundreds have spent long years in jail.

This gives credibility to those members' claims that they are serious professional revolutionaries, because they have been prepared to pay the ultimate price for it. How many organisations left of the political spectrum could claim something similar?

Some may claim that the IRSM is not a serious organisation, however it is certainly something that our enemies credit us with. The state has recognised that the IRSM was a serious enemy.

So much that it has organised the physical liquidation of its members (shoot to kill, assassination by proxy etc), has attempted on many occasions to infiltrate its ranks, and used its entire repressive apparatus to crush the movement. How many other political groupings had the dubious privilege of being singled out for repression by the state?

This is due to the fact that the IRSM, unlike the majority of 'revolutionary' organisations, did not confine itself to 'protest politics' about injustices in far away countries or trying to sell its newspaper to students on a Saturday afternoon in the city centre; but actually engaged in armed confrontation with the state and implicitly brought the question of power on the political agenda.

How many self proclaimed 'radicals' and 'revolutionaries' would be capable of lifting the gun and engage with all the difficulties associated with armed struggle for three decades?

The IRSM has a small but real base of support within the working class. It might be small and electorally insignificant at the moment, but it is not going away.

The IRSM is working class in composition and support -something few 'radical' political organisations could claim. It is genuinely rooted in the working class.



INLA were on the world stage during the 1981 Hunger Strike

Finally, the IRSM is part of the Republican Socialist tradition (at least in genealogical terms and rhetoric). Over thirty years it has proudly stood for the Republican Socialist perspective.

What have been its shortcomings?

The biggest criticism is that it failed to develop the Republican Socialist perspective sufficiently.

The INLA for example, especially during the first part of the 1980s looked like a smaller version of the Provos, though with less discipline and more instability. There was no specific dynamic to its actions that would have politically and strategically distinguished it from the IRA. The IRSP looked a smaller version of Sinn Fein, and the space for its politics became increasingly narrower as the Provos adopted an outlook not far from that of the original founders of the movement in the mid-1970s.

Partly as a result of this, the IRSP has not been able to collect and gain from the political capital generated by the actions of the INLA. Lack of a proper Republican Socialist strategy resulted in that capital being appropriated by others, Sinn Fein specifically. For example, a third of the 1981 hunger strikers were affiliated to the IRSM, however the Provos today are able to

get away with claiming the ten hunger strikers as theirs and use the images of Patsy O Hara, Kevin Lynch and Mickey Devine to gain votes.

Finally, the IRSM failed to become an organic part of the labour movement. James Connolly's Irish Citizen Army for example, was closely connected to the trade unions.

All its members were active in the labour and trade union movement. The same cannot be said of the INLA. However, there are material reasons for this.

The IRSM's social base is limited to parts of the nationalist working class communities in the North. A large section of its members would be suffering from long term unemployment or would be employed in types of work unconnected to the official labour movement.

Also, because a war had been going on, the military aspect of the movement was more developed than either its political or industrial aspects.

Let us build on our positive achievements, and learn from our shortcomings.

*Liam O Ruairc
(IRSP Ard Comhairle)*

Teagmháil Contact

The Irish Republican Socialist Party has Cummain established in cities, towns and villages in Ireland as well as Republican Socialist Committees in Europe, United States, Canada and Britain. Each IRSP cumann meets regularly to activate, educate and organise events locally such as public and political educational meetings, solidarity protests, pickets and demonstrations from community to workplace struggles. To find out more about the IRSP in your locality then use the contact details listed below.

Ireland: irsp@irsm.org

IRSP MAIN OFFICE:

Costello House,
392 Falls Road,
Belfast

Counties Derry & Donegal,
P.O. Box 1981,
Derry, BT48 8GX.
Email: derryirsp@hotmail.com

County Tyrone:
c/o 31 Patrick Street, Strabane, County Tyrone.
Tel: 028 71 884616

Down, Armagh, Fermanagh Munster & Connaught:
Email: irsp@irsm.org

Belfast Central, Lagan Valley, County Antrim:
392 Falls Road, Belfast, BT12 6DH.
Tel. 028 90 321024
Fax. 028 90 330786

Dublin, Leinster:
Email: dublinirsp@hotmail.com

IRSP Abroad: irsp@netwizards.net

Irish Republican Socialist Committees of North America (IRSCNA) and the Federation of Irish Republican Socialist Committees Abroad (FIRSCA)

2057 15th Street, Suite B, San Francisco, CA 94111, North America.
Tel./Fax. 415 861 1355 Email. irsp@netwizards.net

IRSC and FIRSCA has members, supporters and contacts active in working class struggles and prisoner solidarity campaigns throughout United States, Canada, Latin America and in towns and cities throughout England, Scotland and Wales, and across Europe and other areas. Write for further details on how you too can actively participate with like minded individuals in solidarity with the struggle in Ireland.

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Official IRSM Website: <http://irsm.org/irsp/>

IRSM Statements: <http://irsm.org/statements/>

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Ex Republican Socialist POW Support Organisations

Teach Na Failte (Strabane):
31 Patrick Street, Strabane, Tyrone
Tel/Fax: 028 71 884616

Teach Na Failte (Belfast):
Costello House, 392b Falls Road, Belfast, BT12 6DH.
Tel/Fax: 028 90 238321

Teach Na Failte (North Belfast)
Unit 8, Flax Centre, Ardoyne Ave,
Ardoyne Phone: 028 90 751 705
OPENING HOURS:
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11.00am to 4.00pm
Email: teachnafailtenb@btconnect.com

Teach na Failte: www.teachnafailte.org

Prisoner of War Website: <http://irsm.org/irspows/>

Free Dessie O'Hare Campaign
www.irsm.org/irsp/free_dessie

James Connolly Society: www.wageslave.org/jcs/

Larkspirit: www.larkspirit.com

Cork IRSP Online: www.irsm.org/cumann/cork

Derry IRSP Online: www.angelfire.com/space/derryirsp

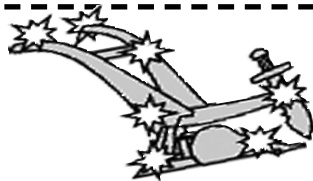
Republican Socialist Forum:
<http://rsmforum.proboards23.com/index.cgi>

Republican Socialist Martyrs Flute Band - Belfast
<http://www.irsm-belfast.com/>

RSM Memorial Flute Band - Derry & Strabane
<http://www.angelfire.com/band2/rsmmemorialfluteband/>



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This Is Republican Socialism!

Aims & Principles of The Irish Republican Socialist Party

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!

Why Solidarity?

At the recent Ard-Feis of the IRSP a motion of solidarity with the peoples' wars in Peru, Nepal, India, Turkey, the Philippines and Colombia was put forward. This is why.

The left in Ireland and in Britain talks all the time about "anti-capitalism" and "anti-globalisation" and complains about the lack of "proletarian leadership" in Iraq and Palestine, but it is silent about the most significant Marxist struggles going on in the world at present in the countries mentioned. For example, parties as far apart as the SWP and the CPI have been silent about the trial of Abimael Guzman or the persecution of Jose Maria Sison. So the IRSP believes that it is important that it takes the right side in those important struggles.

We have a lot to learn from the like of the New People Army of the Philippines or the Nepalese CPNM, or the Naxalbari. The Philippines is made up of hundreds of islands and hundreds of dialects and languages, but the NPA was able to unite all those under a common socialist banner. The same for the Naxalites in India. If the CPNM are able to join in a common struggle with the Naxalbari, it will change the whole balance of forces in the Indian sub-continent and in Asia. (My personal view is that Nepal and India are strategically the most important in the global struggle for socialism today) A victory there would be of crucial importance for the cause of socialism world wide. Regarding Turkey, the IRSP has a history of solidarity with groups like the DHKC, TKP/ML, most recently during the hunger strikes there. Peru is an important struggle that has been forgotten. The left knows and loves the Zapatistas, but hardly speaks of the PCP/SL. With the current trial of Abimael Guzman, it is important for the IRSP to side with the Peruvian revolutionaries. That said, the IRSP does not take a specific stance on questions such as whether or not Luis Arce Borja and Adolf Oleacha are CIA agents, the struggle between the two lines in the PCP/SL, the disputes between the RIM and the MIM and other polemics internal to those revolutionary movements.

Media Lies

A story appeared in The Sunday World on the 21st of November written, if that is the word, by Stephen Moore: **"INLA lodges cash in bank it has robbed. Cheeky INLA bank robbers stashed their stolen cash on the very bank they robbed. The terror gang is believed to be behind a kidnapping which led to £300,000 being stolen from the Ulster bank in Strabane - the same bank used by the terror group's political wing!"**

This story is somehow misleading. It is a wrong inference from two different premises.

There was an incident in Strabane. There were media allegations that the INLA was behind the incident. Willie Gallagher, an IRSP member also made some widely reported comments about that incident. However, this is not sufficient evidence to prove that the INLA was behind this incident. A professional journalist would not write that the INLA carried out the robbery but that the organisation ALLEGEDLY carried it out.

Mr Moore contradicts himself when he states that the group is "believed" to be behind the action, but at the same time categorically states that it robbed the bank. This may be a small nuance, but it is an important one. The IRSP has indeed Ulster Bank accounts. This is no secret, and never has been any secret. However, there are no connections whatsoever between this and the robbery allegedly carried out by the INLA.

If so, could Mr Moore please provide proof that £300,000 was transferred to one of those bank accounts he refers to? Because the amount of money in those accounts is nowhere near a six figures sum. The security apparatus, contrary to Mr Moore, would be well aware of this fact.

It would be incredibly stupid of the INLA to transfer the money they allegedly robbed on those two public bank accounts open to scrutiny. There is no proof whatsoever that the INLA were even involved in these robberies. There is proof however that a criminal gang operating in the North Tyrone area are active and have been involved in some recent robberies but Stephen Moore does not mention this in his article. Another case of taking a cheap shot at the IRps when there is no evidence to stand over his claims.

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REPUBLICAN SOCIALIST EX-PRISONERS VISIT LONG KESH SITE

Because of the controversy surrounding the eventual decision on what to do with the old Long Kesh prison site, Teach na Failte, the Republican Socialist Ex-Prisoners group, applied for a tour of the prison to evaluate the structural condition of the former prison. The old Long Kesh site consists of approximately 360 acres in total and therefore would be able to host various projects that a number of groups have put forward. Long Kesh prison and the events that took place within it have had a huge input on the struggle between the State and the resistance of the people of the North of Ireland, therefore, Teach na Failte, along with other ex-prisoner groups, support the idea of a museum that takes in all aspects and groupings that were involved with the Long Kesh prison. This project would only take in the region of 15 acres, which would leave plenty of space for other projects and ideas to be developed. Teach na Failte has spoken at meetings on this issue and also submitted proposals surrounding this and believe that under no circumstances should Long Kesh be allowed to be air brushed out of our history. Unfortunately there are other groups and parties that are against the idea of a museum for one reason or another so seeing the site for ourselves meant that we were able to understand what work needed to be involved to formulate our idea. The proposal would be that the Administration building, the Hospital, the Visits, one H Block, a Cage/Compound and a Watchtower should be kept and restored back to their original status and so therefore that would mean all groupings would be represented.



So on the 27th of July a delegation of Teach na Failte, went on a tour of the old Long Kesh prison camp site. There was a large response from the general ex-prisoner population requesting a place in the delegation, but unfortunately due to the health and safety aspect of the camp, only six people were allowed in at any one time. Therefore the delegation was made up of people who were incarcerated in the prison camp at different times since the formation of the Republican Socialist Movement i.e. from the time of Political Status in the Cages, to the attempted criminalization in the H.Blocks, to the Hunger Strikes, the Supergrass trials and then the eventual phasing out of all prisoners. This meant that there was a wide and varied view and exchange of experiences over a twenty-five year period.

Two guides who introduced themselves as members of the First and Deputy First Minister's office met us at the gate and we then introduced ourselves individually so as to make everything as informal as possible. They then gave us a map of the camp and went on to explain some minor regulations that had to be adhered to because of the Health and Safety aspect. They also stressed that there had been no electricity or heating in the prison for a considerable amount of time so we should take that into account when we were on the tour. Because there was no electricity in the prison camp we were all given torches to help us find our way about in some areas. These sometimes became a necessity because of the absence of natural light. We then boarded one of the old type prison visiting buses, and, as we studied our maps we began our tour that had been mapped out for us. The mood on the bus was apprehensive, as we did not know what to expect, but at this time we were all looking forward to reminiscing about our own different experiences.

Our first stop was the Control room, which was located near the front of the camp. As we entered the run down building it soon became apparent why torches were issued. The entrance was completely dark and it was only when we entered the main room that some form of natural light appeared. The place had an eerie feeling, as there was a row of shelves that used to house all the television monitors that surveyed the camp constantly. Unfortunately these were now empty and they stared lifelessly back at us like a row of large empty eye sockets. There was still evidence of where the keys were kept and some of the notice boards still had some names on them. Overall it was a dark, dank,

dreary building with the paint peeling off the walls. It was apparent that a lot of refurbishment was needed, sooner rather than later.

As we traveled on the mini-bus we could not help but notice the surrounding area and how unkempt it had become. There were overgrown bushes and weeds everywhere with numerous hares running about aimlessly. There was also a deathly silence about the place, something that none of us had ever experienced. In a strange sort of way we all felt a hint of sadness in the way that the place has been allowed to fall into such a bad state. It was then that the delegation began to realize just how dilapidated the place had become.



We then stopped at the Hospital block, a place that held some memories for a few of us due to their stay there. Again the entrance area or the Circle as it is commonly known was dark and lacking natural light. When we entered the wing itself it was possible to walk around and enter the cells, as it was bright enough with light shining through the skylights. The cells were still furnished with the beds and dustbins etc and they seemed much smaller than we remembered. It was hard to believe that these were the same cells that the ten hunger strikers died in. What torment and secrets did these cells hold? What life and death decisions from prisoners and their families did these plain grey and boring walls witness? Surely of all the buildings in the Long Kesh prison site this Hospital must hold the most difficult memories that some families have had to remember. The general condition of the Block was fair with all the sinks, showers and toilets still intact, but again dampness had taken hold and there was a lot of paint peeling off the walls.

We then proceeded to H. Block 4. This was a Block that was synonymous with brutality among the Republican community. One of the delegation was actually housed in it for over a year so he was able to recount some of his memories. Again there was an absence of natural light in the Circle area but as we moved into A wing it became much brighter. As all the Blocks were similar everyone was able to relate to the wing. The first thing that we noticed was that all the doors were open and that the locks were removed. It all looked very desolate with just the bare beds in the cells. As we entered different cells and sat down on the beds, the old memories came flooding back. Looking out from the barred window we could imagine standing waiting patiently on the visitors bus arriving or shouting out to a comrade in another wing. We then entered the exercise yard, an area where many an hour was spent walking round and round like robots reflecting on day-to-day issues. It was also a place where we played football, exercised and done some running, all to keep fit. H.4 was one of the better-preserved Blocks so it was in a fair enough state that little restoration work would be needed.

Our next stop came as a bit of a surprise to us all, a Watchtower. This was somewhere that was completely alien to us all as none of us had been anywhere near one before. This was one place that the torches were needed as it was pitch black inside and climbing the ladder was hazardous until we reached the top platform. Standing there beside the searchlight and overlooking a big part of the camp was enlightening. Although it must have been bitterly cold in the winter the screws would have had an unobstructed view of the camp. It was definitely an experience to have been there. Again the Watchtower was not in that bad a shape and so would not take much to restore it to its former glory.

The guides then suggested that if we wished we could visit the chapel. As none of us had ever been there we decided to have a look. We were surprised in how good a condition the place was in as it even had a working organ. The guides were surprised that none of us had ever been there as they thought we worshipped

there every Sunday. That, was not the case.

After a short stay in the chapel we headed to the other end of the camp to the Cages/Compounds area. As they had been closed for a longer period of time we did not know what to expect. When we entered the area our fears were realized. The Cages and Huts were in a very run-down state. Cage 18 was the place that we went to basically because it was the Cage that was in the best condition. Again there was no electricity and the huts were empty of beds, which made it all look depressing. The men who were there under special category status explained the routine and the comradery that took place among themselves during that time. There were a lot of overgrown weeds and such growing through the tarmac in the cage and the corrugated iron huts were rusting badly, however one could still see what their original purpose was. Looking through the rusting perimeter wire fence we could see other Cages that were in a worse state than the one we were in. There were places where Cages used to be and there is now nothing left but there concrete bases. A sorry sight indeed as there was many an escape planned in them and also not to mention actual escapes that took place. The Republican Socialist Cage had a mass escape in 1976, now that Cage with all its memories has gone forever.

Our last stop was the front gate and the visitors' entrance. This building only accommodated searches of the people visiting the camp, as they were then transferred by mini-bus to another visiting area to meet the prisoners. Other than the absence of the seating in the visitor's area and the walls bare of the many rules and regulations that had to be strictly adhered to, the place was just generally in an untidy state, and the searching cubicles were in good order with nothing that a good paint job would not sort out. Outside was a bit different with some of the turnstiles missing and the wire fencing rusting and broken. Again the vegetation was growing out of control. It seemed so desolate now considering the fact that during the troubles the Visits where a constant hive of activity, six days a week, with families and friends entering and leaving all the time. This area will always be remembered when the worlds press gathered there to witness the last remaining prisoners being released under the Good Friday Agreement. It was a place what played an important part in the day-to-day running of the prison.

All in all we concluded that the overall site of the Long Kesh prison was in a bad state of disrepair and in urgent need of refurbishment if some of the proposed projects were to proceed. Each of the places that we visited represented, in their own different way, the different groupings that played their part in daily prison life.



Keeping these buildings and their purpose intact would play an important role in educating future generations in what happened during the conflict and so therefore help them to understand part of this history. The delegation all agreed that it was a worthwhile tour but they were shocked and saddened in at how bad the prison camp had deteriorated. Yes, there would need some major work to be carried out on some buildings, but overall if a museum or historical center was the overall outcome, and would benefit future generations, then the cost would be worthwhile. After all there are other countries around the world that have old prison camps, i.e. Robbin Island, restored to preserve their history and the part they played in it. The fact still remains, Long Kesh and everything that happened in it was part of our history so its story, warts and all, needs to be told.

Teach na Failte appreciate the two guides in the way they helped us and complying with our wishes as nothing was too much trouble. Also the tour gave us a much deeper insight in what was needed and what way to go about it to help fulfill our project. The site encompasses such a vast area that there should be no reason why various different projects, that different groups would be happy with, could not be undertaken.

An Open Letter to the Palestine Solidarity Campaign from Victory to the Intifada.

A Chara,

An article by Linda Grant entitled Talking Tough in Gaza? (Guardian Weekend Supplement, Saturday 13 November) exposed once again Marks and Spencer? involvement and support for the illegal settlements in the occupied territories through its illegal importation of settlement goods.

The Gush Katif Settlements even have their own ethnic minorities: foreign workers from Thailand and the Philippines who, at the time of the first intifada, were brought in to replace Palestinian workers in the hothouses which grow organic produce such as tomatoes, green peppers, lettuce and houseplants they say is bound for Marks and Spencer?

Palestinians are literally starving today with massive unemployment, unable to move around to trade their goods or farm their lands, which are confiscated and bulldozed daily. Amidst this the war criminal Ariel Sharon was reported in the Sunday Telegraph to be up for nomination for the Nobel Peace Prize when it is clear that his project is far from peace, it is the continued policy of expansion of Israel's borders and the ethnic cleansing, genocide and oppression of the Palestinian people. It is essential that any boycott campaign in solidarity with the Palestinian struggle is effective and reaches the consciousness of ordinary people all over Britain. There is a need to focus on one particular store in order to have maximum effect and that has to be the biggest British offender Marks and Spencer.

PSC groups throughout the Country are getting active in the campaign to Boycott Marks and Spencer as part of the Boycott Israeli Goods Campaign. On the international day of action against the Apartheid Wall on 6 November, PSC groups in Nottingham and Brighton held pickets outside Marks and Spencer in their respective cities calling on the public to boycott the store. They joined VTI activists in London, Manchester, Durham, Canterbury, Leicester, and Stratford-upon-Avon who are organising regular demonstrations to Boycott M&S. As you know VTI have been boycotting M&S weekly since the beginning of the intifada.

The national boycott of M&S, initiated by Victory to the Intifada, targets M&S not simply because it stocks so many Israeli goods and illegal settlement products, but because it is Britain's biggest corporate sponsor of the

Israeli Government and a symbol on every high street in the UK of the occupation of Palestine.

We are calling on the Palestine Solidarity Campaign to give their full support to the National Boycott of M&S.

victoryintifada@hotmail.com

Formation Of CPI (Maoist)

Dear friend,

The Indian State did not allow the revolutionary forces to celebrate the unity of revolutionary communist forces and the coming into being of Communist Party of India (Maoist) in the capital city of India. The decision not to allow the gathering was an attempt to tell the world that revolutionary forces in India are contained in a few pockets only and have a marginal presence.

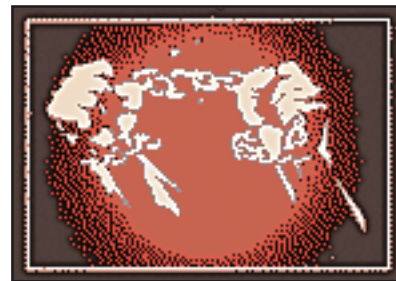
It was also an attempt to stop the spread of revolutionary influence in the capital city. While bourgeois parliamentary forces are allowed to carry on their huge gatherings with State? (all help and assistance the people?) democratic and revolutionary forces are denied even the right of peaceful gatherings and protests.

Even the movements of the workers, peasants, students and other sections of the people struggling for their genuine economic and partial demands are suppressed with arrests and bullets.

Here we are sending you what happened with the November 25th peaceful gathering in Delhi, which was to express solidarity with the people's democratic and revolutionary movements and to hail the formation of the CPI (Maoist). We take this opportunity to inform you and seek your support for exposing the grossly undemocratic and repressive attitude of the Indian Government.

Darshanpal- President -AIPRF
www.aiprf.org
email:aiprf.org@rediffmail.com

Solidarity From "Break the Chains"



Comrades,

The Break The Chains group of Eugene, Oregon (USA) is honored to send a message of solidarity to the Irish Republican Socialist Movement and Irish National Liberation Army to celebrate their 30-years of determined struggle to free Ireland from imperialism, capitalism, and bigotry.

Break The Chains has had the occasional privilege of working with the Irish Republican Socialist Committees of North America; at the Anarchist Black Cross Conference in Austin, TX, in July of 2002, and at our own conference held locally in August of 2003.

Over the course of the past year we have had great dialogue with both IRSCNA coordinator Peter Urban, and youth coordinator Timmy Walsh. We are consistently impressed with their knowledge and devotion to their cause, especially in the realm of prisoner support.

Despite our differences with IRSM on certain political questions, we none-the-less recognize the importance and significance of the IRSM as perhaps the most radical and visionary tendency of Irish republicanism. We therefore salute IRSM and INLA on their 30th anniversary, with hope that their tendency will continue to grow and strengthen.

Break The Chains
PO Box 12122
Eugene, Oregon
USA

Anti-Social Elements Holding Communities to Ransom

A Chara,

Just a short letter pointing out the problems of anti social behaviour in the Windmill area of Ballynahinch and the Kennedy Square Estate in Downpatrick. The ordinary people are being tortured by a few unsavoury characters who are not only bringing these areas into disrepute with their anti social behaviour, criminal activities, and (not so much drug dealing) as drug peddling, which is becoming more frequent and with the underage drinking thats going on the quality of life of the ordinary person is sadly being lowered. These people who continue to commit these offences against the people in these areas are well known to both the Provisional Republican movement (Sinn Fein) and to the RUC who have continued to turn a blind eye to whats going on!!

A concerned resident

**Litreach Dearga
Red Letters**

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your letters brief and to the point due to
restricted space.
email: plough@irsm.org**

BERTIE AHERN - A REPUBLICAN SOCIALIST TAOISEACH?

A Chara,

We know that Fianna Fail styles itself as "The Republican Party". Recently, Bertie Ahern declared that he was "one of the few socialists left in Irish politics" (The Irish Times 13 November). Is it perhaps a matter of time before Fianna Fail will call itself "The Republican Socialist Party"? In this week's edition of The Village, Vincent Browne outlined ten good reasons why Bertie Ahern is no Socialist:

1. Inequality has grown under Ahern. Ireland has the greatest income inequality in the pre enlargement EU. ESRI statistics show that the proportion of the population living on incomes below 60 percent of median income rose from 19 percent in 1997 to 21 percent in 2001.

2. His first five budgets gave over 40 per cent of tax cuts to the richest 20 percent of the population and fewer than 5 percent to the poorest 5 percent.

Due to stealth taxes, the overall cost of living in Ireland is 18 percent above the European average, affecting most the more disadvantaged sections of the population.

3. More people became homeless: the official count of homeless rose from 2 501 in 1996 to 5 581 in 2002.

4. More people are waiting for housing. Households on waiting lists for local authority housing rose from 27 427 in 1996 to 48 413 in 2002.

5. Fewer people could access free health care. Low-income medical cardholders fell from 34.6 per cent of the population in 1997 to 25.7 percent in 2004.



**It is doubtful that Bertie will be attending the
Republican Socialist Easter Commemoration Next
Year**

6. A 2 billion Euros investment in the most deprived communities promised under the RAPID programme has not materialised.

7. He has done little for Travellers. In 1998 1 1448 travellers families were living on the road. In 2004, 1 568 families need accommodation.

8. Bertie Ahern is renegeing on his commitment to the poorest countries. Overseas development aid will increase to 0.5 per cent of the GNP by 2007, not the target set of 0.7 percent.

9. The citizenship referendum fanned racism.

10. By permitting US troops to use Shannon airport, he has implicated Ireland in the US led-war initiated in defiance of the UN.

Very interestingly, the article suggested "Ten Ways to be a Socialist Taoiseach":

i. To reduce inequality, a Socialist Taoiseach should introduce a series of redistributive budgets, which increase tax on the rich (income tax, inheritance tax, capital tax, close loopholes) and reduce tax on low earners (cut indirect tax, end stealth taxes).

ii. The budget should seriously

increase social welfare rates. Higher social benefit payments funded by higher taxation are the chief means by which other states reduce poverty and inequality.

iii. House the homeless instead of putting them in bed and breakfasts.

iv. Increase local authority house building. Start by delivering on Government targets of 40 100 new houses between 2000 and 2006.

v. Introduce free GP care, the norm in Europe.

vi. Deliver on the promises made to the deprived communities at the launch of the Rapid Programme.

vii. Implement the Government's own National Traveller Accommodation

Strategy.

viii. Increase overseas aid by 180 million Euros a year in order to meet the target of 0.7 percent of the GNP.

ix. Grant citizenship to the families of all children born in Ireland to date. Introduce legislation, which restores birth right citizenship.

Introduce a green card immigration system where residency rights are not tied to a particular job.

x. Withdraw landing rights for US military planes at Shannon.

Republican Socialists will study this minimum programme very seriously.
LOR

Irish Republican Socialist Movement

1974 - Roll of Honour - 2004

Vol. Hugh Ferguson	20 Feb 1975	Co. Antrim
Vol. Danny Loughran	6 April 1975	Co. Antrim
Vol. Brendan McNamnee	6 June 1975	Co. Antrim
Vol. Ronnie Trainor	15 Dec 1975	Co. Armagh
Vol. Seamus Costello	5 Oct 1977	Co. Wicklow
Vol. Colm McNutt	12 Dec 1977	Co. Derry
Vol. Tommy Trainor	8 March 1978	Co. Armagh
Vol. Tony McClelland	16 Oct 1979	Co. Armagh
Vol. Miriam Daly	26 June 1980	Co. Antrim
Vol. Ronnie Bunting	15 Oct 1980	Co. Antrim
Vol. Noel Little	15 Oct 1980	Co. Antrim
Vol. Jim Power	7 May 1981	Co. Antrim
Vol. Matt McLarnon	12 May 1981	Co. Antrim
Vol. Patsy O'Hara	21 May 1981	Co. Derry
Vol. Kevin Lynch	1 Aug 1981	Co. Derry
Vol. Michael Devine	20 Aug 1981	Co. Derry
Vol. Roddy Carroll	12 Dec 1982	Co. Armagh
Vol. Seamus Grew	12 Dec 1982	Co. Armagh
Vol. Neil McMonagle	2 Feb 1983	Co. Derry
Vol. Brendan Convery	13 Aug 1983	Co. Derry
Vol. Gerard Mallon	13 Aug 1983	Co. Armagh
Vol. Joe Craven	5 Dec 1983	Co. Antrim

Vol. Paul "Bonanza" McCann	15 June 1984	Co. Antrim
Vol. John O'Reilly	20 Jan 1987	Co. Antrim
Vol. Thomas "Ta" Power	20 Jan 1987	Co. Antrim
Vol. Mickey Kearney	18 Feb 1987	Co. Antrim
Vol. Kevin Barry Duffy	21 March 1987	Co. Armagh
Vol. Emmanuel Gargan	21 March 1987	Co. Antrim
Vol. James McPhilemy	10 Aug 1988	Co. Tyrone
Vol. Alex Patterson	12 Nov 1990	Co. Tyrone
Vol. Gino Gallagher	30 Jan 1996	Co. Antrim
Vol. John Morris	5 June 1997	Co. Dublin
Vol. Patrick Campbell	10 Oct 1999	Co. Antrim
POW Colm Maguire	10 Oct 1987	Portlaoise

Comrades

Rose Campbell	13 Aug 1980	Belfast
Hugh O'Neill	10 July 1981	Belfast
Michael Montgomery	1 Dec 1984	Derry
Pearse Moore	15 Sept 1985	Derry
Mary McGlinchey	1 Feb 1987	Derry
Dominic McGlinchey	10 Feb 1994	Derry
Hessy Phelan	21 Jan 1996	Derry
Dermot McShane	13 July 1996	Derry



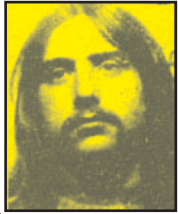
Volunteer **Ronnie Trainor** was a member of the Armagh Brigade of the INLA and was also a political activist with the IRSP. He was just seventeen years old when the UVF bombed his family home in Portadown in 1975. In the attack his mother also lost her life. Ronnie's brother Thomas, also an INLA Volunteer was killed by loyalists in 1978.



Volunteer **Brendan McNamee** was a Staff Officer in the Peoples' Liberation Army and the Irish National Liberation Army. He was also a founder member of the IRSP. Because of his refusal to go down the reformist road of the Official IRA that made him a target for their counter revolutionary death squads. Just twenty-two years old when he was gunned down on the Stewardstown Road in Belfast in June 1975.



Volunteer **Thomas Ta Power**, along with INLA Chief of Staff John O'Rielly were cold bloodedly killed by the counter revolutionaries of the IPLO as they went to talk peace with that group in 1987. Ta had just been freed from Crumlin Road Gaol after spending 4 years 4 months on remand, the longest of any prisoner in Ireland. He had been imprisoned on the word of a supergrass. A document written by Ta is now required essential within the IRSP.



Volunteer **Hugh Ferguson** was a member of the Peoples Liberation Army (PLA) which was formed to protect members of the IRSP from armed attacks from the Official IRA which were aimed at destroying the new party when it first formed. He was just nineteen years old and was the first member of the IRSM to be killed in such circumstances.



Volunteer **Seamus Grew** was a member of the Armagh Brigade of the Irish National Liberation Army. He was killed along with another INLA Volunteer Roddy Carroll when they were ambushed by an RUC assassination squad on a country road in County Armagh in 1982. The RUC believed that Dominic McGlinchey was travelling in the car but he wasn't and two brave soldiers were executed by the RUC in a Shoot to Kill operation.



Volunteer **Gino Gallagher** was chief of staff of the INLA when killed by criminal drug dealer Kevin McAlorum under orders from Hugh Torney in 1996. Gino had spent the previous few years building up IRSP contacts throughout the country in a bid to revive the party that had been decimated under Torney's leadership. His leadership and carisma were paying dividends and the strength of the IRSP today is testament to that.



Volunteer **Miriam Daly** was both a political activist in the IRSP and a soldier in the peoples' army, the INLA. Miriam was one of the foremost campaigners on behalf of the blanketmen and was a committed member of the Anti H-Block campaigns. Miriam's nine year old daughter found her bound and shot body in her Andersonstown home when she returned from school. Loyalists claimed her killing.



Volunteer **Mickey Devine** was a founder member of both the INLA and IRSP in Derry city. Previous to his involvement in the IRSM Mickey was active in socialist politics. He was sentenced to twelve years in prison in 1977 and immediately joined his comrades on the Blanket Protest. In 1981 he joined a hungerstrike to the death in a bid to win back political status for Irish Republican POWs.



Volunteer **Neil McMonagle** was a member of the Derry Brigade of the INLA. He was twenty three years old when a member of the SAS killed him and wounded a friend during an attack in the Shantallow area of Derry. He was an extremely active and dedicated soldier of the peoples' army. The SAS man responsible for his killing, Sergeant Paul Oram, was killed one year later during a confrontation with an IRA unit in Dunloy Co Antrim.

To mark the thirtieth anniversary of the founding of the Irish Republican Socialist Movement we devote this issue to the men and women of the INLA and IRSP who made the ultimate sacrifice in the struggle for

National Liberation and Socialism in Ireland. We profile some of those volunteers and political activists and in forthcoming issues we will be including more of our fallen comrades. We hope that by reading their profiles we hope

the reader gets a true sense of the pride that we all feel for having known these people. The loss to their families and to the struggle for freedom in Ireland is immense.

Comrades, we slaute you!

An

The Starry Plough

Camchéachta



Pairtí Poblachtacht Soisialach na h-Éireann

VICTORY TO INSURGENT NEPAL

Liberation Struggle Will Go On!



In Nepal, the People's Liberation Army who have been involved in an eight-year long insurgency against the monarchy said they will fight on despite US involvement against the liberation struggle.

The threat of increased intervention by the United States followed news that Washington is supplying Nepal with 20,000 M-16s, as well as night-vision and communication equipment, and special-forces counterinsurgency training. U.S. aid to the Nepalese royal regime has almost doubled, from \$22 million to \$40 million this year. American soldiers have been conducting joint training exercises in Nepal with the Royal Nepalese Army.

The British authorities, no strangers to the arms trade and interventionist tactics have also been approached by the Nepalese Royal family to assist in the battle against insurgent Marxist rebels in an attempt

to up-hold their dysfunctional royal regime.

Earlier this year, the Himalayan Times quoted an American official who said that a U.S. Congressional delegation was already in Nepal as part of a mission to collect information about the country's civil war and the whole of South Asia. The U.S. has put the CPN (Maoist) on their "terrorist list" - laying the basis for even more intervention and the criminalization of international support for the ongoing national liberation struggle in Nepal.

The Irish Republican Socialist Movement extends its solidarity to the the PLA. An outright victory for insurgents at this time would be of crucial importance for the cause of socialism world wide.

FOR MORE DETAILS SEE PAGE 16

FOR NATIONAL LIBERATION & SOCIALISM!