



# SOCIALIST REPUBLIC

Paper of PEOPLES' DEMOCRACY

Vol 5 No 4

20p OUTSIDE IRELAND

# No to Loyalist Assembly

# No to Prior's Plan

# United Ireland

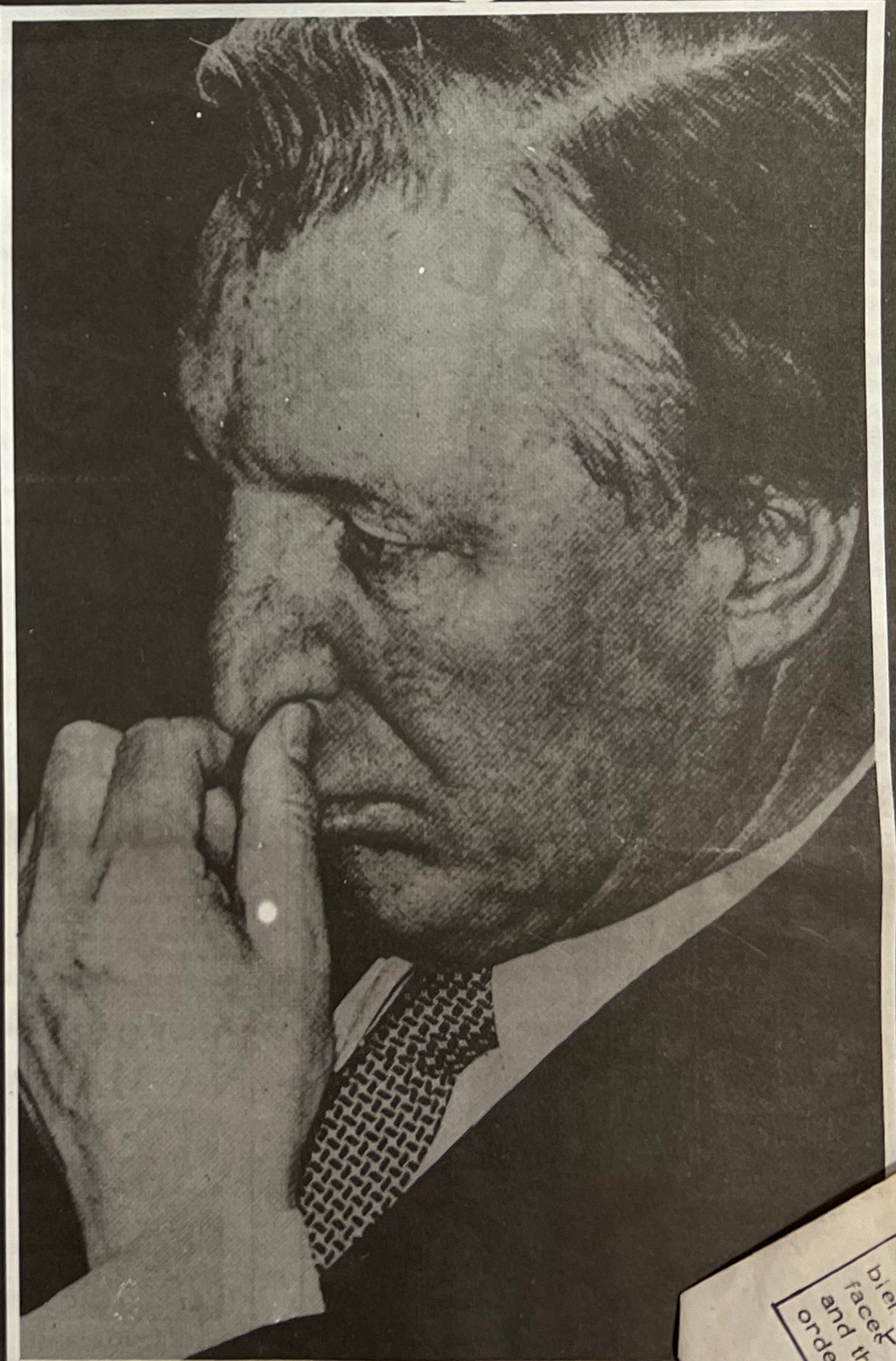
# Only Answer

## HANDS OFF MALVINAS SINK THATCHER



# Pick on the Rich Charlie

# P.R.S.I.



Buy  
face  
and th  
order  
SH S



Shock and horror was the response of most workers on opening their first April pay packets and discovering the real effect of the hike in PRSI contributions. Here was not the 'boom and bloom' confidently predicted by Ray McSharry on Fianna Fail's election, rather it brought back shades of the 'doom and gloom' policy started by the Coalition. The same policy is being pursued to make working people pay more and more for the recession, while allowing the rich to abscond with their loot.

The fact that speculators have not been hit at all in the present Budget, that any significant taxation on employers is on labour employed rather than profits, and that the levy on bank profits is derisory, all point the direction of economic policy. The 'boost' being put in to the economy is direct subvention to the profits of the building industry rather than 'boosting' the spending power of working people.

The new tax cuts 2.75% from the gross incomes of people earning £9,500 or under and 1% from those earning over £9,500; apart from this blatant distinction in favour of those earning more the whole basis of the tax is regressive. Firstly, it is a flat rate percentage which means the less wages you have the more you pay, secondly, it is a tax on total income (ie before tax deductions etc), which increases its effect by 30-50%. Thirdly, it is part of a consistent drive to force down workers' living standards with no pretence at income redistribution.

Over the last 5 years wage increases have dropped substantially behind price increases so that it has been estimated that real living standards have declined by a third. With inflation predicted at 23% for the coming year and the attempt (in many cases successful) to foist the public sector pay agreement on workers (11% over a period of a year), we may expect a further 12% drop in living standards unless a co-ordinated fightback begins. In this context the cynical attempt to squeeze more from those already being deprived even of the essentials of life is despicable. The pretence that this tax increase is for youth, employment and the social welfare increases in the Budget, is most cynical of all. It plays on the genuine concern of workers for the unemployed, the old and the sick -- and demands a separate tax from them alongside all the increased taxes on food, drink, cigarettes, ESB charges, gas charges etc. levied on them. It should be pointed out that these taxes on spending hit the poorest most, since the poorer a person is, the more his/her income is spent on consumer items.

Alongside these cuts in living standards, and the philosophy that goes with it (those lucky enough to have jobs must pay through the nose ...) there have been cuts in government spending which hit the workers the most. While the gardai and army are given more money for recruitment and more prisons are promised, there are significant cuts in public expenditure on health and education. Capital expenditure has been cut to almost nothing in hospitals around the country and budgets in psychiatric hospitals are so low that one psychiatrist commented that patients are being kept in conditions "not fit for greyhounds". The embargo on recruitment in the public sector has particularly strained the understaffed community health services and domiciliary services as well as hospitals in towns and cities.

Understaffing is now a major problem in schools. Teachers are being faced with classes of 40-45 pupils and they can barely manage to keep order in the class -- with the result

# PR.S.I.

that the children's learning is really suffering. In this area too there has been a virtual ban placed on buying audio visual and other learning aids for schools. What all of this means is a lowering of essential living conditions, especially for young people. The decline in health and literacy for them all become even more apparent over time.

The trade union movement as a body has been very silent in the face of this attack. Years of National Wage agreements has meant that many young officials, like their members, have no experience of industrial action. Two crippling procedures were forced on the trades union movement during the last period. Firstly, "two-tier" picketing tells workers they should pass the picket of any union except their own, (in fact, they have been told to pass pickets of other branches of the same union!) unless an ICTU "all-out" picket is placed. However difficult it is to get sanction from your own union for strike, it is a thousand times harder to get ICTU backing -- the dispute must be seen as a substantial and significant conflict and all available avenues must have been tried by the unions concerned. In other words, the ICTU acts as a damper on valid industrial action and gives blessing to those who pass union pickets.

The "two-tier" picket was introduced during the period of NWA's. It makes less sense than ever to

maintain it now. But a grass-roots campaign will be necessary to reverse the ICTU's picketing policy. The Trades Councils are an obvious place to start the ball rolling.

## LABOUR COURT

Secondly, the Labour Court has come out very clearly in support of the employers in claims before it in recent months. Its pro-employer bias should be recognised and workers must take on fights with their employers, without believing in the possibility of a fair recommendation from this group of employers' stooges.

Finally, it is imperative that what has begun as sporadic outbursts of anger at cuts in workers' living standards must become co-ordinated. The union leaderships have proven their weakness in this task. They must be forced to display and organise the full muscle of the labour movement to defeat the economic policies of the Haughey government.

A special question is posed here for The Workers Party and Kemmy's Democratic Socialist Party. Both organisations (especially The Workers Party) have a significant number of highly placed trades union officials. Are these officials going to play the same game as the "socialist" TDs, ie run with the hare and hunt with the hounds?

So far the Workers Party and SDP trades union officials have put up no resistance to the pussy-footing tactics of the ICTU leadership. In fact the WP (formerly SFWP) have supported the National Wage Agreements for some time while the SDP has always been positively enthusiastic. It is not accidental that income tax increased most rapidly during the period of NWAs (since 1969). Both are intrinsically related. It is not credible for WP and SDP to make militant noises about PAYE and PRSI while at the same time upholding a policy within the trade union movement which inevitably leaves workers wide open to savage attacks.

There can be no real defence against government and employer taxation policy while any remnant of the NWA strategy exists. Let those who claim to represent workers' interests begin a serious resistance by dumping the "two-tier" picket, the Employer-Labour Conference and the Labour Court.

Take off the chains and show how the trade union movement can really fight!

ANNE SPEED

# NICTU - FAILS TO GIVE FIGHTING LEAD

JOHN McGEOWN

The Northern Ireland Committee of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions held its annual conference in Downpatrick on April 6/7 last. John McGeown reports:

"Many trade unionists dislike discussing politics but political analysis is necessary if we are to find a remedy for the problems we face today."

The opening remarks by Jimmy Graham of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions at this year's annual conference of the Northern Ireland Committee of the ICTU (NIC-ICTU) suggested that the North's trade union leaders were finally going to take a serious look at the reasons why the Six County economy is collapsing around them.

John Freeman (ATGWU) who gave the keynote speech on the economy, time and again denounced the capitalist system and called for fundamental change. But if the 184 delegates, representing 183,000 affiliated members, expected some specific analysis of the North's economic crisis or some specific proposals for combatting it, they were certainly disappointed. The steam went out of Freeman's speech when he limply apologised for the absence of a plan to fight unemployment in the Six Counties.

Instead the NIC-ICTU is bringing Len Murray of the British TUC to Belfast to talk about the Alternative Economic Strategy developed by the TUC with the Labour Party. While this strategy has little enough to recommend it to British workers it has absolutely nothing for workers in the Six Counties.

Failure to develop a plan to oppose factory closures or fight for job creation was paralleled in the discussion on the British Tories' anti-union laws which represent the most serious attack on the right of workers to organise since the Industrial Relations Bill of 1970. Here again, there was plenty of rhetoric about opposing these laws but no proposals for an effective campaign to defeat them. Wait and see what the unions in Britain do was the message hammered out by the full-time officials at the rostrum.

The method behind this madness is revealed in the fact that the North's trade union leaders could meet for two whole days amid the collapse of the Northern economy and not once question if the dependence on Britain was positive or negative. Nor was there any discussion on the charge made by the Fair Employment Agency that the trade unions had colluded with employers in maintaining the basic sectarian structure of employment in the North.

The politics put forward at the conference were a crude mish-mash of anti-Toryism. This rhetoric was a convenient substitute for a real attack on the disastrous effects of British imperialism on the Irish economy. Whether Thatcher or Foot are implementing imperialist policy makes little difference to Irish workers.

The NIC-ICTU conference fell far short of being a significant event in the lives of Northern workers. Most of them were blissfully unaware even of its existence. It was a con-

ference of full-time officials and executive members which went through the formalities of debate without any expectation of coming up with answers which might meet the needs of the union members.

This highlights the very undeveloped nature of democratic debate in the North's trade unions, a situation which the full-time officials are quite happy to continue, particularly when it comes to the Irish Congress of Trade Unions. If the conferences and campaigns of the ICTU were brought into the centre of union discussions at branch and conference level the full-timers and executives would have to face up to the advocates of an Ulster TUC. But since the Northern trade union leaders have no answer to imperialism and Partition they are unable to meet this challenge.

Rather than wage the political battle against this reactionary minority the union's leaders prefer to keep ICTU at arm's length.

So although Donal Nevin, ICTU General Secretary was on the platform throughout the Northern conference, there was no discussion as to how the 1/2 million trade unionists in the 26 Counties might link up in an all-Ireland campaign against unemployment and to defend living standards. This shows the lack of commitment from the union leadership to the reality of an all-Ireland trade union movement. No wonder Inez McCormack of NUPE warned the conference that the trade unions were in danger of being seen as an irrelevant fiction by the workers in the Six Counties.



# Fighting Against the Stream

1981 was one of the blackest years in Irish history. The terrible sacrifice of 10 militants on hunger strike and our failure to win outright the 5 demands marked a major setback for the anti-imperialist movement, a setback recorded in the fragmentation of the H Block/Armagh movement and the limited support gained in the February general election in the 26 counties.

When we march to commemorate the first anniversary of Bobby Sands death on May 5th, we should set our minds to the task of regaining the ground we have lost. This will mean fighting against the stream!

There will be much smaller numbers at the commemorations we hold over the next few months than attended the marches last year. For many the hunger strike belongs to the past; today has its own problems.

Bobby Sands had to fight against the stream. On Day 6 of his hunger strike, he wrote in his diary "...the road is a hard one and everything must be conquered." These words are even more relevant today.

If the anti-imperialist movement is to conquer its enemies it will have to make a radical break with its past. Over the last 60 years since the imposition of partition, the Republican movement has pursued two fundamentally different strategies in the 6 and 26 counties. In the 6 counties it has concentrated primarily on the fighting of military campaigns against the Crown Forces; in the 26 counties it has made propaganda in support of the fighting units in the North combined with a community/social work orientation at a local level. At no time has the Republican Movement provided a line of advance which could arm the workers north and south for a common struggle against the imperialist domination of all 32 counties.

The reality of British armed occupation, the naked sectarianism of Ulster Unionism and the combativity of, and self sacrifice of republicans has kept republicanism a radical and dynamic force in the north; in the south however, republicanism for many years developed a conservative tradition with even at times, openly reactionary views on social and economic questions. The Republican Movement, in the greater part of Ireland, is not seen as a natural ally for those committed to socialist change. The experience of mass action in the H Block/Armagh campaign saw some change in this respect, but the deafening silence of the Republican Movement on the pro-Life Amendment is clear evidence that republicans are not

automatically on the side of the oppressed.

Certainly, that must be the balance sheet of the recent election in the South. Faced with 150,000 unemployed, inflation in double figures, the erosion of wage levels through massive tax increases, severe attacks on democratic rights - the working class did not see the Republican Movement as having the answers. Disillusioned with Fianna Fail, Fine Gael and the Labour Party those keenest for a fightback turned to pro-imperialists like SFWP and Jim Kemmy or independents such as Tony Gregory.

Peoples Democracy doesn't think it has all the answers, we don't think any single organisation that is part of the anti-imperialist movement does. But of one thing we are totally convinced and that is that a united anti-imperialist movement could go a long way towards being seen as relevant

ity. Give working people control of the nations wealth.

\*Defence of democratic and civil rights.  
\*Complete opposition to imperialist alliances.  
No to NATO - Out of the EEC.

We don't think that the Republican Movement or the IRSP would have any disagreement with us over the points in this programme. We accepted that it was unlikely that a united slate of anti-imperialist candidates could be agreed but we nonetheless sought the maximum co-operation and mutual support between the anti-imperialist organisations. These approaches were rebuffed. Both the Republican Movement and the IRSP preferred that the anti-imperialist movement entered the elections divided amongst themselves. They put the particular interests of their own organisations before

structure in the North and whatever noises they make, neither Fianna Fail or the SDLP will lift one finger to block it. Collaboration between Britain and the 'Free State' is reaching new heights. Some 150,000 Irish workers are unemployed. The rights of women are under attack across the board. Failure on the part of the anti-imperialist movement to respond to these attacks in an active and meaningful way will turn the setback of the hunger strike into the rout of the anti-imperialist movement. If we don't fight effectively on these issues the Irish working class will rightly say that we have nothing to offer them.

We agree with Bobby Sands when he wrote:

"There is that much to be done that no select or small portion of people can do, only the greater mass of the Irish nation will ensure the achievement of the Socialist Republic."

Like James Connolly, whose anniversary also occurs this month, Bobby Sands had great confidence in the workers of Ireland. Winning the leadership of that 'greater mass', the Irish working class, is the task that faces the anti-imperialist movement.

Connolly and Sands gave their lives for the Socialist Republic, not just to change a flag but to put an end to the rule of capitalist parties, to the poverty of unemployment, to clerical interference in social legislation. They fought to build an Ireland where the working class would hold power, where Church and state would be rigidly separate, where people would have control over their own lives.

There is no easy road to the Socialist Republic but we owe it to the legacy of Connolly and Sands to move along the road with determination and unity.



to the needs of Irish workers and small farmers.

Is a united anti-imperialist movement possible today? We think there are major obstacles. The election campaign that PD has fought over the past year in both the 6 and 26 counties placed united action by anti-imperialists at the centre of our work. We argued that getting solutions to the major economic and social problems involved facing up to the fact that imperialism dominates all aspects of Irish society and that to bring about fundamental change in any sector would involve a confrontation with imperialism and the native Irish capitalists.

We put forward our election programme to do just that:

- \*For a united, independent Ireland. Complete British Withdrawal. Against Collaboration with Britain.
- \*Defence of workers living standards. Against auster-

the general interest of the anti-imperialist struggle.

None of this is to deny that there are serious differences between PD, the IRSP and Sinn Fein. Elsewhere, in this paper, we discuss our dispute over mass action and militarism. We think that the military campaigns of the INLA and the IRA are misconceived and misdirected. In our view however, there is no reason why this dispute which can be discussed openly in a comradely way, should be a barrier to common action on those issues on which the organisations have common positions. On the contrary to refrain from such united action seems to us a case of cutting off your nose to spite your face.

The danger threatening the Irish working class are too grave to allow any concentration on narrow party advantage. Britain is once again seeking to impose another sectarian

Peoples Democracy makes 3 proposals:

\*the anti-imperialist organisations mount a united campaign against the Prior initiative. If there is no boycott there should be one slate of candidates in any elections to the proposed assembly.

\*the anti-imperialist organisations issue a joint statement condemning the Pro-Life Amendment as an attack on democratic rights.

\*the anti-imperialist organisations to co-operate in the trade unions to build a militant rank and file response to the attacks on living standards.

JOHN McGEOWN

## DUBLIN PD ORGANISES SUPPORTERS

The Dublin branch of Peoples Democracy is organising regular monthly meetings of all our supporters in the Dublin area.

We are hopeful that these meetings will allow supporters of PD to develop closer links with us and to contribute to the work PD is involved in.

PD believes that at a time of

severe economic and political crisis North and South it is vital that anti-imperialists and socialists are organised in an effective way.

Therefore PD considers it essential to strengthen its organisation and thus its influence in workers' struggles and the anti-imperialist movement.

We are relying on you, our supporters, to help us, if you agree with our policies, then come to the supporters' meetings.

THURSDAY MAY 6th 8 PM  
THURSDAY JUNE 3rd  
3 BELVEDERE PLACE, D1 (near Mountjoy Square).

\* \* \* \*  
PEOPLES DEMOCRACY

PUBLIC MEETING  
14th MAY 8.00 PM

IRELAND IN CRISIS--  
FOR A 32 COUNTY FIGHTBACK  
ATGWU HALL MARLBOROUGH ST



# Which Way For the Provos' Campaign?

In past years in a series of "Mass action versus militarism" articles in SOCIALIST REPUBLIC and in letters and debate carried out in An Phoblacht/Republican News, we have investigated the political and theoretical differences between Peoples Democracy as a revolutionary marxist organisation with a central strategic orientation to the self-organisation of the mass of Irish workers and the revolutionary democrats of the Republican Movement with a central orientation towards a military struggle against British forces.

The discussion has been very useful in many ways. It has shown that fraternal debate can take place within the anti-imperialist movement without preventing practical co-operation and it also showed the practical value of such discussion -- many of the concepts thrown up by the discussion were of key importance in the foundation of the H Block/Armagh movement and development of its strategy.

However many people who supported our "mass action" perspective criticised us for generality and vagueness both in our criticisms of the Republican Movement's policy and in the alternatives we offered. This article is an attempt to harden out the debate by examining the Republican Movement's military campaign from before the hunger strike to the present day.

## PRINCIPLE

Before we do it is worth taking the time to outline the political principles on which our analysis is based. We have no hesitation in assigning full responsibility for the violence and bloodshed to the forces of imperialism. The Irish people did not initiate the violence but simply responded to imperialist aggression. The end of imperialist rule is one sure way to end the violence. The marxist analysis of history which we accept shows no example of a ruling class ever peacefully accepting its overthrow and we see as part of our own responsibility as revolutionaries the development of the defensive capacity of the working class and its allies so that such opposition can be overcome.

What then is the basis of our criticism of the Republican Movement? What we criticise is the ideology of militarism which elevates the right of military action into an immediate necessity established simply by the imperialist presence. As a consequence this leads to the belief that a relatively small group of armed revolutionaries can themselves substitute for the masses and carry out the revolution. Finally it leads to giving a higher priority to the armed campaign and relegating the self-activity of the workers and the mass of the population to a secondary role in support of the military campaign.

## MASS ACTION AND MILITARISM?

The Republicans have always argued that they stood for mass activity and military action developing alongside one another. At the height of the struggle, when both forms of struggle were advancing, this might have appeared so. Since then, in practice, it is quite clear that their insistence on the primacy of mili-

tary struggle has cut across the development of mass action.

A glance at recent history shows this. The period from the Coalisland Unity conference of 1977 to the formation of the National Smash H Block and Armagh campaign was one in which the Provos argued for a military solution to the H Block crisis. To this end they undertook a campaign against prison governors and warders. They did not simultaneously encourage mass action. Instead they opposed the broadening of the Relatives Action Committees and their extension to the 26 Counties.

It was partly the collapse of this militarist policy that led to the sudden turn to mass action and the formation of the H Block committees, followed by the first hunger strike. Again in practice, militarism and mass action were not linked. Instead the Republican Movement correctly put the emphasis on developing mass action and effectively suspended its military campaign during the first hunger strike.



However the collapse of the first hunger strike and the increasing crisis of the second led to a "slippage" and a gradually increasing number of military actions. The end of the hunger strike saw another turn away from united action by the Provos, a fragmentation of all the forces active in the campaign and a concentration on a renewed military campaign.

## DISCIPLINE

Why were there an increasing number of military actions during the second hunger strike? It can not have been because the Republicans believed that it would win political status. Such a strategy had been pressed for several years and proved ineffective. Nor can it be regarded as a warning of increased military action if the British did not grant the 5 demands. The British had already indicated that they were aware of this and willing to accept it as the price of defeating the prisoners.

We believe that the answer lies in the discipline and political consciousness of individual Republican militants. It is clear that the unity and discipline of the Republican Movement holds firm during the actual course of a military campaign. But it was also clear to anyone active in the H Block campaign that very many of the IRA members were unable or unwilling because of their role in the IRA to participate in mass political struggle. Military actions were therefore sanctioned by the IRA leadership not because they had a role to play in advancing the H Block struggle but because it was the only way in which many of their militants were trained to intervene. We believe that this represents a danger to the whole anti-imperialist movement in the sense that military actions might be dictated by the need to resist and to hit back at Britain rather than part of a campaign with a strategy for victory over imperialism.

Fundamentally we criticise militarism not because it leads to inappropriate military actions, but because of the way it can lead to the blocking or diversion of a mass struggle. There are examples of this in the H Block/Armagh campaign.

# CORRUPT WORKERS PARTY

The skeletons -- or should we say bodies -- in the cupboard of Sinn Fein the Workers Party, now simply the Workers Party, have finally been revealed by Magill Magazine. The public can now see the party of "Peace, Work and Class Politics" in its true colours. The party which outdoes the main establishment parties in condemning "terrorism" and "subversion", is dramatically revealed to harbour within its own ranks a paramilitary organisation . . . the Official IRA. The sole purpose of this organisation is to raise money for the party and to protect its drinking clubs and financial rackets through intimidation, beatings and shootings.

The list of accusations includes: the armed robbery of over £2m. since 1972 and a dozen murders and scores of beatings since 1975. There is nothing new in these revelations. That these revelations can appear so dramatic is simply due to a systematic coverup by the news media. Newspapers like the Irish Times and Irish Independent not to mention RTE, did their best to paint a respectable image of the SFWP. These hypocrites knew the "inside" story as well as anyone else, but they chose to ignore it. They were more interested in promoting the reformist politics of the SFWP -- support for majority (ie

Loyalist) rule in the North, for the RUC, for wage restraint, etc. Now that Magill, for whatever reason, has broken through this wall of pretence we can expect a holier-than-thou reaction from the SFWP's former promoters. The "moderate" allies in the trade union movement especially will be running scared. It is likely that to protect their own respectability they will launch a witch-hunt against the Workers Party. Having deceived and misled its own followers, it is unlikely that the WP will be able to rally a popular defence. For the moment, the party is reduced to hysterical and incoherent rhetoric. Those who have been embittered

by the pro-imperialist and reformist politics of the SFWP will shed no tears over the current predicament of these hypocrites. But it is a serious responsibility for us to calmly point out the real lessons of the story. Our fight against the Workers Party is based on politics and not shock-horror tactics. We cannot afford to become pawns in a right-wing faction fight. Our aim is not only to defeat the influence of the WP, but also to expose the wealthy and privileged "godfathers" who promoted them. In the North the petty-criminal activities of the Official IRA and



# EDITORIAL

## DEFEAT PRIOR'S PLAN

The decision by the British Government to rush forward legislation for a new assembly in the 6 counties without further discussion and in the middle of its confrontation with Argentina, is a measure of the weakness of Prior's plan and the extent of British desperation to achieve some stabilisation of its interests in Ireland.

Prior's rolling devolution is simply another attempt to bolster up partition and needs to be totally resisted. Because of the very nature of the Northern state the end result could only be increased sectarianism, economic misery and repression.

That is why Peoples Democracy is committed to the defeat of Prior's plan. And we believe that the means to defeat it lie within the grasp of anti-unionists in the North. A united boycott of the elections would sink the plan before it got under way.

As usual the SDLP is trying to face all ways at the one time. "The Prior plan is unworkable. We haven't decided whether to contest the elections or not". Eager for the crumbs of privilege from the British table, unwilling to offend Charlie Haughey the SDLP is seeking a way of pleasing all its masters. The only losers will be the anti-unionist workers of the 6 counties.

After Bloody Sunday, John Hume declared that it was "A United Ireland or nothing!" This is probably the only sensible statement he ever made. It is certainly the only policy which makes any sense today.

If the SDLP do contest the elections they must not be allowed a clear field. It has

for too long been allowed to misrepresent anti-unionist workers unchallenged. There must be an anti-imperialist alternative presented.

The decision by Sinn Fein to contest the elections if the SDLP decide against a boycott must be welcomed from that viewpoint. But if, as appears likely, Sinn Fein go it alone in fighting the elections and turn their backs on a united anti-imperialist campaign only the SDLP can benefit.

There is an urgent need for anti-imperialist parties to begin discussions on a common electoral challenge to the SDLP. The sort of support organised around the hunger strike cannot be mobilised by any single party. There is enough agreement among anti-imperialists to make possible a united effort which would not only get these forces moving again but make strides towards new support.

Peoples Democracy is seeking meetings with Sinn Fein, the IRSP and a number of independent groups to discuss a common 'Anti-partition' platform as an alternative to Prior's plan and continuing collaboration with British rule. We believe that this would best be done through a positive boycott of the elections.

Failing that, Peoples Democracy will fight the Assembly elections, putting forward a militant socialist alternative to an imperialist and capitalist rule that breeds violence and poverty. We will fight to expose the forces acting to restructure the rotten sectarian Northern state. Finally we will use our campaign to promote the unity in action of anti-partitionists that is the urgent need of the day.

## BAN PLASTIC BULLETS

The murder of 11-year-old Stephen McConomy in Derry's Bogside by a RUC plastic bullet has been an occasion for many press statements from organisations as varied as Peoples Democracy, Sinn Fein, the SDLP, the British National Council of Civil Liberties, the Catholic hierarchy and the Workers' Party. Everyone agreed that the plastic bullet should be banned. Only Peoples Democracy however, proposed that a public campaign be launched to turn the banning into reality.

This was a reiteration of the proposal we first put during the hunger strike campaign when other child victims such as Carol Ann Kelly from Twinbrook and Julie Ann Livingstone from Lenadoon died from plastic bullet injuries. At that time thousands of plastic bullets were fired against peaceful demonstrators protesting the deaths of the H Block hunger strikers. The aim then as now was to terrorise the nationalist people off the streets.

That is why the British Army, RUC, Loyalist politicians are so united with the British government on the continued use of the plastic bullet. The British and RUC with hypocri-

tical ease describe the plastic bullet as a "peacekeeping" tool: the Loyalists with sectarian honesty support its use as a penalty of instant death on the streets for those who reject the Northern state.

There is no evidence to support the official claim that the plastic bullet is a "minimum force weapon". The English peer and lawyer, Lord Gifford, who recently completed an investigation into the death of plastic bullet victim Paul Withers, interviewed on BBC Radio stated that once fired it isn't possible to safeguard their use. He also revealed that the RUC had given no warning that plastic bullets were to be fired. He called the RUC action "an act of murder for which I can see no defence".

Press statements will not halt the death toll of Irish children from plastic bullets. Only by bringing onto the streets sufficient numbers to force the Brits and the RUC out of nationalist areas will we be able to protect our children. Our youth have a right to walk our streets without the constant fear of harassment and plastic bullets.

Many militants believed that the anti-imperialist military organisations provided in the background a massive force that could intervene in a crisis and this prevented a rational assessment of the actual balance of forces. People talked of an uprising if (later changed to when) a hunger striker died.

In SOCIALIST REPUBLIC Peoples Democracy warned that a movement unable to prevent deaths would find it very difficult to move forward once the defeat that such a death represented had occurred.

Bobby Sands' death represented a massive crisis for the H Block/Armagh movement. To move forward then and prevent further deaths it had to show that it could defend itself against

and pressure the SDLP were condemned as "diversions" even though that work is now bearing fruit in exposing SDLP collaboration with the RUC. It also requires the total unity of the parties and the local committees. Instead the Republicans set up their own defence committees to organise against a Loyalist threat that never came.

There were many objective factors that made it very difficult for the H Block/Armagh movement to advance. It may have been impossible in the time available for it to overcome the resistance of the Irish capitalist class and their collaboration with Thatcher. We believe however that it could have advanced further and that militarist conceptions held by the Republicans and individual militants in the campaign have acted as a brake to this.

### ALTERNATIVE

The H Block/Armagh campaign is over. The forces involved in it have fragmented and Republican attention is focused on the military campaign and on a "long war" strategy that sees a gradual erosion of British will to continue in Ireland over a ten to twenty year period.

We see an alternative in the "Defence, Democracy and Workers Action" slogans we put forward at the beginning of the hunger strike.

\*Anti-imperialists should unite in a democratic united front structure and agree a common programme for electoral intervention and action on the streets and in the factories.

\*They should defend themselves against Prior's "rolling devolution" plans; against the plastic bullet killers of the RUC and Dublin/London collaboration.

\*They should oppose the austerity drive against workers both North and South and go out to remobilise in the industrial area where they gained support for the H Block/Armagh prisoners.

This does not threaten Republicans' independence or their military structure. If fully adopted it would mean that their military campaign would be changed to develop the capacity to defend the growing mass movement. The alternative is to whittle away the gains of the H Block/Armagh struggle at a time when Britain and her Irish allies are preparing for further attacks.

JOHN McANULTY



further attacks. There is no doubt that the IRA could have seized some areas in the north but in the absence of popular support this would have been a desperate gamble and might well have led to the destruction of their organisation. They were right not to take that gamble but the fact is that the individual military actions and rioting by the Fianna were totally ineffective against the mass RUC and British offensive on the Northern ghettos.

Our criticism is that the Provos ignored the alternative. Defence requires prior political action -- PD's attempts to defend the right to demonstrate

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The British military adventure in the South Atlantic deserves condemnation by all anti-imperialists and socialists. The Malvinas islands - as they are known to every South American - belong to Argentina. Britain has not now and never has had any rightful claim.

For the Fianna Fail Government to support Britain by imposing economic sanctions against Argentina is a lasting disgrace.

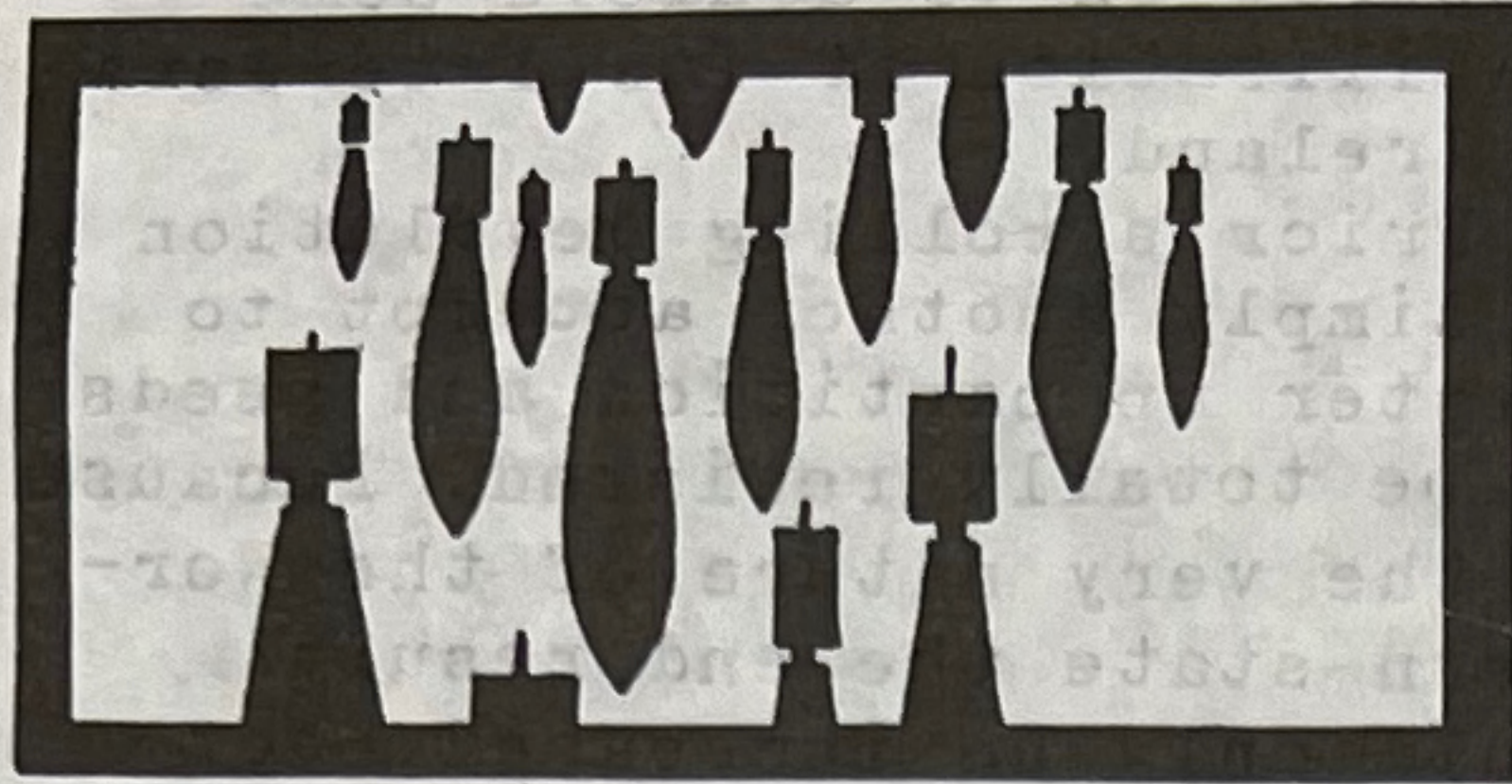
Britain has sought to defend its action in sending a naval task force to the South Atlantic by pleading defence of the islanders and pointing to the brutal nature of the Argentine military dictatorship. This is pure British bullshit!

Firstly, the interests of the 1700 islanders will never be served by support for a false and unjust claim to British sovereignty over the territory of the Malvinas and the mineral wealth in the waters that surround them. Britain seized the islands by force in 1833 and has maintained its occupation with a settler population drawn exclusively from Britain itself.

The Argentina claim on the other hand has been pressed all down the years by Argentinian governments of all shades as part of the country's long fight for independence. Throughout Latin America the Argentine reposition of the Malvinas is seen as a blow against colonialism.

Secondly, British governments both Labour and Tory, have been willing supporters for many years of the Argentinian regime, which they condemn today. Only weeks before the Argentine army moved into the Malvinas the Thatcher

# BRITAIN hands off MALVINAS!



government was hatching a plot with the US Reagan administration for an invasion of revolutionary Nicaragua - the invasion to be spear-headed by Argentinian troops. The real opposition to the military dictatorship over the 6 years it has held power has been mounted by the workers and peasants of Argentina. As a result many have been murdered, tortured and imprisoned while the luckier ones were forced into exile. Those political exiles who sought refuge in Britain got short shrift from the British government. They were refused entry to Britain on the pretext of 'a joint struggle against terrorism'.

## RUNNING DOGS OF IMPERIALISM

The real purpose behind Thatcher's war preparations

is to shore up Britains declining military and colonial role in the world. The Tory Government hopes to stir up such a frenzy of patriotic jingoism in Britain that there will be no opposition to her plan for greater collaboration with the US offensive against the colonial revolution.

Most scandalous of all has been the attempts of the British Labour Party leaders to out do Tory warmongering. Scandalous but not surprising when one recalls that Michael Foot and Denis Healey were Ministers in the Callaghan cabinet which between 1976 and 1979 authorised the 'fitting out' of the military junta's navy. During those 3 years Britain was Argentina's biggest military supplier. Nor can it be surprising

when one remembers that it was the same Labour Government which stripped political status from the H Block/Armagh prisoners and the gloating of these same people over the deaths of Irish hunger strikers. A craven support of its own imperialism is a distinguishing feature of the British Labour Parliamentary Party.

The Irish Labour and anti-imperialist movement should have nothing to do with the hypocritical posturings of Foot and Healey. Rather we should take our stand with those British socialists who are fighting the war hysteria and who stood alongside us during the hunger strike.

We should demand that Britain withdraws its naval task force back home and gives up all claims to the Malvinas. We should demand that the Irish government lifts the economic sanctions - which can only harm the Argentinian working class who are the ones who really deserve our support.

As for the Falkland settlers if they are not prepared to accept Argentinian sovereignty, they should be relocated elsewhere with full compensation at Britains expense.

And if Charlie Haughey really wants to oppose military repression he can do two simple things:

- \*offer asylum to all political refugees from the Argentinian and other right wing dictatorships.
- \*Break off the Anglo-Irish talks until British troops are withdrawn from the North east of Britains oldest colony.

JOHN MAGEE

# El Salvador Election Farce

In an atmosphere of terror and tension, the election in El Salvador ended with the expected victory of the extreme right, dominated by Major d'Aubissons ARENA party over the Duarte's Christian Democratic Party.

The election took over a year to prepare and cost millions of pounds (mostly supplied by US imperialism). It was intended to be a turning point in the right wing regimes efforts to stabilise the bankrupt and war torn country.

In fact the election was in no way a genuine attempt to restore true democracy. It was a gigantic propaganda stunt aimed at getting international credibility for an already much condemned regime. For peasants and industrial workers to vote for any of the candidates would have been tantamount to putting a gun to their own heads and pulling the trigger. The way in which the election was conducted clearly showed it to be a farce. For example any organisation that stood was required to hand over a record of 80,000 signatures including home addresses, making it insanity for the left to stand as they would have had to hand over a much needed death list to the psychopaths running the elections.

However this kind of practice is nothing new in South America, where electoral

intimidation including murder has always been the order of the day.

The estimated one million people who voted in the election has been quoted by rightists to give the election credibility. But closer examination shows the undemocratic and anti-working class nature of the elections.

First of all the traditional supporters of the right, the privileged middle classes living in the towns and suburbs, voted (en masse). They are naturally frightened by the revolutionaries as they have much to lose from socialism.

Secondly, an equally important factor, was that all voters names and addresses



were taken and their identity cards stamped. Thus many of the poor in the cities feared that if they did not vote they would suffer reprisals from the military. The guerillas could not offer all the workers protection if they took part in the boycott which was organised. So many workers could not participate in the boycott. In spite of this a number of workers did spoil their votes in defiance of the Regime.

However, in most of the country the election never even got underway. This was due to a well organised boycott together with literally thousands of guerilla attacks on the military.

The situation which has emerged out of the elections is that there has been a victory for the far right and a defeat for the centre right. The far right being led by d'Aubissons ARENA party and the centre right by Duarte's Christian Democratic party. Although Duarte's Christian Democratic party polled a large 41% of votes it fell short of winning a majority in the 60-seat constituent assembly. D'Aubissons ARENA party took 19 seats and formed a coalition with 3 minor extreme rightist parties giving them an overall 39 seats (a majority).

This majority has more or less thrown out the so

called 'moderate' policies of Duarte's Social Democrats and even went as far as to accuse him of being pro-communist, in spite of the fact that he had been responsible for the deaths of thousands of workers. Even so d'Aubisson and friends make Duarte look like a liberal.

They believe a final solution is necessary to beat the workers movement. This means genocide of large sections of the community and a regime of total terror and repression. Thanks to the American financing of the election they have now got the power to try and achieve this.

But believe it or not, d'Aubisson was not the guy America had in mind when it decided to sponsor the great election stunt. They would have preferred a much stronger Christian democratic party led by Duarte and capable of smashing the left while at the same time keeping the mad dogs of the extreme right out of real political power, while allowing them to remain unhindered in the ranks of the military murdering peasants with machetes.

They wound up with Major d'Aubisson who is commonly known to have been responsible for the murder of Archbishop Romero a friend of the poor and the setting up of the death squads who have killed

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8



# Abortion Ammendment - Stop it!

Now that the dust has settled on the International Womens Day and the paint dried on a mural in Belfast celebrating women's role in the struggle, the women's movement and anti-imperialists must prepare for a major battle for the rights of women.

Fianna Fail's decision to hold a referendum to write into the Constitution an amendment which will "ban" all possibility of legislative change in favour of the right to choose abortion is a direct challenge to all those in favour of democratic rights, separation of church and state and the liberation of women.

## BALANCE OF FORCES

During the past two years, the rise of the anti-imperialist movement gave a new confidence to the oppressed. The experience of mass mobilisation and political organisation during the H Block/Armagh campaign has equipped many militants with a deeper understanding of Partition and the nature of the two states.

It became very evident that Fianna Fail and the Coalition both felt very uneasy with a movement that could directly challenge their political leadership on a number of fronts, on the streets, and in Leinster House.

The backwoodsmen within their ranks are itching to put all the rabble-rousers in their places and restore the political hegemony of the status quo. For Fianna Fail in particular, there's a need to consolidate their leadership of the Irish people alongside their posturing for Irish unity.

## THE RIGHT IS ORGANISED

To do this, they need to politically defeat their political opponents. The abortion issue has given them a choice of terrain. Their possibilities of victory are quite strong, given the fragmentation of the women's movement, decline in mass political activity (since the ending of the hunger strike) and the well organised political offensive from the right.

This last factor is important to remember for it would be mistaken to consider their pressure as secondary to Fianna Fail's referendum decision. It is precisely because of the political organisation of the Right that this government has the opportunity to resolve some of its problems.

The issue of abortion was kicked around in the southern general election, to some it was irrelevant, to some it was an irritant. It was not seen as a "central" issue for anti-imperialists. What was important was getting the votes, pushing the national question to the fore, gaining credibility -- all this to push the struggle forward.

## DEFEND THE WOMEN'S MOVEMENT

Yet this is an issue, which goes to the very heart of the struggle for it poses the question, what sort of "New Ireland" are we fighting for

and for whom. Are women going to sit back in the middle of our struggle and not demand their rights? Are we going to fight alongside the men and not achieve any change in our own status?

A determined resistance to the "Pro-Life" amendment will help answer this question. If there is no opposition not only will reactionary forces be able to trample on women's rights; those forces such as the anti-imperialist movement, the trade unions, etc which have moved towards a better understanding of women's oppression will be encouraged to stand back. This will leave the field wide open for even more severe attacks.

## SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE

At stake here is the Church/State relationship, not a theological battle on abortion. An overwhelming victory for the "Pro-Lifers" and the government would increase their con-

fidence to attack all democratic rights as they face increasing difficulties over PRSI, unemployment, foreign debts, collaboration with British imperialism and the mounting anger of the Irish working class on both sides of the border.

Anti-imperialists have a choice. They can unite and organise or they can, by absence and default allow the ruling class to win what will be a resounding victory over all democratic forces and the women's movement. A commitment to women's liberation will not be worth the paper it is written on, if no action is taken on this.

A commitment to a secular Ireland will be a farce if, while all Ireland debates this referendum, the anti-imperialist movement (which has the potential to challenge the anti-working class alliance) turn the other cheek in true Christian fashion.

## ORGANISE AND FIGHT

Not to participate in opposing the amendment is to watch the women's movement fight for its existence. It is true it remains weak and fragmented. It is also true that it contains women with many different political opinions. What better opportunity for anti-imperialists and socialists to unite against the right wing and the ruling class. In doing so, we can win many to our side.

The issue of abortion has been brought to the centre of the political stage. Forward is to unite and oppose the amendment, build and strengthen the women's movement -- backward is to concede to the myth of a "Catholic", repressive, Ireland locked into British domination and backwardness.

FELICE COHEN

# CHURCH HYPOCRISY

Over 7,000 Irish women travel annually to Britain to terminate their pregnancies, yet the issue of abortion in Ireland is shrouded in emotion and mythology. Outside of the small forces at present fighting for women's liberation and for the right to choose many people accept without question the views of the Catholic Church. Closer examination shows that the church itself has historically changed its view on abortion depending on the gains that the hierarchy would take. In a secular society, the Church's view would not be imposed on the rest of society- below ROSE O'MAHONEY looks at the changing views of the Catholic Church and argues that there is only one answer to this question- separation of Church and State.

## ABORTION ALLOWED

In the early Christian Church there was no defined position on abortion, and with the primitive level of means to prevent conception, abortion and infanticide were common. The first theologian attempt to define a position was St Thomas Aquinas who was not surprisingly, one of the church's greatest woman haters. His

position was that abortion should be against the laws of the church after the period of "ensoulment" of the foetus. This "ensoulment" would take place at 40 days for a male foetus and at ninety days for the female foetus. Up till then, the foetus had no rights to existence. In the 1920s, the development of medical technology led to the first forms of contraception. A new position was devised; that the moment of conception was the moment of ensoulment.

## A CHANGE OF LOGIC

This made much more logical sense, but had the effect of banning abortion completely for Catholics. It is no coincidence that this total ban came at the same time as the growth of the first women's movement, at a time when women were demanding the right to a life outside the home. Later in that decade the church was to condemn not only abortion but all forms of contraception, and that was the position which pertained for most of this century.

In the 1960s a new line was introduced in a desperate attempt to stop the massive disillusionment being

acused by the stupidity of the total ban on contraception, now "natural" contraception was alright because it only interfered with "Gods Law" naturally, ie, through the use of charts, thermometers and calendars, whereas unnatural methods ie using pills and physical barrier methods, was entirely sinful. The position condemning all abortion was reiterated.

## WOMEN ORGANISE AND FIGHT

And so to the present day. The growth in women's self organisation and self confidence around the globe has led to the demand for women to have the right to control their fertility. The Church is extremely worried, particularly in countries like America, by the growth of groups such as "Catholics for a Free Choice" and even "Religious for a Right to Choose". One of the attacks made by a courageous nun against John Paul 2nd on his visit to America was precisely on the issue of abortion. The church as on every issue, is beginning to bend to public opinion. Already they are agreeing to situations where abortion is permitted if the woman's life is in danger (in total hysterectomy for instance) and senior members of the British hierarchy have suggested abortion should be permitted in cases of rape. But the Irish situation is very different. There has been no mass campaign in favour of a woman's right to choose and the universal agreement among the three main political parties on the issue has meant that the situation is ripe for the right wing to place a major hurdle in the way of women being given the right to choose on abortion in the future in the 26 counties. But before anyone tells us that its the consistent line of the Catholic Church (and all other major churches are against the amendment) to oppose abortion, can they answer this; if a woman was to have an abortion in Ireland, England and America, what different attitudes and penances would she meet.

A political empire as strong as the Catholic Church has learnt the importance of flexibility and pragmatism.

ROSE O'MAHONEY

# CAMPAIGN PLANS

At the initiative of the Dublin Dublin-based Womens Right to Choose Group and the newly-formed Right to Choose campaign, broad forces opposed to the abortion amendment came together to organise a fightback.

Broadly based, with members of the Communist Party, Peoples Democracy, the IRSP, Socialist Labour Party, feminist activists, the Irish Labour Party and even the Democratic Socialist Party (Kemmy's latest) the meeting drew over 100 people.

Several speakers outlined their political views and a general consensus emerged that the amendment should be opposed on these main points:

\*It attacks democratic rights

\*It denies the rights of women.

\*It is against movement to a secular society and the separation of church and state.

A caretaker committee was established to build a bigger broader meeting of all those opposed to the amendment which will decide strategy and tactics, discuss building support among politicians, in the labour, youth and women's movements.

Peoples Democracy is participating in these initiatives. We defend absolutely the right of women to choose and see this referendum as a major challenge to the women's movement and all those who defend democratic rights.

FELICE COHEN



## Peoples Democracy...

We believe that both the 6 and 26 County states must be smashed and replaced by a 32 County Workers and Small Farmers Government. Only the organised working class has the capacity and interest in achieving this goal. The workers produce the wealth of society while being denied the right to control or distribute it. Attacks on the living standards and rights of the Irish Working Class are the result of the continuing domination of the Irish people by British Imperialism and its native collaborators.

We believe that the Irish people have the right to defend themselves against imperialism. We do not believe that minority armed groups can substitute themselves for the masses and win freedom for them. Only a united 32 County fightback can defeat imperialism.

Because Irish women suffer discrimination as a sex we unconditionally

support their right and the right of other oppressed groups, to organise independently and fight for their emancipation - both now and after the defeat of British Imperialism.

We believe in the building of a Marxist party based on Lenin's model of party organisation, the central feature of which is democratic centralism.

We are socialist internationalists and believe that each national struggle is part of the global struggle for socialist liberation. For that reason Peoples Democracy is the Irish section of the Fourth International - the World Party of Socialist Revolution founded in 1938 by Leon Trotsky.

Join PEOPLES DEMOCRACY

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Connolly Bookshop, Avoca Park, Andersonstown, Belfast 11.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

tens of thousands.

Ironically d'Aubisson was actually accused by Mr Deane Hinton, the American Ambassador, in San Salvador, of arranging gun attacks on the American Embassy among other things, hardly the type of character who can be paraded as a fair minded friend of democracy and a defender of the free world against communism by Reagan.

It is quite clear that the only way to put an end to such a regime is for the guerrillas to win the fight in which they are presently engaged. They require all possible international solidarity. Reagan is already very worried about the ever growing anti-American involvement movement which exists in America and elsewhere. Throughout Western Europe the anti-missiles movement is

taking up the need to support the Central American revolution. In Dublin some demonstrations have already been held. Future actions should receive even broader support.

In the last 6 months the FMLN have escalated their military pressure considerably.

The FMLN are growing bigger and bolder. They have become politically more mature and militarily more professional. Two facts which are not unrelated.

They now control nearly one third of the country, training camps function on a permanent basis. Supply lines and communications have been perfected and two radio stations now operate - Radio Venceremos and Radio Farabundimarti.

VENCEREMOS!

CHARLIE WARD

# HALT MASS ARRESTS AND EXTRADITION

The case of the Belfast 34 has once again been adjourned until 24/25 May. This is 11 months after the original demonstration. A test case involving one of the defendants has already taken place and the outcome was an attempt by the RUC to cover up their illegal and blatant attack on a peaceful protest outside Belfast City Hall. This is a clear denial of the right of anti-unionists to demonstrate in the city centre, a right defended at the time by the SDLP. SDLP member Paschal O'Hare witnessed the demonstration and testified in court for the Belfast 34.

But when PD councillors John McAnulty and Fergus O'Hare put a motion to Belfast City Council calling for the right of peaceful protest for anti-unionists in the city centre to be upheld, the SDLP had changed their tune. Lining up with Paddy Devlin (who in January organised a special council meeting to 'support the RUC') they voted against the PD motion.

Councillor Cormac Boomer, through the columns of the Irish

News, explained their reasons for this .. he claimed that PD 'engineered their now famous confrontation with the police at City Hall (shades of Burntollet), for no other reason than to ... attack and misrepresent the SDLP!!' Yet all the SDLP had to do to defeat this so-called PD 'plot' against them, was to vote for the motion and confirm their commitment to democratic rights for the minority.

The truth of the matter is, with the end of the hunger strike campaign the pressure on Boomer and his colleagues has lessened and they now show their true colours. They are happy to acquiesce in the British attack on the anti-imperialist movement in order to make way for the assembly elections planned by Prior.

The Haughey government, like its predecessors, is pursuing its own offensive against the anti-imperialist movement. Alongside political co-operation with Britain in the Anglo-Irish talks, we are now seeing the fruits of security collaboration and RUC-Garda co-operation. The new face of repression which has emerged in the south is based on a more sophisticated use of existing laws, and a new level of RUC-Garda joint operations which add up to extradition in all but name.

The case of Gerard Tuite, and the Crumlin Road escapees are examples of this. Now, the trial of Owen McCartan Smyth, charged with 'counselling and procuring others in the Republic to murder Sir Norman Stronge and his son' reveals another use of cross border co-operation. Evidence of connection with the trial taking place in Belfast, will be heard in a Dublin court.

These developments point to the urgency of a 32 fightback against repression.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

the Republican Clubs are well known. What is even more widely known is the politics they stand for. That knowledge has reduced them to a virtual rump and prevented them seriously damaging the resistance to British rule. A clear understanding of what their politics mean is the only guarantee that the Workers Party will suffer the same fate in the South.

The Magill articles will show only one side of the Official Sinn Fein/Official IRA/SFWP/WP riddle. It is likely that the Magill accusa-

tions will simply point to the scandal of the Workers Party's underworld activities. The WP needs to be exposed politically. They say they have nothing to fear from these accusations and refute them out of hand. The only way to lay the ghost on the continued existence of the Official IRA is to have a full trade union enquiry into the Magill accusations. The Irish working class can then judge and SFWP/WP will have the chance to put its point of view across without restriction. The party which says it puts its faith in the Irish working class can ask it for a definitive verdict.

# U.S.I. ON THE MARCH

The Union of Students in Ireland took a big step forward at its Annual Conference in April when it rejected the 'Peace, Jobs and Progress' policy which was imposed on the union by a Communist Party/Workers Party alliance some years back. The total failure of this policy to arm students against education cutbacks, cuts in living standards and attacks on democratic rights which both British and Irish governments have launched was further reflected in the failure of any Workers Party student candidates to get elected to the leadership positions.

The mood of the Congress was for more aggressive defence of students interests combining pressure on college and state authorities with direct action including strikes in the colleges involving the whole student movement. This is a welcome move away from the ineffective lobbying of government ministers which is safely ignored and leaves students demoralised. It is precisely this demoralisation which had led to a number of colleges recently disaffiliating from USI. The central aim of the student movement must be the mass involvement of students themselves in direct action and not relying on supposed goodwill of successive government ministers.

The defence of students interests must also include defending democratic rights. Anti-unionist students in the North suffer the generalised harassment and sect-

arianism of the state against the anti-unionist population. RUC and Garda harassment of student activists who speak out against repression, as the recent H Block/ Armagh campaign showed, needs to be taken up. Lack of contraception rights and laws against homosexuality attack the personal and sexual freedom of students.

It is precisely because students cannot by themselves be successful in defending their interests that the need for unity with the forces in the labour and trades union movement, the womens movement and those defending democratic rights is essential. The unity of all those under attack is the best way of resisting austerity and repression. The motion passed by Congress against the so-called 'pro-Life' referendum in the South will hopefully see the active participation of students in the anti-amendment campaign.

If students are to be organised effectively to defend their interests then socialists must be prepared to fight for their policies within the student unions and win the leadership positions.

In standing for election we can put forward socialist policies and use the campaign to organise students. The recent good showing of Joe Craig of Peoples Democracy in Queens University Belfast in polling 650 votes on a socialist platform is a clear example of this.

BRENDAN O NEILL

# LIMERICK ORGANISES

Peoples Democracy's Limerick branch followed up on its election interventions\* with a successful public meeting in the last week in April.

The meeting addressed by Belfast PD councillor John McAnulty discussed 'The Way Forward for Irish Socialism'. Local TD Jim Kemmy came in for strong criticism both for his pro-imperialist stance on the North

and craven support for the Coalition. Limerick PD branch announced at the end of the meeting their intention to organise further public discussions over the next few months.

\*Peoples Democracy stood Joe Harrington in Limerick East in the General Election and Greg Duff in the Shannon local elections.

# WE NEED YOUR MONEY

We apologise for the appearance of this issue of Socialist Republic and the typewritten lay-out. Due to a break in at our Dublin Headquarters our typesetter was stolen. We hope this is only a temporary setback. We

have opened a fund to pay for a replacement. We estimate we will need to raise over £2000. We ask our supporters and readers to contribute what they can.



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