

# SRCULAR



STUDENTS' UNION. 13th. OCTOBER, 1971.

## INTERNMENT

*'The ordinary law cannot deal comprehensively or quickly enough with such ruthless viciousness': Prime Minister.*



- security chief
- prosecutor
- judge
- jury
- minister of home affairs

have decided, after weighing all the relevant considerations, including the views of the security authorities and after consultation with Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom to exercise where necessary the powers of detention and internment vested in me as "Minister of Home Affairs".

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**ANTI-INTERNMENT DAY**  
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# INTERNMENT: august 9

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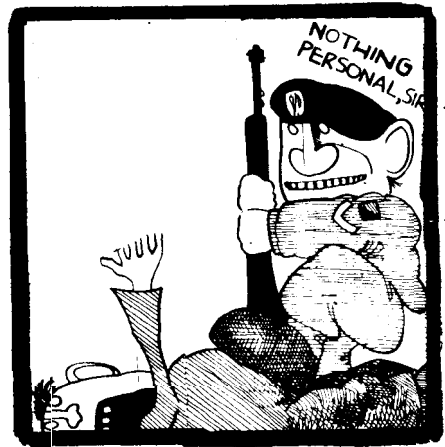
Internment was introduced on the morning of August 9th. 1971 and security forces carried out dawn raids on homes throughout the six counties. During the morning it was announced that over 300 persons had been taken from their beds, arrested and taken for questioning and probable internment.

Following the introduction of internment there was violent reaction in many areas and in some streets in the Ardoyne area people were reported to have left their homes after intimidation, burning their homes as they left. In all 100 homes were set on fire. Belfast had extensive rioting and by night there had been ten deaths, including two members of the security forces and eight civilians, including one woman. Bus services were suspended in Belfast and angry crowds set up barricades of burning vehicles in Andersonstown and Ballymurphy and attacked British Troops. The trouble spread to Newry, Strabane and Derry, with further attacks on British Troops and the burning of shops and factories.

The Ardoyne Relief Committee stated that families in streets near the Crumlin Road were being intimidated and forced to leave their homes and that shots had been fired at them. They had requested the British Army to protect them and had been told that no troops were available.

SEVERAL members of the Students' Union of Queen's University were arrested and subsequently detained by the British Army, as were several members of other Student Unions. Other students were away for short holidays when the troops paid their early morning visit.

The Prime Minister explained the violent reaction as part of his stratagem to 'flush out' the gunmen. His lavatory had overflowed!



# YOURS NOT TO REASON WHY?

You maybe wondering what this "ANTI-INTERNMENT" fuss is all about. Just remember that the Government has evoked sweeping powers which drastically limit the freedom of the individual. You maybe naive or selfish enough to believe that this in no way effects you. So far, several students have been interned without trial, many more have been questioned and intimidated by the Army and Special Branch and Military Intelligence has shown more than a casual interest in the Union Executive.

On August 10th S.R.C.S.U. issued the following statement;

"The S.R.C.S.U. of Queen's University has always stood for full civil rights for all the population and wishes to proclaim its complete opposition to the imposition of internment without trial.

In the present crisis, the S.R.C.S.U. appeals to its members in all areas to refrain from potentially sectarian actions. In particular, no matter how understandable it may be in the face of the ultimate curtailment of civil rights, namely internment without trial, sectarian actions can do nothing but harm.

It would be as well to remember that both sides are equally oppressed by the prevailing social conditions, and that it may not be long before internment is used against working class loyalist opponents of Faulkner and CO.."

A Union General meeting has been called for Wed. 13.th. Oct. and you are asked to come along and put forward your views on VIOLENCE, INTERNMENT and POLITICAL REFORM.

## Anti - Internment Day union general meeting

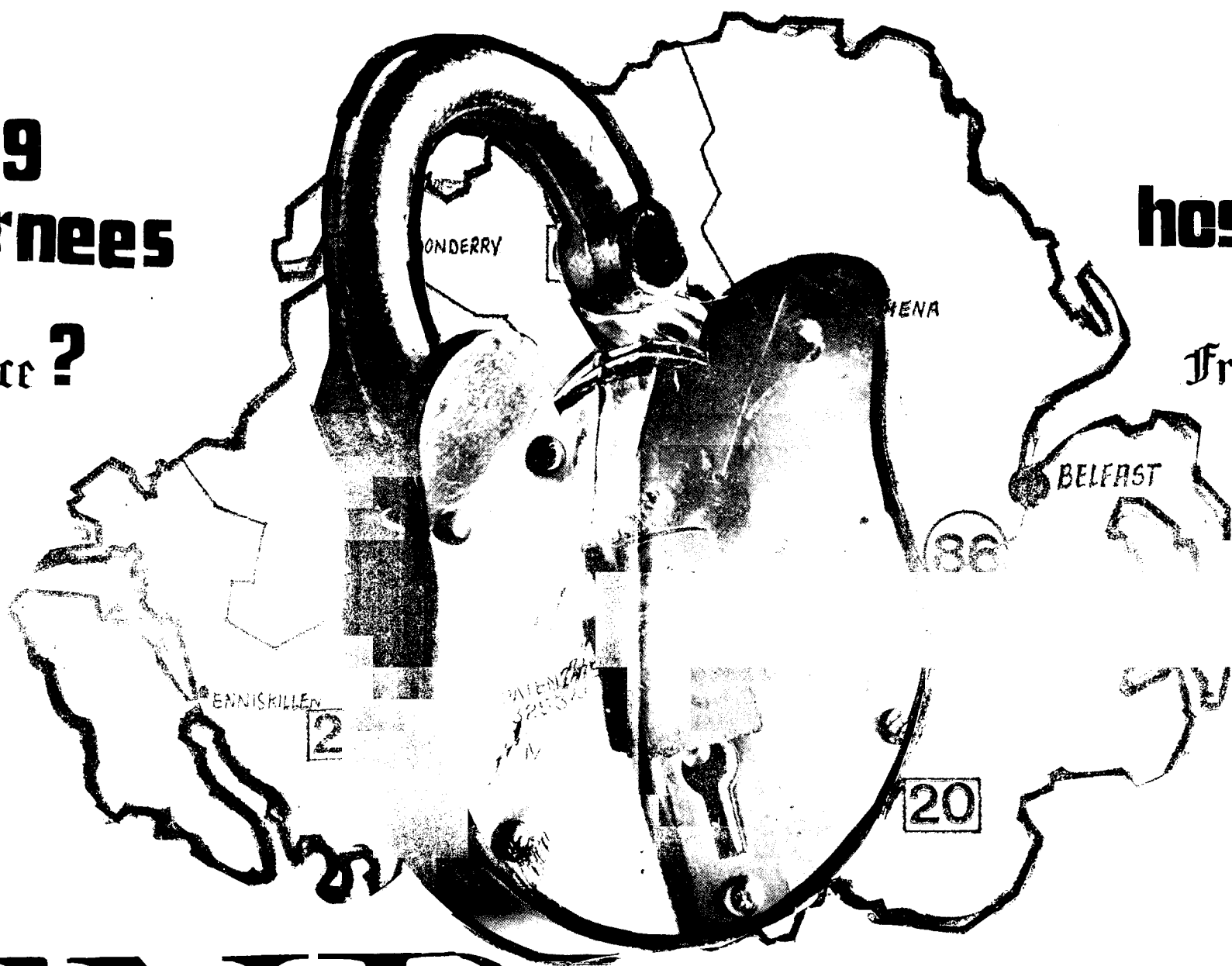
SRCSU Is your Union. If you have any problems with your grant, your studies, or anything at all, do not hesitate to call into Room S7, S9, S11, or S12, all on the 2nd Floor of the Union.

**219  
internees**

**219  
hostages**

*Justice ?*

*Freedom ?*



**END INTERNMENT !**

# comment

ULSTER is drifting down a well worn path. What lies at the end of it? Direct rule? British withdrawal? International involvement? A united Ireland? Protestant UDI? Or a ragged political compromise that will serve to keep anarchy at bay? And in which of these directions do last week's events seem to be pointing?

The imprisonment without trial of more than 200 Catholic suspects is a serious infringement of civil rights. But can civil rights ever be maintained in civil war? And if not, how can internment be judged? There are several tests: Was it necessary? Has it worked? Will it improve the chances of a political settlement?

In the present climate of fear and mistrust it is difficult to gauge whether punitive action will bring extremists on both sides to their senses or simply set them at each other's throats. That is why it is unfair to blame either Stormont or the British Government for choosing internment as a way of attempting to silence the gunmen. It is a weapon that has worked before on both sides of the border. It is easy to say, with hindsight, that it could never have worked in the present inflamed situation. It might have worked. It might still work.

Mr Faulkner's talk of 'flushing the gunmen into the open' is mere rhetoric. To be successful, internment must offer a real chance of improving things. The fear must be that its introduction last week may instead have worsened them. Without silencing the lawless minority, it may have made enemies of the law-abiding majority. Since only Catholics have been interned, it appears to have set one community against the other. It has converted the British Army from being a neutral umpire (in Ulster to keep the peace) into an agent of Stormont (there to enforce order). All this looks dangerously like a scenario for civil war.



## SRCULAR

on behalf of S.R.C.S.U. Its purpose is to provide students with information on subjects of current interest. While every effort is made to balance the views expressed some degree of editorial bias is inevitable.

All complaints, suggestions and comments should be made to Room. S. 7.

# “a society without freedom is not

On 4th. September, 1971, 311 professional men and women condemned Internment. Many of these people were members of this Union and their condemnation was in the following terms:

“Internment has been rightly condemned for several reasons. Its application has been one-sided. It has been used to silence constitutional opposition to Unionism rather than military opposition to the security authorities. It has produced more violence than it has prevented. It has polarised the Northern Ireland community to a degree which was unthinkable prior to its adoption.

Although we agree that these arguments are valid in the present circumstances, we are more concerned to condemn internment in principle, believing it to be an indefensible evil in itself, irrespective of circumstances.

Internment is an evil in itself because it is a perversion of law and because it infringes the most fundamental right of all, the right to freedom.

That it is a perversion of law is clear from the following considerations. Firstly, law is meant to put a restraint on power, including the power of imprisonment; internment removes these restraints. Secondly, internment is by definition a punishment inflicted on people who are innocent before the law. Thirdly, the clear evidence of guilt required by law if a person is to be imprisoned is, in the case of internment, both unknown and “legally defective; nor is it known who is in possession of the evidence. Fourthly, people are interned on suspicion alone: suspicion may justify arrest but not internment.

Finally, internment infringes the fundamental human right of freedom. It can never be the lesser of two evils. A society without order is a distressed society, but a society without freedom is not a society at all. If a choice must be made between the legal preservation of order and the legal preservation of freedom, freedom must take priority.

We call on the Authorities either to prefer specific charges against those detained, or to release them immediately.”

# a society at all ! ”

# Your holiday entertainment **Ulster '71**

## **Tarriff**

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116

DEAD.

3800

INJURED.

791

EXPLOSIONS.

£16 m.

COMPENSATION.

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# LONG KESH

