



ANTI-INTERNMENT NEWS No2

Bulletin of the Anti-Internment League 3p

After Derry

WHILE MASS arrests and internment continue in the Six Counties and demonstrators are punished with the death sentence, the campaign in Britain and the extension of the struggle to the 26 Counties assume ever greater importance.

The revulsion at the killings in Derry on 30 January- inevitable as they were — give us new opportunities to build up a massive anti-imperialist movement in Britain. The stiffening resistance to mass unemployment, and the miners' fight-back against wage-cuts, plus the opposition to the Rhodesian sell-out, mean that we can connect all the strands of radical opposition to the Heath government and strike a blow at the heart of British imperialism. -

To do this we must win the support for the campaign against internment and against British military occupation of the Six Counties within the labour movement in Britain. Local anti-internment committees are constantly receiving inquiries from individual trade unions and trade union branches. Trade unionists have addressed many meetings called by local groups. The majority of those 3,000 persons who demonstrated in London — at two days' notice — on Wednesday, 2 February, were workers who had struck in protest against the Derry massacre.

We must extend this support; we must make the lobby in support of the two demands of the Anti-Internment League a really significant presence within the trade union movement. Several thousand circulars are being sent out to trade union branches urging them to support the campaign of the Anti-Internment League, and, more particularly, inviting them to send delegates to:

AIL CONFERENCE FOR TRADE UNIONISTS

**ON SUNDAY, 5 MARCH
AT NUFTO HALL JOCKEYS
FIELD, LONDON, WC1.**

This conference will start at 10.30 a.m. and will go on all day. The proposed programme is three sessions: 1. The British and Irish Labour Movements; 2. The Crisis in the North; 3. The Campaign in Britain. There will be speakers present from the republican movement and from the Irish labour movement.

Further copies of the circular and further details about the conference are available from the AIL. We urge anybody who can assist in the distribution of the circulars to appropriate organisations to contact the Organiser, John Grey, Basement Flat, 139 Holland Road, W 14, telephone 6033085.

The Massacre

This eye witness report of the Derry Massacre is by Dermot Kelly, an ex-chairman of the AIL.

This was not the usual tactics used by the army in breaking up a crowd, and the main body of the march were already moving away from the soldiers when they attacked. Normally two or three "Saracens" are used; this time there were at least nine accompanied by "Paratroopers" who commenced firing indiscriminately immediately. The "Saracens" drove straight at the fleeing marchers. The first to fall were a number of youths running for cover who were not carrying weapons of any description. Four young boys then came out of Lock Fada Gardens with their hands above their heads, a group of the charging "Paratroopers" stopped, took aim and shot them dead. By this time about six people were lying in the area of the Rossville Flats bleeding and moaning. Gerry McKimsey emerged from shelter to help one of the injured and was shot dead as he bent down. A priest was administering the "Last Rites" to a man on the ground and the soldiers shouted that they would shoot him, a young boy jumped out of a doorway and shouted "Shoot me instead"; they did.

Anyone within range was shot at. Anyone who tried to help the dying was shot at. A man and a woman could be seen hanging apparently dead on the barbed wire barricade but when people tried to get near them they were shot at. Some people ran to a car park behind the flats for protection but came under fire from troops on "Derry Walls" which overlook the "Bogside". The platform-party came under fire from the same area and had to dive for cover.

I will not attempt to describe the scene or the period since because now, a few hours later, I can hardly believe that it happened. No words are adequate to describe this carnage by trained murderers on defenseless people. These murdering

Not Guilty

IN THE EARLY hours of Sunday, 6 February — soon after the London demonstration 'of 20,000 in protest against the Derry Massacre — three members of the AIL central committee, the Organiser, John Gray, John Flavin and Michael O'Kane, were woken up and arrested at their homes. They were charged with "conspiring to contravene the Public Order Act 1936".

At the demonstration itself 122 people were arrested after clashes with police in Whitehall, which started when permission was refused for 13 coffins to be carried into Downing Street. Mounted police charged the crowd repeatedly and a number of people were injured.

At a press conference called on Sunday evening the AIL National Chairman, Bowes Egan, protested at these arbitrary arrests by the police — and at their generally provocative behaviour. He announced the setting up of a legal aid scheme: the AIL was advising all those arrested to plead not guilty.

ALL OUT ON 26 MARCH

bastards carried out today what I am convinced was a pre-planned, well co-ordinated attack on the people of Derry.

Facts:

- 1) No nail bombs were thrown in Derry today.
- 2) No petrol bombs were thrown in Derry today.
- 3) No shots were fired at British troops until those murdering, God-cursed bastards had killed a dozen people.

Ford has stated that only snipers, petrol and nail bombers on roofs were fired on. How were so many people hit in the back on the ground. If there were snipers, petrol and nail bombers in numbers present to justify such an attack how is it that not one British soldier was hit by any of these methods.

English people must be made to realise that their sons are doing here what they supposedly fought a war to prevent.

Irish people outside Ireland can no longer offend the luxury of non-participation; they must close ranks, unite against a common enemy, "The British Government" which we are told "controls" the "British Army". Irish people abroad may lose their goods and materials, the people of the "Bogside" are losing their lives.

Leafletting Belfast troops

NEWS FROM

ON NEW YEAR'S EVE, 17 citizens of "Great" Britain — ie English and Welsh — accompanied by a couple of observers-cum-press officers, took off by boat for Northern Ireland. On New Year's Day, several hundred leaflets were given out in the Falls area, Bally Murphy, Andersonstown, New Lodge Road, along the "Peace Line" and in the City Centre.

It was an ad hoc group, of both pacifists and non-pacifists. The leaflet itself was published by the War Resisters' International — the non-aligned international pacifist organisation which has printed subversive leaflets directed at GIs in Vietnam and organised leafletting in East European capitals in protest at the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia.

The essential points made on the leaflet were: a call for immediate end of internment and immediate withdrawal of British troops; a demand for self-determination for Ireland; an appeal to individual soldiers to try not to get posted to Ireland; and, if there, to refuse to carry out inhuman orders and to consider becoming conscientious objectors.

The leaflets were given to soldiers as they were on foot patrol, and to groups of them in parked vehicles — one man simply went up to an empty army van and put leaflets on all the seats in the back. In addition, visits were made to four barracks. The callers asked to see the commanding officer — a ploy for getting in and giving more leaflets to soldiers. In one or two cases, leafleters were able to get into discussion with soldiers and members of the RUC.

Overshadowed

On 29 January 12 people from England went over to Belfast to distribute the leaflets. One of them, John Ginter, said afterwards: "Our actions on the Saturday were overshadowed by the vile murders of 13 innocent people in Derry on Sunday. Three members of our group witnessed the massacre.

"The soldiers I personally met in Belfast wanted — almost without exception — to be as far away from Northern Ireland as possible. All of us had interesting dialogues.

"The group covering the Hastings Street and Falls Road area met one soldier who was attempting to buy himself out. Another said he agreed fully with the leaflet and its message but could see no feasible way of getting out. Almost all the reactions we received were favorable — except, predictably, from the officers.

"We expanded the area of leafletting this time to include the Shankhill Road, Crumlin Road, the Ardoyne and the Holywood barracks. But to be effective the actions have got to expand to cover the whole of Northern Ireland."

This leafletting is envisaged as the first move in a much wider distribution of the leaflet — and comparable ones — to British troops, both at home and abroad: there is already talk of people in Germany giving it to British soldiers stationed there.

Anyone wishing to take part in future leafletting or help pay a volunteer's fare should get in touch with: Irish Action, 15 I Dartmouth Park Hill, London N19 5HZ.



CRIPPLED FOR LIFE

SURPRISE APPEARANCE at a rally of the Northern Resistance Committee in Dublin in January was Rita O'Hare, republican activist from Belfast. Rita, a mother of three children and wife of ex-internee Gerry O'Hare, was shot in the head and groin during a street battle in Belfast last October.

When she fell to the ground soldiers kicked her in the head and body. Her life was saved by an emergency operation. But the staunch Unionist surgeon who carried out the operation assured her, when she regained consciousness, that he would swear that the injury to her eye which the kicking had caused had been the result of an accident.

While still in hospital, Rita was charged with attempted murder of a soldier. The secret court "sat" at the end of her bed. She was constantly flanked by armed guards. She was later moved to the military wing of another hospital, and subsequently taken on a stretcher to Armagh Jail. She was still in great pain but, in protest at inadequate medical treatment, Rita refused to be seen by the prison doctor at all.

During all this time, husband Gerry was being held in Long Kesh internment camp. Following his release, Rita was granted bail. She appeared several times on crutches to honour her bail. On 7 January the magistrate decided that the court hearing would be in secret. By means of some obscure sub-clause of a 1968 act he was able to exclude public and press.

Gerry O'Hare had to wait outside the court, subject to the vicious taunts of the soldiers. When the hearing was adjourned, to await further forensic evidence, it was clear that Rita could expect no justice in this vindictive and corrupt atmosphere.

The court re-assembled on Monday 10 January, but Rita did not appear. She had jumped bail and crossed the Border into the "Free State". She had declined the invitation to an indefinite period in prison with no possible recourse to appeal.

She was not afraid of justice but very clear in her mind as to the consequences of the lack of it. There have been enough martyrs and it is enough to be crippled for life.

WITHIN DAYS of the brilliant escape by seven men from the prison ship HMS Maidstone, the British military authorities announced the results of a search in Long Kesh internment camp. They found cutting equipment, dummy machine-guns, and the beginning of a tunnel — so the statement claimed.

Doubtless many people thought that people who had the cheek to try to escape and who were engaged in such murderous pursuits while interned deserved to be held indefinitely. Faulkner seized the opportunity to repeat the well-worn — and many times disproven — statement that all those interned were IRA men.

Publicity stunt

The Camp Council of Long Kesh immediately released a statement through its Press Officer, Paddy Joe McClean. They said that the search was a publicity stunt designed to counter the recent escapes. The statement asked: "Why were the cameramen not allowed to photograph the tunnels? Why did they, not take photographs of the extremely cramped conditions or the lack of study or recreational facilities?"

"Regarding the items displayed for the camera, the governor had allowed in all the equipment which was shown on TV except the items which were 'placed' in the photographs, namely the wire-cutters and nail-cutters."

The internees have few facilities, but they are permitted to do some modelling

UNITY FOR U

THE ANTI-INTERNMENT League sees as a primary task winning the support of the working-class movement in Britain for the two demands: unconditional release of the internees and immediate withdrawal of British troops from Ireland. The AIL does not have any illusions that this can be done without meeting opposition.

Trade unionists who support the demands of the AIL are in a minority within the trade union movement. The AIL exists to give assistance to that minority which recognises that it is in the interests of the working class in Britain that the political and military repression is ended in Ireland.

Warned

It was therefore with regret that the AIL had learned that in January the Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association returned a donation to the internees dependents fund from the AUEW. The donation itself (£100) was not a gesture of enormous political consequence. The NEC of the union took the view that, even if the internees had committed crimes, their families should not suffer.

"No disruption"

Northern Ireland members immediately raised a hue-and-cry about the payment. A member of the union, and a former full-time official of the Northern Ireland Labour Party, flew to London, threatening the withdrawal of the NI section from the union if the payment went through. The Civil Rights Association therefore decided

LONG KESH

and wood-work. The drawings and models of guns were seen every day by prison officers. Several dummy machine-guns have already been sent out as souvenirs. Even the "still" had been seen by prison officers a fortnight previously, when they declared that they were not interested in it.

Intimidation

The search was not only used as an occasion for publicity, but also an occasion for intimidation. Internee Des O'Hagan describes waking on that morning as follows: "Reveille is normally not the most urgent business of the day. There is little to attract one culinarily-wise at any time but the truly icy cold interior of our living quarters makes surfacing a genuine act of will. Most of us are not easily startled, having arrived at Long Kesh via Girdwood or Hollywood, but it is unusual to awaken at 6.20 am to the gentle touch of the military, dressed for a riot."

After the rude awakening the internees were held together in one hut for nine hours. One internee became ill, but the camp medical officer was refused permission to take him out for three hours.

There was no mid-day meal for the internees. So, to pass the time they sang. Long Kesh party-pieces are "Joe Hill", "Free the People", "The Belfast Brigade", and the "International" in Gaelic.

As an exercise in publicity and intimidation, the British Army has chalked up another enormous failure.

UNITY'S SAKE

to return the cheque, "in the sincere conviction that disruption within the ranks of trade unionists would not in any way serve the interests of the working class".

The AIL supports all groups in the Six Counties organizing civil resistance to Stormont and British military repression. We believe that the NICRA has an important part to play in the resistance campaign. But we believe that it has made a mistake in apparently extolling unity for unity's sake.

If the "disruption" within the AUEW in Northern Ireland has now ceased, it is only because those who support internment have won the day. Surely the NICRA believes that its policies are policies which the whole trade union movement ought to adopt. Surely the NICRA is prepared to fight for its policies within the trade union movement. This is the perspective of the Anti-Internment League: to build up pressure within trade unions and work towards committing whole unions to support the two demands:

IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF ALL INTERNEES

IMMEDIATE WITHDRAWAL OF BRITISH TROOPS FROM IRELAND

The Anti-Internment League believes that this is one of the most important contributions it can make in Britain to the struggle against repression in the Six Counties.

How reasonable is the demand for a fair trial?

All the politicians who took part in BBC TV'S Question of Ulster in January were asked to submit their scripts to the BBC several days before the programme, Gerry Fitt, leader of the SDLP, wrote in his script that he would reconsider the question of talks with the Stormont and Westminster governments if they would agree to a compromise on internment, ie announce their intention to bring all internees to trial. (He did not in fact say this in the programmed.) To many people this might seem like a reasonable position to take: internment is abhorrent because it is without trial. But what kind of "trial" can an internee expect?

IN DECEMBER 1971, an internee, Francis Maynes, a builder's labourer from Co Tyrone, was brought to trial at Cookstown Court. He was charged with possession of document: relating to the IRA. These documents were: one copy of *Republican News* and one copy of *An Phoblacht*, which Maynes bought at a football match in Lurgan in July 1971. His house had been searched in early August, and the newspapers were found. He was arrested on 9 August — presumably on the basis of this previous "find" — and subsequently interned.

The defending solicitor suggested that the Court was attempting to punish Maynes twice for the same thing. But no, the Crown said, the arrest on 9 August was for "the preservation of peace and the maintenance of order": the newspapers were a different issue. Maynes was sentenced to two months' imprisonment for possessing them. He was refused bail, pending appeal, in view of the fact that he was interned!

Such is the perverted course of justice in the Six Counties today. The chances of a "fair trial" — if they ever existed in any country — certainly do not exist there. The police and the judiciary have been given a whole apparatus of repressive legislation by an obliging Stormont parliament with which any "uncomfortable" person can be dealt with. Many defences under the Public Order Acts and the Criminal Justice Acts carry mandatory sentences of six months' imprisonment. As we go to press a number of people face possible six months' sentences for breaches of the ban on parades.

There are almost as many prisoners in Northern Ireland jails who have been charged under this recent legislation as there are internees and detainees. They are, in the precise sense of the term, political prisoners — imprisoned for such crimes as shouting "Up the IRA". We should not forget them in our campaign. We should certainly not be misled by "reasonable" demands for a trial for the internees.

Torture

Within the last month two Catholic priests have distributed copies of 19 statements — many backed up by medical evidence — describing recent examples of torture at Hollywood and Girdwood Barracks and a Belfast hospital. The statements have been reported in only one British newspaper. Below is a shortened version of one of the statements.

I WAS arrested on Saturday 1 January 1972 between 9.30 and 10 pm and brought to Flax Street Station. There I was made to stand against the wall inside the barracks for three hours, legs apart. I was getting kicked on the ankles, knocked on the ground about 13 or 14 times; then trailed up off my feet again. I was threatened if I turned round my head it would be crushed with a baton.

About 1.05 am or 1 am I was brought to Girdwood Park Barracks. I received a medical check. By this time I had slight bruising on ankles and knees and my elbows. The doctor examined me, a youngish fellow, and another young man took temperature and blood pressure. I was handed over to the Special Branch in a cubicle room.

They made me stand against the wall. They took my jumper off and hooded me with it; made me put my hands down the back of my trousers, the back of my head and heels were against the wall. They started asking me questions. I said I didn't know what they were talking about, about the questions they asked. They started punching me in the stomach and kicking me on the privates and the stomach. They started kneeling me in the privates. This went on for an hour, an hour and a half.

Electric fire

They kept asking me questions. I told them "I don't know anything". They kept kicking me. They told me to take my trousers down. They threatened to burn me with a cigarette. Then one said "Just take them up again". They stood me in front of an electric fire. Then they said "Come on away before you get burned there. We told you this was only a wee bit; now the fun is going to start."

They started kicking and punching and kneeling me again. Put me against the wall, same position as before, head and heels. Started kicking me lightly on the privates and then they would land a hard kick in the privates. Then they threw me from one to another all over the room, punching me when in the air. I fell to the ground. One of them started kicking me when I was on the ground. Then all of them. Then one who said he was an SAS man started choking me with his hands. He kept crying "I'll kill you Luger, I'll kill you".

Five times he did this. One time I think I passed out for a short time. One other time my false teeth caught in my throat and I nearly choked; and one other time as he was choking me one was kicking me in the privates and the other was digging his head into my stomach. While this was going on they were always asking me questions and accusing me. Altogether there was four hours continued beating. I only got the one interrogation. I received an awful lot of bruises.

Francis Maguire

Join the Anti-Internment League!

THE Anti-Internment League was formed in the week after the introduction of internment in the North of Ireland on 9 August.

The Anti-Internment League is a united front which brings together Irish and British organisations on the two demands:

IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF ALL INTERNEES

IMMEDIATE WITHDRAWAL OF BRITISH TROOPS FROM IRELAND

There are 50 affiliated organisations, including those most affected by internment in the North of Ireland; Sinn Fein (Provisional); Clann na h-Eireann (Official) and NICRA.

The Anti-Internment League, as a united front, has ensured that the Irish in Britain and their 'British friends have been able to act in solidarity with those oppressed in the Six Counties more effectively than otherwise would have been possible.

So far we have been largely London based with local groups in most districts. We are now running a series of provincial tours with the object of setting up Anti-Internment Leagues throughout the country.

On 5 March we are organizing a trade union conference — for details see front page.

On 26 March we are holding a massive demonstration in London. We aim to mobilise at least 50,000 people.

To do this, and to improve our propaganda and information work we need the full support of all those who agree with our demands.

The Anti-Internment League aims to mobilise political support for its demands in Britain, both from the Irish in Britain and British workers. We have already organised several mass demonstrations in London including that on 5 February to protest about the killings on Derry's Bloody Sunday. There were also demonstrations in a number of other cities including Birmingham, Leeds, Manchester and Glasgow.

In September we participated in the simultaneous picketing of 20 army recruiting centres, and we have held several hundred indoor and outdoor meetings.

We have also been co-ordinating propaganda work to counter the distorted views of the British press on the North of Ireland. As early as the beginning of September we highlighted the torture methods used against internees and later admitted in the Compton Report. We are organizing the adoption of internees, and the collection of information on them.

Anti-Internment Leagues exist in the following areas:

| | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| <i>London</i> | Haywards Heath |
| South East | Colchester |
| South | Cambridge |
| West | Leicester |
| North West | Southampton |
| North | Newcastle upon Tyne |
| North East | Warwick |
| East | Oxford |
| North Kensington | Cardiff |
| Hayes/ Uxbridge | Derby |
| <i>Outside London</i> | Coventry |
| St Albans | Birmingham |
| Reading | Watford |

For information about any of these local groups contact the Organiser, John Gray, Basement Flat, 139 Holland Road, W14, telephone 603 3085.

Affiliation and Membership

Political groups may affiliate at national level if they agree with our two demands.

Local groups may form an Anti-Internment League which can affiliate to us, provided that such a local AIL is open to all interested parties. The affiliation fee is £2.50. Affiliation entitles the group concerned to send one voting delegate to AIL central meetings.

Membership

It is also possible to become an individual member of the AIL. Fee 50 pence, or 25 pence if a student or unemployed.

Financial Appeal

The AIL urgently needs money to carry on its campaign. All cheques/POs made out to the Anti-Internment League should be sent to:

Basement Flat,
139 Holland Road,
London W14.

Meetings/demonstrations

- 15 February London General Meeting
AIL Camden Irish Centre, Murray Street, NW1. Also 29 February.
- 16 February East London AIL Meeting
Hackney Town Hall
- 17 February Bournemouth
CT Soc Soc and Halifax
- 18 February Southampton and SOAS
- 19 February East London AIL Social
- 21 February Merton and Haringey
- 25 February Dundee
- 26 February AIL Conference to organise mass demonstration (26 March) Camden Irish Centre
- 5 March AIL Conference for trade unionists NUFTO Hall, Jockeys Field, London WC1
- 26 March Mass Demonstration London

STUDENTS BACK ALL

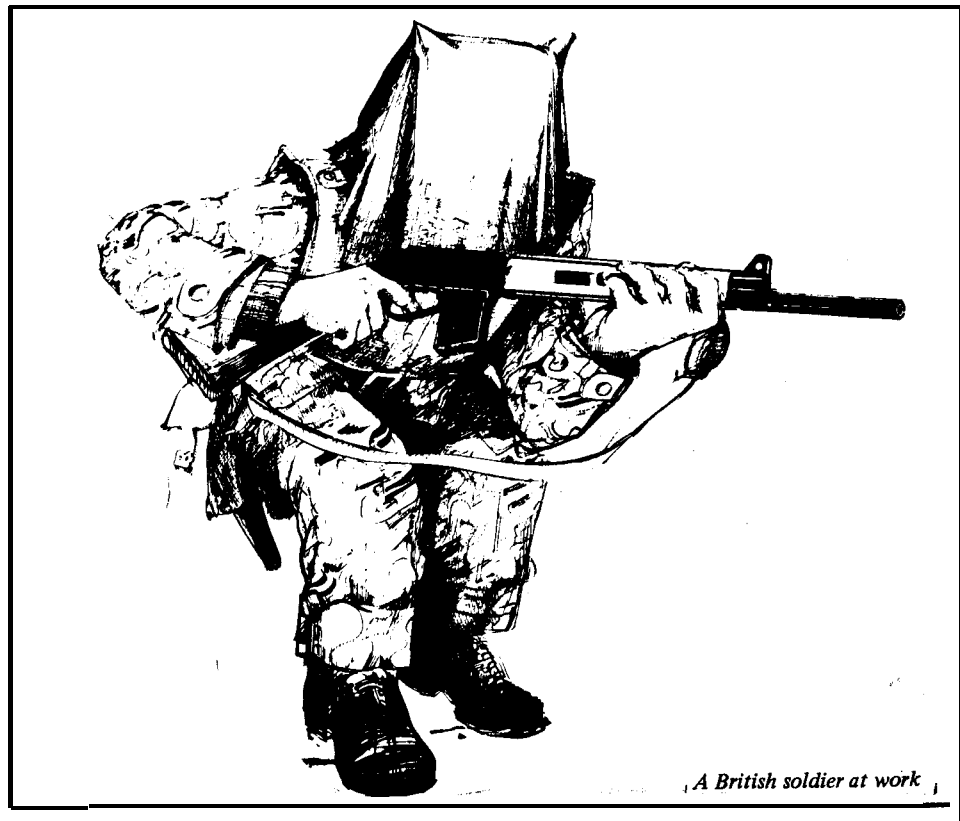
THE NUS conference held recently under the emergency powers of its constitution to discuss Ireland produced the most coherent policy yet on the political situation. The whole debate was conducted in a less emotional way than at the previous Margate conference.

Clearly the NUS executive had taken a positive decision — even though by a narrow majority — to come out for the withdrawal of British troops from Ireland. The mental block which most delegates seemed to have about the use of violence was avoided by a skilful use of words.

The final motion — passed by a substantial majority — gave support to all actions committed in self-defence of anti-Unionist communities by all groups in Ireland, including both wings of the IRA. It called for the immediate release of all internees and other political prisoners and the total withdrawal of British troops from Northern Ireland.

The NUS has now expressed support for the two demands of the Anti-Internment League and can therefore formally affiliate to it once again.

The NUS executive undertook in the motion passed to support and publicise the 26 March demonstration. The Anti-Internment League welcomes this decision and expects to see students in their thousands march in London on that day.



A British soldier at work