



ORGANISE!

IRISH ANARCHIST BULLETIN

SUMMER 92, Issue 8.

Price 10p

STATE VIOLENCE... ...STATE CONTROL

The events in Coalisland and Derry in recent months have brought to media attention the continued problem of security force harassment. The situation was brought to a head after the injury of a Para in a landmine attack, this preceded a dramatic escalation in attacks by the Para's on local communities.

The incidents in Coalisland where Para's sealed off the town centre before going on a rampage were portrayed as 'one off incidents' and revenge attacks on IRA sympathisers. The reality however, is quite different. These attacks are a part of a systematic campaign of harassment and intimidation by security forces on local nationalist communities.

Residents in the Shantallow area of Derry took the full force of the next attack by British security forces on our class. Several people were badly beaten by troops using rifle butts, batons, fists as well as being head-butted by helmeted thugs.

Local MPs and councillors, churchleaders and the SDLP mayor of Derry were soon vying with each other in condemnation of the attacks, and meeting with local heads of the 'security' forces in an attempt to dissipate working-class anger.

Protest

A protest march and rally was well supported by the local community in Derry. Unsurprisingly the organisers who included Sinn Fein, the

Trades Council and various leftists could only call for yet another independent (sic) inquiry into the attacks.

But 'independent inquiry' pending or otherwise, Army and RUC harassment has continued and shows signs of intensifying rather than abating. As Anarchists we look to our working class communities organising themselves against state violence as the only alternative. We can't rely upon the local state machine, 'elected representatives' or unelected paramilitary 'representatives' to defend us.

Longterm

In the long term there is only one solution - the smashing of the state, and its replacement with working class power. This will only be achieved by forging solidarity and the will to fight amongst our class.

There is no truce in the class war. The answer to state violence and state control is continual and widening working class struggle for Social Revolution and Libertarian Communism!

chaos of capitalism

Northern Ireland's Industrial Development Board had a goal of creating 1,800 new jobs last year. They created just 44! They spent almost £150 million doing it. That's an amazing £3.4 million per job.

In the South the Industrial Development Authority created just 7,000 net new jobs in the 10 years from 1981 to 1990, just 700 per year. According to the Department of Industry and Commerce the real cost of each one of these jobs, when tax reliefs are taken into consideration, could be over £500,000. That added up to £4,580,000,000.

And we are told that the bosses are better suited to running things than are workers. It's true, but only if we are talking about their ability to put our money in their pockets!

← The opposite article was reprinted from Workers Solidarity.

trickle down

Remember Thatcher, remember monetarism? Then you'll remember (possibly) the theory of economic 'trickle down', well? It is supposed to mean that entrepreneurs (those with all the go, the spirit, the ability to make vast amounts of money, the resources to exploit the people and resources of the world) can do their stuff unchecked. Then it means that the vast amounts of money they create will eventually 'trickle

down' to the bottom of the economic ladder. Well, surprise surprise, it doesn't work (or if your rich it does). On a global scale the richest 20% of the world gain 82.7% of the world's wealth, while the poorest 20% have only 1.4%. It just goes to show you that capitalism still works, for the rich that is. Isn't it time a bit of levelling was done?

EDITORIAL: Where to now? Talks?

At the time of writing the 'talks' are still progressing. Bishops, Cardinals, the odd minister and even God itself are urging our political representatives to go that last mile for peace. The media are having the time of their lives, this being an historical presedent. When was the last time Paisley had talks with those in power in the South (apart from Gay Byrne)? The answer is never. So in this respect at least the talks could be described as momentous.

But, back to earth. What are our 'representatives' really up to and why? Certainly there is the pressure of Public opinion pushing them to negotiations, but negotiations for what? In reality very little can come of these talks. As far as the unionists are concerned it is just a way of renegotiating the Anglo-Irish Deal, after which they will force the collapse of the talk talks through intransigence without, they hope, loosing face or making concessions to either the SDLP or the Irish government.

COSMETIC

The talks are purely cosmetic, designed to paper over the cracks in the northern state, not to radically alter it. The only people with anything to gain are the governments and political leaders whose livelihood depends on division and sectarianism. The statelet of 'Northern Ireland' really does have to be ignored to be believed. Any questioning of it, questions its valdity. The principles upon which it was formed of a 'protestant state for a protestant people' are still alive in the minds of the majority of the population.

As long as the situation exists, where a section of the population is allowed to

exercise its 'right' to veto discussions and set the agenda on which talks take place because of its 'loyalty' to the British Crown (whatever that might mean), then talks will mean nothing. The situation in the north of Ireland will continue as long as the union exists. The union creates the climate for sectarianism. This is a 'protestant state' linked to Britain and sustained by British cash, 'secured' by British troops. Until that situation changes, the 'Troubles' will continue as will futile cosmetic talks.

ANARCHISTS

So where do we go from here? 'organise' are Anarchists, we believe that no state has the right to discriminate against one section of the community while offering the other section marginal priviligues in order to divide and rule the working class. Effectively that has been the root of the conflict in Ireland. The 'Troubles' are not a religious conflict they are a conflict over economic and social discrimination. Religion just happens to be the line on which that division is drawn.

"IRA"

We believe that while the state that produced this conflict remains in Ireland, then so will sectarianism and discrimination and therefore, so will the desire to remove the state through 'armed struggle'. The IRA did not start the conflict, they were a communities response to decades of direct institution-alised discrimination. When the catholic working class tried to redress the situation through peaceful protest they were attacked by the Unionist state. The Troubles were inevitable.

The armed struggle, while inevitable and an understand-

able reaction, has not achieved its stated aims, of removing the British state from the north of Ireland. It hasn't even managed to advance the situation. The British state has managed to contain the situation, it has to an extent managed to neutralise the political success of Sinn Fein through the media ban. The fortification of Ulster continues unabated, troop levels have remained constant. The British state does not fear guerilla war waged by a small armed group acting on 'behalf of a community. What it really fears are the actions of the community itself.

SOUTH AFRICA

In South Africa it wasn't the ANC's armed struggle that brought the top SA industrial-ists running to the townships in search of a settlement. It was the mass actions of the organised working class through strikes and boycotts that panicked the ruling class. The release then of Mandela was no surprise, the government needed someone they could negotiate with, a figure that could assume the role of a leader and put the struggle back in the hands of an identifiable party or individual rather than the workers themselves (a role Adams could find himself comfortable in one day, if not already).

It must be the task of the working class in Ireland to remove the British state from the north of Ireland. The struggle must now be waged on all levels, north and south. Workers must realise the economic consequences of partition, unemployment is just one factor, low pay, poverty and lack of organisation are others. Partition means Ireland has among the highest poverty rates in the EC. This is one issue which can be addressed to all workers, catholic, protestant,

and dissenter. However few protestant workers can accept that their interests lie with their class and not their 'state'. We must accept that workers unity is an uphill struggle and cannot be fully addressed until the ending of partition. However only by broadening the struggle will there be any chance of attracting protestant workers.

Although it would be wrong to label all IRA actions as sectarian, some are, and most are perceived as such by protestant workers. The republican movement accept this to a large degree, but in reality is incapable of addressing this issue fully, tied as they are to the notion of 'national unity' at any cost. Republicans believe in the nation state, not a free workers society. As Gerry Adams said in his book, 'The Politics Of Irish Freedom'... 'Socialism is not on the immediate political agenda'. We believe it must be. The struggle for the removal of the British state must be the British state and a unified working class must be reclaimed by our class. It must move into the workplace, the union branch, to the streets and estates. It will be the resolve of the Irish working class to end partition that will succeed, governments know this, they have spent years trying to beat resistance off the streets. The Provo's and Sinn Fein they can control the ORGANISED WORKING CLASS they can't.

MURRAYS FREE!

Noel and Marie Murray have been freed after 16 years in prison. International pressure got the original death sentences commuted to life in 1976.

Organise extends their Solidarity to them and we wish them all the best for the future.

RUC VICTIMISED!

A 34 month survey by the Police Federation has shown that 800 officers have been intimidated, some of whom have already retired. Police and their families have had to leave home at as little as a few hours notice and Sam Beattie (Chairman of the Police Federation) has also condemned the insensitivity of the agencies set up to deal with these incidents.

A figure of 800 police intimidated between January 1988 and October 1990 can only be greeted gladly. Beattie called for; "an assurance that an officer who becomes a victim of paramilitary threat does not also become a victim of the bureaucracy of those who should be on his side,"

A typically one sided sense of 'justice' from the Police Fed. chief. What assurances have the innocent victims of our paramilitary RUC ever had? Any suffering by the RUC at the hands of government bureaucracy cannot be anything when compared to the harassment and injustice suffered by the working class for as long as government has operated.

We offer no sympathy, we only wish Sam and his colleagues more of the same!

Meanwhile

Meanwhile cases to the Independent (sic) Commission for Police Complaints are up by 25%.



Sam Beattie

Of the 2,530 new cases 20% were later dropped and 39% granted dispensation because those making complaints refused to co-operate with the investigation. This refusal to co-operate is hardly surprising given the commissions history and the fact that only 8% of cases resulted in any action being taken, often 'informal disciplinary action', ie; a good ticking off (at most). Out of the 2530 cases only 27 formal charges were brought against 22 cops.

The allegations brought against the police included 696 assaults, 324 incidents of 'incivility', 199 of 'irregularity' in police procedures, 137 incidents of harassment and 98 unlawful arrests! After all this the Commission has the cheek to claim the increase in complaint is evidence of growing trust in the body. More obviously it reflects an increase in police harassment of working class people (the middle and upper classes are seldom if ever the victims of the RUC).

LOWER ORMEAU

A COMMUNITY

UNDER SEIGE

As if the residents of the Lower Ormeau Road haven't had enough to contend with already, the area is now being patrolled by Paras. Almost immediately after the Para's third battalion was "withdrawn from high-profile patrolling in East Tyrone", after much publicised intimidation in the area, most notably Coalisland. A spokesperson for the Lower Ormeau Residents' Action Group said this move was "either a dreadful mistake or a deliberate attempt to intimidate the community".

LOYALIST DEATH SQUADS

Over the past year the area has been increasingly targeted by Loyalist death squads, the worst attack taking place on February 5th. Gun-men entered the Sean Graham's betting shop and opened fire, indiscriminately killing five local men and injuring many more. In the most recent attack an elderly man was badly injured outside a Chinese take away by Loyalists just yards from the bookies.

ORANGE MARCHES

Against this background of attacks, intimidation and RUC indifference the Lower Ormeau Concerned Community group has been continually calling for the re-routing of sectarian marches. Year after year this community finds itself barricaded into its own streets by the RUC, while the Orange Order and Loyalist 'kick the pope' bands indulge in sectarian coat trailing. This years Twelfth 'celebrations' have seen the marchers gloat as they passed the bookies where the five local men were shot, chanting 'five-nil' and shaking clenched fists.

The campaign to have these marches re-routed must continue to develop and reinforce links with other working class communities in this position as well as appealing to others for support. The campaign must also be allowed to develop the broadest base possible, with decisions being taken by, and power resting with the COMMUNITIES involved. A campaign based on this form of organisation, relying on the method of direct action as opposed to vain pleading with the powers that be in local government, RUC, or the Orange Order, has the best chance of victory!

UDR-RIR.

RIR/UDR, its all very much the same except that RIR won't fit into the word 'mURDeRers'. On 30 June/1 July history repeated itself as this sectarian militia changed name and miraculously became a non-sectarian 'peace keeping' force. Perhaps it was in a bid to prove this new improved non-sectarianism that their first victim was a young Loyalist shot dead by an off duty UDR/RIR man while celebrating the 11th night bonfire. More than likely, however, his death was the result of a drunken row in which the RIR thug resorted to the use of his pistol.

Twenty-two years ago a similar name change took place, on 24 March 1970 2,440 recruits joined the new UDR, 1,420 were serving or former members of the B-Specials. This was also claimed by many to be the emergence of a new force to replace the sectarian B-Specials. The fact remains, the RIR is an armed force, drawn from the Loyalist population, which can and will be used against any section of the community that opposes the will of the State.

ORGANISE

Who are we ? Well 'Organise' was originally formed by Anarchists in Ballymena in '85. Since then it has been involved in the production of this paper which reached issue 6 before folding in '89. Since that date its members have been in contact with various individuals in Ireland as well as in contact with Anarchists in Britain and internationally through the IWA (International Workers Association). Last year Anarchists from the north of Ireland got together to discuss the prospect of getting a class struggle anarchist group off the ground in the north. We decided to re-launch 'Organise' as a paper reflecting the opinions and politics of those involved. Over the next few months we will be holding discussions among ourselves to get a formal group organised. In the history of Anarchism in the north, this is the first time a group has been formed that has a commitment from members across the north. At a time when Leninism is in crisis Anarchism has a real chance of being heard and accepted in Ireland. We would urge anyone who is interested to get in touch at the contact address printed below. We look forward to hearing from you

CONTACT "ORGANISE"

AT :- BLACK CAT PRESS.
P.O. Box 5
DERRY, IRELAND.
BT48 6PD.

Other Publications :
'Workers Solidarity', Quarterly Irish Anarchist magazine.
WSM P.O. Box 1528, Dublin.
'Direct Action', Monthly.
British Anarcho-Syndicalists
Available: Just Books : Bookworm