

Freedom

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INTERNMENT & CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE

THE USE OF torture by members of the Special Branch of the Royal Ulster Constabulary on internees belies the statements made by the British Army and the Unionist Government about the 'increased flow of information to the security forces'. If such is the case then why has it been necessary for both the Army and the RUC to use these methods to extract information? The documentation of the allegations of torture is backed up by signed statements from those affected. These go into considerable detail about the methods used to disorientate internees.

Mr. Heath, with the agreement of Mr. Wilson for the Labour Party, has turned down demands that these allegations should be subject to a public inquiry. They will instead be referred to the existing tribunal under Sir Edmund Compton. Such hearings in private will only white-wash the Army and the RUC. Sir Edmund, a well-paid functionary of the State, is not going to bite the hand that feeds him, as was amply proved in his role of Ombudsman.

The State does not want to wash its dirty linen in public and like the American Army in Vietnam and the French in Algeria, it will deny, make excuses and talk of the stresses and provocation suffered by the Army. Yet the fact remains that systematic torture has been used by the forces of occupation and will continue to be used in the future whenever the rule of an oppressive government or power is challenged

by its populace.

While the *Daily Mirror* cries out for a public inquiry, the 'liberal' *Guardian* gives comfort and support to Mr. Heath and the oppressive Unionist Government. The comparisons with South Africa, Rhodesia and Greece are mistaken ones, says the editorial of the latter, and goes on to comment that this is 'because here the army is trying to protect the whole population, not just a privileged minority'.

DELIBERATE USE OF VIOLENCE

Any Catholic in Ulster would pour scorn on this lie. The welcome the Army first received from the Catholics was short-lived and the mistaken belief held by many, Bernadette Devlin included, that an army of occupation would help the situation soon collapsed about their ears. The shootings by the Army, the smashing of homes, their rough

treatment of those arrested even before internment, their deliberate use of rubber bullets at short range and their abuse of women has made them as hated as the old 'B' Specials.

The hired assassins of the ruling class are there to protect and defend the interests of that class and to enable that 'privileged minority' to continue to exploit a divided working class and source of cheap labour. The Faulkner Government says that continued disruptions will damage the economy. However it does not attack the companies who have taken advantage of the loans, grants and tax concessions, only to move out of Ulster when the period for these concessions expires, neither does it attack the discrimination in employment against Catholics, because its power is based on the exploitation of religious differences. Its hand-outs to the Protestants are only marginally better than those to Catholics. While the former have a better chance of being less exploited as a cheap source of labour, all are oppressed and exploited with low wages, bad housing, unemployment and extreme authoritarian laws which are the envy of the South African Government.

The campaign of the Provisional

IRA has deliberately widened the gap between Catholics and Protestants. The latter genuinely fear a union with the South, which under a Provisional regime would be very authoritarian and right wing. It does not lack for arms or the means to get them and its success would mean yet another privileged minority taking over the reins of power. The campaign of bombings and shootings forces the two communities apart, while the Ulster Defence Regiment is being armed with high calibre self-loading rifles and Protestants are being recruited. Such a situation will only cause more violence.

SAME INTERESTS

The moderate Civil Rights campaign tried to bring the two religious communities together, while the People's Democracy attempted to dispel the mutual hatreds and fears and to bring the workers to the realisation that their interests are the same, despite the teachings of church and political leaders. The Unionist Government, the Paisleyites, the Provisional IRA and the two churches saw these efforts as a threat to their power and influence for the two communities were beginning to make a joint effort

against Stormont.

The campaign of civil disobedience holds a glimmer of hope, a chance that once again people can forget their religious differences and work together against the exploitation that is common to all. Stormont's emergency legislation, enabling authorities to deduct payments from supplementary benefits and wages of those supporting the campaign, shows how much it fears this civil disobedience. Over half a million pounds are now outstanding and the Government has started evictions and prosecutions. Civic services have completely broken down in some areas and people have started their own do-it-yourself administration to remedy this. Initiative and control is being taken by ordinary people who have lost all faith in Stormont and the alternative assembly of opposition MPs.

The campaign of civil disobedience illustrates what can be achieved by the people themselves. It can prevent community violence, draw support away from the Provisional IRA and bring the Catholics and Protestants together. Ultimately it can, through solidarity and brotherhood, overthrow the whole apparatus of exploitation by the State and the employing class. P.T.

The Queen's Uniformed Thugs

OF COURSE THERE is brutality, thuggery and torture taking place in detention centres and security prisons in Northern Ireland today. Carried out and committed by the sons of the sneaks and the warders of the nineteen-twenties. By the so-called Security Forces in the name of the English Queen.

Has not the same thing happened the world over where British Imperialists have divided the people in order to rule?

How about Egypt, Kenya, Cyprus and Aden to mention but a few?

When it comes to facing up to this sort of thing British people appear blind, gullible and oft-times schizophrenic. They seem unable to believe that their own men (and women) can act as all men in the world act when they find themselves in some kind of uniform and carry titles of security forces and special branch security police, etc.

It is difficult for most of them to accept that the 'good old British Tommy' can and does become a thug and a bully when thrust into a Northern Ireland-type situation. The only difference from German, French, Polish, Russian and American brutality is that the British are so damnably hypocritical about it.

Recently I visited the refugee camp at Fermoy some seven miles north of the City of Cork. In there are approximately four hundred people, mostly Catholic families, who have fled Ulster in fear not only of being hurt or killed in the urban fighting but also because of their dread of being taken by the Security Forces if caught helping their own people.

The British Army and the RUC have mounted a campaign of terror in the six counties designed, in a frantic attempt, to frighten Irish men and women loyal to the cause of a united Ireland into betraying anyone engaged in the struggle for freedom.

Having spoken in the past, and at

length, with men of EOKA, FLOSY, PLF and more recently the IRA, and having lived with, and shared the same 'European' clubs as ex-officers of the Palestine, Hong Kong, Aden and Kenya police and military forces, it seems unlikely that the men in uniform in Northern Ireland today are not the successors of those who invented and employed the special torture techniques like the magneto electric shock applied to the genitals, sitting on a bottle whilst being pressed down at the shoulders, being made to taste human shit at the end of an officer's boot plus many other inhumanities.

I have witnessed British police officers in the Nigerian Police Force take away the driving licence of a Yoruba taxi driver, tear up and throw away the licence and then instruct the driver to report with it the following day. If any of them were ever foolish enough to report to dare ask for a licence renewal a couple of hefty Haussa NCOs were detailed off to take the driver out back and beat him into insensibility.

The British really excelled in ferocious brutality in Kenya. Read in 'Sic Persecution' (Peter Benenson 1959—British and French atrocities in Algeria and Kenya) of the methods employed in that area of operations to extract information from prisoners. It was not always of the most sophisticated kind. Probably because their freedom fighter captives were black and therefore thought not worthy of the more 'refined treatment'.

Many terrible and gruesome atrocities are being committed in Ulster. Some of them will be quite unimaginable to a large number of people in Britain and they will continue until every single British soldier and policeman is withdrawn to allow the free and unhindered unification of the whole of Ireland.

HARRY TURNBULL.

THE DOPPELGÄNGER activities of the paid Brahmins who control the London Passenger Transport Board continues to amuse and bemuse me, the hired help of this dying industry. Each new public advertisement, each new public claim, is a sick joke that fails to amuse the horny-handed proletariat working for this self-destroying social service as we wait for our 'redundancy' notices while the thwarted passengers brood by the hour for buses that no longer appear to operate. Each public holiday the same tired old advertisement appears stating that extra buses will be on the road to carry London's millions on their round of merrymaking family-wise or beerwise and each public holiday sees schedules posted in every garage with massive cuts in services and offers by the LTB to grant unpaid leave to the surplus and unwanted bus crews of the day. Posters appear in every garage stating in the language of the confidential ingroup that 'we' must try to win back the lost millions of transport users while at the same time plans are made a year ahead for garages to be closed, services withdrawn and bus routes slashed on the principle that the less you have the less you will need.

It is this workhouse philosophy that is the basis of all contemporary social service administration when the final solution is a complete withdrawal of the service. Bus or children's milk must both conform to this political dogma. But there is no finality of death for the London millions for we exist in time as a permanent social group and we walk, yea, even we with the 'free' bus passes, little comrade, for no bus services means everyone. Every social service is shaped by the party in office and is the product of the class for whom it acts and their political directives are acted upon by the paid bureaucracy in charge. From My Lord Robens to Archibald Gilchrist of the Clyde shipyards is a roll call of industrial and social murder, and never at any time have the clerks in office refused to act out their political brief

ONE-MAN BUSES & REDUNDANCY

for they are the bureaucratic front men for whom Malthus wrote his manifesto and Thomas Hobbes gave authority to in his *Leviathan* Tory bible, that the role of the State should be no more than the physical protection of private property and that the welfare of the individual, be it poverty or profit, is a matter of private practice and conscience.

The Tory Government, with their usual vulgarity, chose as their new hatchet man for the slaughter of Britain's railways the political opportunist Richard Marsh and this creature, with the mass-media smile and the palest of pale pink backgrounds, has walked into the shadow left by Doctor Beeching to join that infamous company who have crawled into the boardrooms across the unmarked graves of our revolutionary and evangelising dead. And their task? Destroy. One must surely ask why it is necessary for any political party to choose men like this for there must be a sufficiency of capable and intelligent men within each doomed industry to take full command and responsibility to make it a valid factor in the nation's life but each time a Hill, a Robens, a Shawcross, a Beeching or a Marsh floats to the surface like shit on stagnant water. And their actions are our hurt when the miner is forced to leave his ancient valley, the ship-worker sees his honoured yards closed, the small village is isolated and you have to walk the long wet streets in the early morning dark where once a bus service ran.

If in this matter I sound parochial it is because I write as one of the rank and file of London's bus service and for too many long years I and others have spelt out the facts and given our detailed account of how a major city's bus service should operate. We explained, all those long years ago, that every society is drifting into a moneyless economy and that it should be anticipated and organised not as a managerial paternalist way of life but as the answer to the old socialist dream of from each according to his ability to each according to his need and that the foundation of an anarchist-socialist society could be laid in our own lifetime and one of the first faltering steps could be a moneyless public transport system. It simply means that one would use the public transport system without any payment of fares and the running costs, as with armies, libraries, parks and prisons, would come out of the public treasury. To many, inside and outside the anarchist movement, it was a lunatic fringe joke until the Tory-controlled GLC made it a matter of a long and public examination and rejected it on political grounds. We have explained how towns should be built up as small collective units and this was dismissed as another 'lunatic fringe' joke until the Drummond Report arrived at the same conclusion with their 'honeycomb' town planning but it was now too late for all the vast and mindless working-class estates had

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