**ANTI-INTERMENT NEWS No2**

**Bulletin of the Anti-Internment League 3p**

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**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, WCL**

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, Base- ment Flat, 139 Holland Road, W14, telephone 6033085.

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**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 “Para-troopers” 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 “Para-troopers” 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 McKinsey 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 de- scribe this carnage by trained murderers on defenseless people. These murdering 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 afford the luxury of non-participa- tion; they must close ranks, unite against a common enemy, “The British Govern- ment” 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.

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**IN THE EARLY hours of Sunday, 6 February — soon after the London demonstra- tion ‘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 1956”.

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 num- ber 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 gener- ally 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**
Leafleting Belfast troops

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 to Northern Ireland. On New Year’s Day, several hundred leaflets were given out in the Falls area, Bally Murphy, Andovers-town, New Lodge Road, along the “Peace Line” and in the City Centre.

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

The leaflets made on the leaflet were: a call for immediate end of intern- ment and immediate withdrawal of British troops; a demand for self-determination for Ireland; an appeal to individual sol- diers to try not to get posted to Ireland; and, if there, to refuse to carry out human 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 army armoured personnel carrier and put leaflets on all the seats in the back. In addition, visits were made to four bar- racks. The callers asked to see the com- manding officer — a ploy for getting in and giving more leaflets to soldiers. In one or two cases, leafletters were able to get into discussion with soldiers and members of the RUC.

Overshadowed

On 29 January, 12 people from England were imprisoned for distributing the leaflet. One of them, John Ginter, said after- wards: “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 far as possible from Northern Ireland.”

“...the soldiers I met personally in Belfast wanted — almost without exception — to be far, as far away from Northern Ireland as possible. But to be effective the actions must get 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 leafleting or help pay a volunteer’s fare should get in touch with: Irish Action, 15 I Dartmouth Park Hill, London N19 3HZ.

CRIPPLED FOR LIFE

SURPRISE APPEARANCE at a rally of the Northern Resistance Committee in Dublin in January was Rita O’Hare, republic- lican 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 mili- tary wing of another hospital, and subse- quently taken on a stretcher to Armagh Jail. She was still in great pain but, in pro- test 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 recent escape, Gerry had appeared several times on crutches to honour her bail. On 7 January the magis- trate 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.
**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 commitment on internment, to announce their intention to bring all internees to trial. (He did not in fact say this in the programme.)

To many people this might seem like a reasonable position to take: internment is about honour because it is without trial. But what kind of “trial” can an internee expect?

**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 Holywood 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 gagged and hooded and kicked on the ground about 13 or 14 times; then trampled on my feet again. I was offered a medical check. By this time I had slight bruising on ankles and knees and my elfs. The doctor asked me questions. The doctor asked me questions. The doctor asked me questions. The doctor asked me questions. I was offered a medical check. By this time I had slight bruising on ankles and knees and my elfs. The doctor asked me questions. The doctor asked me questions. The doctor asked me questions. The doctor asked me questions.
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 for 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:

London
South East
South West
North West
North East
North Kensington
Hayes/ Uxbridge
Outside London
St Albans
Reading
Haywards Heath
Colchester
Cambridge
Leicester
Southampton
Newcastle upon Tyne
Wrexham
Oxford
Cardiff
Derby
Coventry
Birmingham
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 Bournmemouth
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 set on the political situation. The whole debate was conducted in a less emotional way than at the previous March 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.