

Newspaper of Revolutionary Struggle

No..o

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## DERRY 78



Several thousand people marched in Derry on October 8th to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the city's first civil rights march which was batoned by the RUC on orders from William Craig in Stormont. Demonstrators travelled to Derry from many parts of the 6 counties, to be joined by many others from the 26 counties : from Donegal, Dublin, Cork, Clare, Limerick and Galway.

The Brits and the RUC were out in force. The route was lined with dozens of police and military vehicles, fully decked out in riot gear, taking up positions and preparing their equipment. Two

helicopters hovered over the city during and after the march. For those who travelled hundreds of miles to the march, it was too short, frustrating 15 minute walk across the bridge and into the Guildhall Square. Had we come so far for this? The RUC announced that the march was 'illegal' as it was setting off : " those partaking are open to prosecution " they said. Nobody left.

Derry has been comparatively quiet recently - some of the towns security barriers are gone and the Brits are trying to tell the world that 'normality' has returned. Any attempt to physically stop the march would have meant a full-scale riot and already the Brits and the RUC were having trouble stopping Loyalists attacking the demonstration. Brit strategy was - let them march, stop the loyalists, accept the inevitability of mini-riots and present a picture to the world of the 'heroic' security forces desperately trying to keep the two 'religious factions' apart.

And the Brits have learnt a lot in 10 years. Their policy of containing the war, barricading it in the ghettos is working. On Sunday, most of the marchers had gone by the time the first speech ended. Nobody seemed to be expecting to hear anything new. With RUC and British forces placed at every entrance to the square the remaining people were predictably, hemmed in.

There were many young people looking for space to make war. But the stones and bottles in their hands are no match for the armoured - human machines they face. The Sinn Fein stewards are fully occupied with ensuring that things are under control - THEIR control. One steward gave orders through a loudhailer - another physically threatened one youth : "I can be heavier than the Brits" - no doubt, that is true.

The youth of Belfast and Derry want to fight. More often they are told that that is the job of 'the army'. But 'the army' is not and cannot win this war on its own. The speeches and the memories are about the past. Belfast, Coalisland, Derry - there have been no young people, no 18 or 20 year olds on the platforms, addressing the generation born in '60 and '62, on their future - too many of them think they haven't got one.

No one speaks of tomorrow, next week or next year. Derry 1968 was an offensive by the people looking for a better life. Derry 1978 is a tired people, trying to sustain a war but without the political or military means to win that war. A real victory will come through a peoples' war - today we urgently need to extend the war - with new forces and in new areas.



We reproduce below a leaflet produced and distributed by Revolutionary Struggle at the march in Derry on October 8th.

## 6, 9, 26, NO! 32 YES!

For the past ten years the anti-Unionist people of the 6 Cos have endured murder, internment, harassment and many other forms of State terror. The Brit Army - and their allies north and south - have defended partition, English economic and political interests, the Unionist ranchers and industrialists - capital as a whole.

H-Block and Armagh, alongside our dead and wounded, are the price we have had to pay for standing up. Those prisons represent ever-thing we are against. Physical and mental torture, degradation, State violence, inhumanity - that's how they try to break the spirit of resistance. North and South.

The war must go on until victory--the Brits must be thrown out.

National Liberation though can only be won through a national political and military movement. And that is our major stumbling block. The war against the Brits has been barricaded too long inside the ghettos of Belfast and Derry. The South Armagh and South Derry

campaigns have added precious space to that war. But we believe that the resistance must physically and mentally break the partition of silence imposed by the Free State. And that can only be done by attacking it.

We must build a national movement with the same courage and tenacity that it has taken to endure British and Loyalist terror - and hit back. Without a national movement directed against all forms of oppression, there will be no victory. Unless you consider an 'Independent Northern Ireland' to be a victory. OR a federal solution under the reactionaries of Fianna Fail, Fine Gael, SDLP, different shades of Unionism and the like. Under the blessing of the EEC, of course, because, as you all know, we are not Irish or even British nowadays, we are Europeans. Such set-ups, wherever they come from, whether they are dressed up as Eire Nuas, Constituent Assemblies or Conferences, will mean nothing except crushing defeat for those who have fought for the last ten years. Our aim is simple and direct : Brits Out and forward to a United Republic where the people control their destiny directly. No less. As a first step to communism.

We can have no truck with the Yanks or any other imperialist power. We rely on the strength of our people - in Ireland and abroad. And that strength has to be built and nurtured. Patiently and with

discipline as well as political clarity. That is why we oppose the knee-capping of our young brothers accused of 'misbehaving'. Political organisation and education is the only way of solving contradictions among the people. The rule of the stick produces nothing except poisoned fruit.

The class war is a national war - the 'national' war must be transformed into a class war. And there is only one way of doing that : put working class politics and needs in command. These needs are expressed daily on picket lines, on the streets, factory occupation, road blocks in communities, demonstrations by small farmers, attacks on police by the very same 'misbehaving youth'.

Fianna Fail is preparing for a rough ride. Building prisons for 12 year olds, preparing anti-strike laws, trying to impose nuclear power, attacking small farmers, election-eering for the sham 'European Assembly'.

The fragmented and partial opposition to capital and State needs a focus - a central target. It needs organisation and coordination. A democratic anti-capitalist movement. It has to be built - will be built. The future is ours.

Lets make this march a big one, a militant one, full of strength and life. Not a funeral. And make our NEXT march a national one - from both sides of the border to Long Kesh.



## E.S.B. DIVINE LIGHT OF THE PHILIPPINES

On Saturday 30th September about 100 people marched from St. Stephen's Green in Dublin to the HQ of the ESB at Fitzwilliam St. and from then on to the U.S. Embassy in Ballsbridge.

The march organised by the Filipino-Irish Group marked the sixth anniversary of the imposition of martial law in the Philippines by the pro-U.S Marcos regime.

There was placards protesting against the E.S.B involvement in the Philippines as well as against the aid given to the dictatorship by the U.S. Government.

The Irish-Filipino Group has been active for the last 15 months

in the 32 Counties. Its aim is to support the struggle of the Filipino people against the Marcos dictatorship as well as stop all involvement of the Irish State in support of this corrupt regime.

Following agitation and leafletting inside the E.S.B, a group of E.S.B. workers have been meeting regularly for the past 6 months researching and informing their ESB comrades about the nature of the Marcos regime and the extent of the ESB involvement. In fact, a group of ESB workers have just returned from the Philippines after a fact-finding tour. REBEL will carry further articles and reports on their finding in future issues.

### STOP PRESS STOP PRESS

The following Press Release has been received from the Irish-Filipino Group :

We are asking all who are concerned with human rights to join us in asking the Philippine government to:

1. End the torture of Jose Maria Sison.
2. Transfer him from isolation to regular detention.
3. Transfer his case from a military court to a non-military judicial body.
4. Demand his release.

Jose Maria Sison is 39 years old. He is best known as a political leader and liberation fighter. He is also well known as a poet, cultural critic, historian and teacher.

Since Nov. 10 1977 Jose Maria Sison was arrested and held incommunicado by the Marcos Government. Reliable sources report that he has been severely tortured and is now chained to his cell. The Marcos regime accuses him of being the legendary leader AMADO GUERRERO, chairman of the Communist Party of the Philippines. This makes him very vulnerable to repression and official assassination.

For more information on the case of Jose Maria Sison or what you can do about it contact the Irish-Filipino Group: 11 Meath Street, Dublin 1.



We reproduce below two strike leaflets from current struggles. We ask our readers to send to REBEL any leaflets or reports of different disputes which you have access to.

### KILROY BROTHERS LTD., (SMURFIT GROUP) SANTRY

KILROY BROTHERS LTD., are the main distributors of Bush Ltd., (TV & Radio Manufacturers) in Ireland. They are also Irish agents for various international toy companies, etc.

Negotiations have been taking place since mid-July between our union and Management on an increase in our weekly bonus payment.

The demand being made was for £15 increase. After a series of meetings we were finally offered £3. This offer was overwhelmingly rejected and the decision to go on strike was seen by the workers as the only way to demonstrate their opposition to the Management wish to continue with their policy of cheap labour.

Kilroy Brothers Ltd., are a company with a long history of good profit making, yet in spite of this they have made no effort to improve the pay of the people who work for them, of whom many have long standing service with the company.

With some of our members getting as low as £34 take home pay it was felt that an increase sufficient to give people a living wage was long overdue.

Mr. Michael Smurfit, 'Boss' of the Smurfit Group, and one of Ireland's richest men, can boast of paying £200 for a rare bottle of wine but we do not hear him boasting of the low wages which he pays out to some of his workers.

As we enter our third week in this dispute we are still without any assistance, financial or moral from the leadership of our Union, the ITGWU.

Mickey Mullen can make speech after speech about helping the lower paid. But where is his help when it comes to a strike for higher pay?

The ITGWU tell us that they have started a campaign to help the lower paid. Could it be that they have decided that £34 a week is not low enough to be part of their 'New Found' campaign.

These are the facts behind this strike. We are not on strike for the love of it, we are on strike for the right to a living wage. Our action is justified. We are a united group of workers and in our unity is our strength to win!

We need the help of all Trade Unionists in our struggle to improve our wages. We seek the help of all Shop Stewards and Union Activists to assist in our Strike Fund, and any collection for our fund would be greatly welcomed. We look forward to your help.

E. McElwaine. G. Dunne.  
T. Dolderup. M. Cuffe.  
E. Maloney.

--- STRIKE COMMITTEE.

### **Jack Lynched by students**

Friday, 13th Sept, unlucky Jack 'the Ripper' Lynch - TD and Taoiseach with his bodyguards, were invited to a wine reception in Trinity College. A picket was called to protest against Fianna Fail's Green Paper cutbacks in education.

Lynch was welcomed by hundreds of students booing and shouting **LYNCH OUT**. College porters, security and branch guarded the door as Jack boozed with the junior F.F. hacks inside the reception. Outside, students held a mass meeting demanding **A LIVING INCOME**. No fees, no means tests and fuck the cuts ... students shouldn't have to pay for a State-made crisis.

Lynch eventually plucked up the courage to come out and got the same response from the students. They shouted for a speech, but he must have run out of them, as he hurried to his car. Between spitting and shouting and blocking the cars - they finally escaped hitting 3 students on the legs and driving over a porter's foot.

One student summed it up later: "he's got a cheek coming in here and expecting us to cheer his green paper". The most militant students agreed that Lynch would not be welcome in TCD anymore.

In the meantime, students in St. Pats College of Education have refused to pay the 117% fee increase. Students in the Dental Hospital intend not to pay fees, due to the Boards mishandling of the dental technicians dispute last year, which meant an extension of their course.

### ROADSTONE WORKERS.

#### FELLOW TRADE UNIONISTS.

The A.G.E.&M.O.U. is presently engaged in a struggle with ROADSTONE in an effort to secure a realistic basic wage and acceptable working conditions.

For far too long the ROADSTONE worker has been dependent on high overtime earnings to supplement his basic rate.

The Company's proposals for a productivity agreement, after almost a year's negotiations, have been overwhelmingly rejected because of the unrealistic monetary terms offered and the inclusion of restrictive and punitive clauses. If introduced, these clauses would lead to a rapid worsening of working conditions for all Roadstone workers.

It has become abundantly clear that it is now virtually impossible for workers to realise their legitimate aspirations within the constraints imposed by National Wage Agreements.

We therefore appeal to you as fellow trade unionists and as fellow workers to support this struggle in a manner which would uphold the high tradition of trade union solidarity characteristic of Roadstone workers throughout the years.

This fight is not the concern of one union but the concern of all unions.

SUPPORT THIS STRIKE !

RESPECT THE PICKET LINE !

Signed :

Christy Cullen  
Senior Shopsteward Roadstone.

Laurence Doyle.  
General Secretary.





# CLASSified

In every issue, REBEL will carry these two pages of class news items. Reports from battles in workplaces, struggles against capital and against the State, info on new State rules and regulations which affect our lives.

The one-day stoppage in Gardiner St. Labour Exchange in Dublin in September came after many lengthy negotiations on working conditions, between the Gardiner St. branch of the CPSSA (Civic and Public Services Staff Association) and the Dept. of Social Welfare. As any of the unemployed will tell you, the place is a kip. In fact it is a converted church, built over a hundred years ago, and obviously the 130 or so staff have had enough. It is not just the unemployed who have to take shit from the Dept.

It was last April when things really started to move, because the CPSSA had been trying to plead for improvements for about a year up to then. Then the smell in the place became too much and after taking up a few floorboards, it was discovered that there were dead rats lying around. That was enough - and the pressure started from all the workers to get something done. Meetings of about 50 to 60 of the branch then became a regular occurrence and strike notice was quickly served. Notice of four months was given and demands were made. The workers wanted industrial cleaners called in immediately - the place was so dirty and unhygienic that chemical cleaning was necessary. There was also a big problem of space in which to work. Also, improvements in the toilet and the eating area - there is no canteen, were demanded.

It was never suggested at any of the meetings before the strike that the unemployed would be able to show any solidarity. The popular feeling amongst most of the workers was that they expected hostility from the unemployed. In fact, the single line picket of the workers became a double line picket of

workers and the unemployed, some of whom were quickly organised with makeshift placards of support. Some of the unemployed sat on the road concerned with their own plight of not being able to draw the dole - others went in deputation to the Dail and to Haughey. There was some verbal hostility towards the picket from a few unemployed, but two of the workers who discussed the event talked about the surprise at the solidarity shown, and also agreed that it was of great assistance in forcing the claim.

The most immediate effect of the stoppage was soon seen as the Industrial Cleaners moved in the next week. And undoubtedly the workers in Werburgh St. who have already staged a sit-in in June over heat and ventilation, and in Victoria St. and Cumberland St. will be taking note on how to improve working conditions.....

As Gardiner St. showed, the unemployed will support a fight for better conditions. Many of them are the workers of yesterday. With the poverty and the harassment of the unemployed increasing, solidarity must run both ways. Putting the screws on the unemployed means more work for workers in the Dept. of Social Welfare, turning these workers into the watchdogs of the State.

The division between workers and consumers, whether it be the CIE workers and the public, the unemployed and workers in the dole offices, farmers and workers in creamery co-ops - these divisions must actively be fought. Both are really on the one side against the State. Fighting these divisions means strengthening those who are fighting the State and better chances of winning.

## LABOUR TROUBLE

### Unsupported mothers

Sisters living on social assistance and supplementary welfare; GET READY to claim for shoes for school children. Last winter, successful claims were made for pre-school children, arguing that nursery and playgroup was also 'school'. Ask for applications this week.

### Labour Exchanges

Claimants protest at harassment through new Department of Labour Directive to Labour Exchange managers that claimants be obliged to show proof of availability to work.

Corporation introduces new points system for housing. The Housing Welfare Officer can award special 'compassionate' points to those with 'unusual' family circumstances. Ask for an appointment immediately.

### Winter turf and fuel scheme.

Organise now to get your delivery of winter turf if you are claiming social assistance or are a pensioner or an unsupported mother. Last year in Co. Dublin tenants got no fuel because no carriers would deliver them. Other carriers got hold of the fuel dockets, collected the turf and made a packet.

### Ballymun

A number of tenants from the Ballymun Towers and other North Dublin tenants have become ill following polluted water from the taps. Water is a yellow brown colour causing stomach upset and often the shits. The Corporation said they were in the dark about the causes.

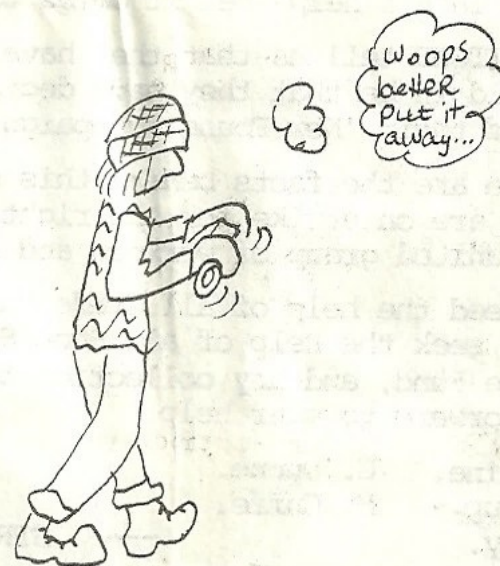
### GERMANY

Many Rebel readers will have seen 'Holocaust' on BBC. Well, it was recently revealed in Germany that both the President Scheel and the Chancellor (Prime Minister) Schmidt were in fact members of the Nazi Army. Schmidt was in the Air Force while Scheel in the Infantry. Both had 'nothing to say' on this bit of dirt.

### FRANCE

This summer a campaign opened in Paris against rising costs in the transport system. In one week at the end of August 170 ticket machines in 20 different metro stations were burnt out so people could get down without having to pay their ticket.

The Communist Party and some parts of the 'revolutionary' Left condemned the campaign as violent and disruptive. We in Rebel support it. What do you think?



### Unidare - Dublin

Unofficial work to rule to get time and a quarter for every shift, instead of 17, 20 & 25% arrangement at present. Claim rejected by labour court. Mass meeting of shift workers voted against stopping action in order for it to be made 'official'. Under the National Wage Agreement, 3 weeks notice must be given before taking industrial action.

### E.S.B.

Making an arrangement to pay? Don't know how much to offer? Coded figures on the bottom left of your bill show your payments record. A set 000000 shows a 'clean record', no arrears. 0000010 shows you had arrears two bills ago and so on. Divide your bill by 10 and offer no more than that amount. For example, 8 weeks bill plus 2 weeks to pay is equal to 10 weeks, say your bill is £37. pay them £3.70 - no more.



These are the words of one woman, who with her husband and 8 children is squatting in a newly-built empty Co. Council house on the Dublin Road in Tuam Co. Galway. The family has been forced to spend the last ten years living on the side of the road. For nine years they have been on the housing list, listening to promises of houses which have never come through.

In the middle of September 4 families moved in and are now occupying 4 Co. Council houses. In all, there are 22 children and 8 adults. Three of the women are pregnant. There is no electricity and no furniture in the houses. Barbed wire and wooden fences are strung across the gateways.

Here is an account of the situation by one of the men involved :

" I lived nineteen years in a house - a home of our own with my own family. Once I was married and the children came there wasn't enough space. We had to go back on the side of the road. It's 5 years now that we've been on the road - and we've been 5 years on the housing list.

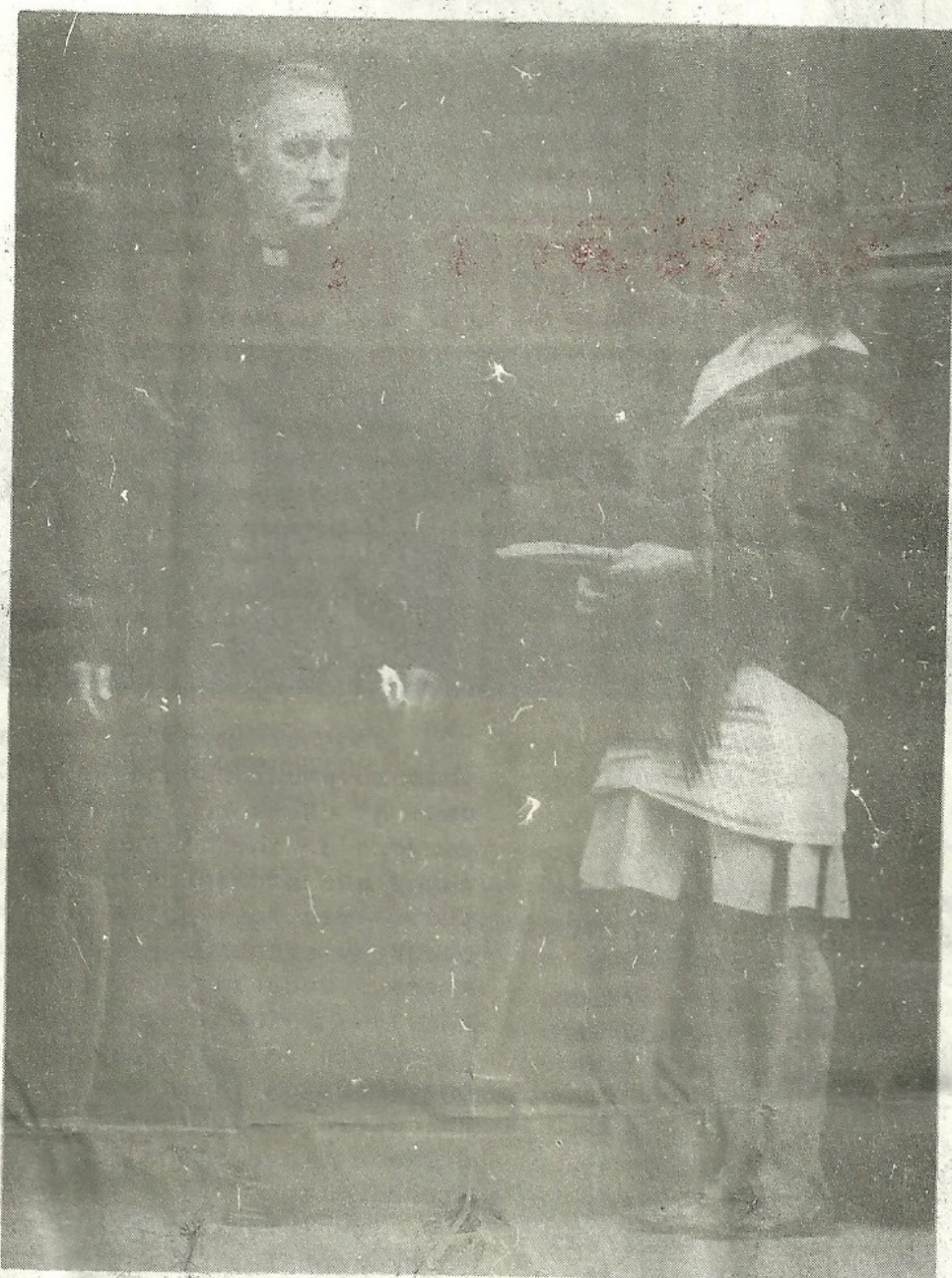
There was nothing else we could do. All their promises of houses - it's only a fairy-tale. We decided this was the only way to get our rights - you have to make them listen. I think this system is stupid. I mean everyone should have a house - we've a right to a home. They came around here on Friday - the Co. Council people - after a meeting and told us that if we get out of these houses, then they'll give us a house. But we've heard all that before. We're not leaving here until we get a key to another one. We've had enough of promises. I'd rather go inside for 6 months than go back on the road. We're going to fight this one to the end. We're not moving. I mean if we win this then every traveller has a chance. But they don't want to give in. "

There are 30 families in Tuam living on the side of the road. In the last 5 years only 4 traveller families have been housed. Those who are occupying these houses are children of travellers who had eventually got houses. They are fighting against being forced back on the road. Their children are in school in Tuam, they come from the Tuam area and now they want houses in Tuam.

Another woman with 7 children who has been on the road for 11 years told us :

" We were promised a house four times since we've been on the list. My children have been at school in Tuam since they were 4 years old - in the Convent and the Christian Brothers. We never got any help from anyone - once we got free shoes from the welfare people. This house is better than the caravan - we've no beds or furniture or electricity but the toilet works. In the caravan I had five

" We've nothing to lose -  
We're not going back on the road "



children sleeping on the one floor - we were on top of one another and there were rats everywhere. I'll never go back on the road - it's not right for the children. "

The Galway Committee for Travelling People has issued a statement of 'sympathy' with the travellers in Tuam, but they say that they don't agree with squatting because " it could cause chaos in the system of housing allocation ". 30 families forced to live on the side of the road in a relatively small town like Tuam is CHAOS. There are hundreds more like them all over the country. Silence from the three bourgeois political parties. A reminder of the "housing crisis" from Sinn Fein - Workers Party. The Galway Trades Council has demanded the implementation of the 'village scheme' for travellers, blocked last year by opposition from the industrial bosses of Galway. But travellers want houses where they chose - not future ghettos and shanty-towns.

In Tuam, travellers have taken things into their own hands - sick and tired of promises - they decided to take action. " When we moved in, other travellers should have done the same. That was the time to move in Galway and everywhere else. There is no point in waiting. We don't want sympathy - we want houses. We've had enough sympathy but we were still on the side of the road "

Already Galway Co. Council has been forced to respond. First caravans, then mobile homes were offered to the squatters. Mobile homes were accepted by two families, the other two families will not settle for less than houses. The battle for decent housing effects thousands of people in Galway and all over the country. Travellers have been forced to live in the worst conditions. The fight is on - victories are precious. Organised support can stop any threats of evictions.

" The people living around here are OK. We grew up among them. They know us. We haven't had any trouble. We're going to fight if they try and put us out. If there is anyone who wants to help us, that's when we will need it "

Dublin  
Central Criminal Court  
Mick Plunkett, comrade from the I.R.S.P., released and charges on the ' Mail Train Robbery ' dropped. This was Mick's third time in Court under the same charge. During the second trial, ' the sleeping judge ' actually died. Still on trial are three other comrades accused who have now been appearing for over 2 years on the same charge. During all this time none have been able to find employment and are continuously branded as being ' robbers '. Lets show our solidarity with the comrades.





# CARNSORE

**CARNSORE** - were you there, did you 'make the point'? If you didn't chances are you've read something about it or heard ALL about it from your friends, kids or workmates who were there. A 3 day free music and information festival held beside and on top of the ESB site for the proposed Nuclear Power Station. According to local Gardai figures, 18,000 people took part in what was Ireland's first mass anti-nuclear demonstration.

But it was more than a mere gathering of numbers (though that in itself was an important gesture in defiance of the State) - the aim of the "Power Show", as it was called, was that people could express their doubts or rejection of the nuclear plan, learn more about its deadly implications and the practical alternatives to it AND enjoy themselves.

Before Carnsore many people said "Ah, but people will come because they're into the music". And why not? What's wrong with being able to enjoy music? The musicians who played (most of the top traditional, folk and rock figures in the country) all gave their services free. It was they in fact who had helped to finance the festival by playing benefit concerts throughout the country. Their commitment to the anti-nuclear cause is firm - something they expressed in their talk onstage and even in the fact that many of them performed anti-nuclear songs.

In this way the festival managed to blend culture and politics both of which have always gone arm in arm, as a vast number of our traditional songs show. The aim of Carnsore was to build a mass movement and here we have one lesson for the future - to keep that cultural element firmly rooted in our lives.

Another important aim was that this movement should be a 32 Co. one. At Carnsore, people from all corners of the island signed their names and addresses committing themselves to fighting nuclear power by organising in their own areas, educating themselves about the issues involved and deciding on action to intensify the struggle. One decision taken was to make Halloween a night of action and the different areas are planning towards it.

The intention of Carnsore was to broaden the debate on nuclear power, to take it out of the closed rooms, beyond the committees and those who believe that the ESB plans will be upended by writing letters to TD's and the newspapers. The struggle must be taken into the workplaces, the schools, the countryside and into every home.

Nuclear has implications for everybody and for the generations to come. It means cancer for workers and for unborn children, it means increased exploitation and pollution of labour and the environment by American capital and the multinational companies, it means an extension of and a more repressive army and police force to guard the nuclear monster and to investigate union members and their families, it means providing England and France with our waste fuel to reprocess for THEIR atom bombs and missiles, it means more pressure for Ireland to join NATO, higher unemployment and dearer electricity bills.

All these implications must be revealed in opposition to the mounting propaganda campaign by the government and the ESB. Nuclear power is in no way in the interests of working people, unemployed, small farmers or fishermen.

While Carnsore was a free festival, it wasn't just handed on a plate to the thousands who came. The original organisers had no way of keeping the whole show going on their own. Those who were there

were called on to help run it - it was their festival. Volunteers were needed to relieve stewards at the carpark a mile away. Others were needed to oversee the natural loos, to spread gravel when trucks got bogged down after the rainfall - everybody had a hand in deciding what price THEY wanted to pay for food from the usual rip-off merchants who inveigled their way in. There is another important lesson to be learnt here - the movement which kicked off from Carnsore has to be organised in a democratic way. Instead of members of local groups electing 'representatives' to fight their struggle, all people - women, men and children must be able to play a full part in making sure that nuclear power is never forced on Ireland. For this reason, we are arguing against committees and elections.

So far we know that meetings have been held in Tipperary, Kildare, Killkenny, Wexford, Waterford, Cork, Clare, Galway, Sligo and Longford as well as the 6 areas of Dublin City and County. At present a roadshow of musicians is touring the technical colleges of the 32 Cos. Next month, an even bigger road show of traditional and rock music, theatre and speakers will tour many communities around the land. An extra aim of this is to organise the local groups for a NATIONAL MASS MEETING in Dublin when the tour returns to the city. Carnsore was a huge success. Now we can make this national meeting a means to exchange information on and strengthen activities of local areas and groups right across the country.

Angrey makes a point !!!  
Seems that Charlie Haughey has been buying land at a fierce rate - where? Around Carnsore Point. An ageing Irish Stater turned FF Republican named Antan O'Connor has been acting as agent for both Haughey AND the ESB. The land on which the Anti-Nuclear Power Show was held on is a disputed land and it seems likely that it will pass onto the hands of the Land Commission who - is there any doubt? - will pass it on to the ESB. So who are the enemies? Who are the people the anti-nuclear movement has to fight against?

The E.S.B saga goes on  
When the E.S.B. were asked why they had bulldozed the Cairn built by the anti-nuclear demonstrators, the ESB PR Department explained that a heap of stones would be a hazard. Why we asked again. Well, they said the E.S.B has helicopters measuring wave and wind levels and they couldn't distinguish between the site markers and the Cairn. When it





He was young, not respectable, and laughing - all the time. I gave him a lift on my way to Carnsore and kept telling me all these jokes. Then he told me of this dream he had, about Armagh, there he was fighting and he took sixty prisoners all by himself. How did you do it? I asked him. It was simple, he said, I surrounded them.

He was how my Carnsore weekend started. Flight with their space suits and their novel anti-nuke sound was how it finished on Sunday night. On the way back I felt we are going to win, for quite simply we had them surrounded. And then we will be all laughing together.

The weekend over, questions started piling up: "You need more than music and Carnsore, the friend said, to stop nuclear." "True. 'You need to write letters to TDs, to hassle' the other one said. Don't know about writing letters methinks, 'you'd be surprised the effect letters have' this friend from the Earth says. Don't know about that I insist.

Then I started reading the papers. You are not supposed to do that if you are in a political organisation, but I did it anyway. A correspondent from Socialist Labour (no.4) wrote: "Hopefully Carnsore will produce those who are not so fickle that they will flinch at the first sign of a copper's baton". Now the SLP never hit me as being the way-out militant type but then you never know with social democrats. But

that comment reminded me of a man I knew who insisted on washing himself publicly, from head to foot, and with the scrubbed finger pink point at others. All I could see at the end was those places that had grown chapped and rough and brown from so much scrubbing.

DAWN - the Irish journal of non-violence (no.42/43) says that Carnsore Point was "a light-hearted but serious minded affair...no one can underestimate the determination of many of the people present that weekend". But why would one want to underestimate that? I thought...Why would Dawn feel that they had to make a re-assuring statement like that? If you want to teach a stammerer to speak do you have to learn fluently how to stammer yourself? Do you dawn?

Back again to Socialist Labour. I love doing that. Michael Enright argues: "The Anti-Nuclear Power Show was certainly an organisational success...of the many contributions from the 'Left' those from S.L.P. speakers were particularly well received...there was little evident support for the proposals made by the self-styled anarchist and Maoist mosquito groups

Finally, Enright's sister Carol, in the third article of the paper argued the following. Experiments in mass democracy are fine but can they produce the organisational framework of a movement with political teeth?

Now, first of all, I admitted that I was a bit annoyed with this constant pre-occupation with zoology and biology. We used to have tigers, standing and running dogs, sharks, reptiles, vultures. Then we progressed to deep entry, intervention, penetration now we are at mosquitoes and teeth. Will it ever stop? Then mass democracy is what RS and the anarchist comrades argued. And that got fully supported by the mass meeting. Unless of course Enright was at another place looking for this famous SLP flag which disappeared. But let me not sour the nice tone of this article. What next?

Next I read WICCA (no.4) Wise Woman - the Irish feminist magazine. In an article entitled 'Seen but not heard - Carnsore' Anne Good argues: "I felt alienated...where were all the women?...In the audiences...doing a lot of background work...on (some of) the stalls...typing... BUT not in the bands, not among the visible organizers...those who made the announcements or strutted around clutching their walkie-talkies...a small minority among the speakers...in short low-visibility." And then she makes the real point: "I am not interested in being a pawn in any male grand strategy...however good the cause." So she proposes: "If feminists are to be involved in an Irish Anti-Nuclear Movement we must do so on our own terms...if there are more festivals like Carnsore we must be there as an identifiable group with our own statement to make

I agreed with the comrade. A feminist contribution was missed in Carnsore. I don't know why but there was no feminist stall, no speakers. The nuclear movement can only gain from the full participation of our feminist sisters in the struggle against nuclear capital.

I also read the 'Irish Socialist' (Sept.78) whose main editorial concentrates on Carnsore. The Communist Party of Ireland, while accepting that "the people of Carnsore Point are to be commended for their bringing of this issue so sharply to public notice", it also warns that "...some of the blanket statements against nuclear power reveal a primitive anti-technological attitude that lacks conviction simply because without massive new sources of energy humanity as a whole could not achieve the immense raising of economic potential that has been a consequence, for example, of the peaceful use of atomic energy in the Soviet Union". Classic!

So what the CPI tell us is that there is bad nuclear and then there is good nuclear as well. Now, I don't think this is true. At Blayoveshenok in the Urals in 1957 a gigantic nuclear accident spread lethal radiation clouds for hundreds of miles. Many died (we will never know for certain how many exactly) and the area is still considered contaminated 20 years later. Is that 'peaceful' really? Anything made in the USSR is not necessarily socialist, comrades. Classes still exist and class struggle still continues. And there is bad and good and ugly and then there is psychological asylums which is another name for political prisons. Don't tell me that to speak like that is a 'tactical error'...to call a bullet a bullet is always right...the truth is always revolutionary Lenin said once. And I will send that Lenin to break every bone in your Lenin's body. Don't tell me that RS is now playing the game of the bourgeoisie by spreading anti-Soviet propaganda. Don't tell me any more that workers have to be protected from the 'wreckers'. Because all that would mean is still another prison with you as screws.

And that messed up my good feelings about Carnsore. And all the Republicans had to say was their fellows got more applause than everybody else - including the SLP. And that didn't make it any better.

So I decided to wait with eagerness for the article the RS comrades were preparing (see other page). And I read it and I felt better...sanity still rules OK. And thank shit for that.

Listen to Erich Fried - old anti-fascist fighter from Germany:

Have no doubts about the one who tells you he is afraid but be afraid of the one who tells you he has no doubts. I agree.

VS

was pointed to the map that the markers are from concrete and no helicopter pilot would mix up a heap of stones with a concrete marker the PR person claimed that the Cairn would have been dangerous to children. When pressed even further the PR person agreed that destroying the Cairn wasn't a particularly friendly act...and then went on to say that his - or was it her - personal sympathy was with the anti-nuke movement. That sounds more like it.

...

More on the E.S.B.

Those who turned up at the Project Theatre last week to see the long-awaited pro-nuclear ESB film ended up with a film on HURLING. Now you may well ask what is the connection...we asked the ESB who told us that the pro-nuclear film wasn't available so because they didn't want to disappoint all the people who turned up to watch the pro-nuclear masterpiece they sent along an interesting film on hurling. Jesus.





Just before going to print we heard that the I.C.T.U. suspended A.G.E.M.O.U. from Congress - pending inter-Union/ Management talks on Tuesday 17th Oct. Roadstone workers who mounted mass pickets in Drogheda and Limerick, together with Cement Ltd. workers, have effectively cut Cement Ltd.'s supplies of cement to Roadstone and by and large stopped Roadstone's production. Below we examine the background to the struggle of the Roadstone workers.

# The Roadstone touch down

The 600 workers who have been on strike at 24 Roadstone Depots since Sept. 22nd are fighting over a productivity deal which arose from a parity demand in pay and conditions with the workers in Cement Ltd. Clondalkin Concrete, Cement Ltd. and Roadstone merged in 1970 to form CEMENT ROADSTONE HOLDINGS (remember the 'golden touch' ad on telly?). It is from this merger that the claim for parity arises.

In Sept. 1977, the Roadstone drivers, production workers, pit and quarry workers, all members of A.G.E.M.O.U., took unofficial strike action in pursuit of their claim. After a return to work the Union served official strike notice which was later withdrawn when the Company agreed to negotiate on a productivity deal. Heels dragged and "important discussions" took place until Roadstone threw their final offer on the table in July of this year. The workers rejected it promptly by 3:1. Roadstone refused to re-negotiate so strike notice was served.

A shop steward of Roadstone told REBEL that the offer of money didn't meet the needs of the workers and that the terms of the deal amounted to an attack on conditions won in struggle against the Roadstone bosses since 1970. Roadstone wanted to re-introduce a clock to drag more time off workers under penalty of 15 mins. deductions for every 3 minutes late. This system had been thrown out 2 years ago by the workers. The main object of the bosses is to increase productivity by making the workers more mobile: shifting people from depot to depot and job to job. They also want the lorry driver to be loader and labourer at the same time. Cutting demarcation between jobs has been a policy of the FUE and the employers over recent years as a means of disorganising the workplace and robbing more labour off fewer workers.

The workers we spoke to feel that it is impossible to live a decent life with present wages. They have to work up to 20hrs. overtime to make a living income and that the wage agreements serve only to restrict workers demands. When they did demand "necessary improvements" they clashed not only with the boss but with the I.C.T.U.

The Roadstone workers say that they have learnt to rely on their own organisation and intend to maintain their resistance despite the attempts by Congress to force them to return to work and the refusal of Management to negotiate.

"What Roadstone is doing" said the Chief Shop Steward "is letting Congress do their running for them". And he continued:

"Congress is a very abstract and nebulous thing for most of the workers. It's more and more a meeting of academics separated from the working class members".

The I.C.T.U. have threatened to expel the A.G.E.M.O.U. because they say that the workers are breaching Congress picketing policy by picketing depots where AGEMOU has no members. The workers say that the spark for these pickets came from workers in other depots who support the struggle of the strikers. These workers, employed by the same boss, Roadstone, doing the same work as the strikers, gave guarantees of solidarity to any A.G.E.M.O.U. picket. The majority of the Roadstone drivers, production workers and quarry and pit workers in Leinster pay their dues to A.G.E.M.O.U. while in the rest of the country workers are in the I.T.G.W.U.

Strikers have been using very successfully what they call "flying pickets" to stop production. As a result 60-70% of Roadstone production across the country has been effectively stopped. Workers from many depots have joined the AGEMOU pickets. In Slane, Limerick, Castleblaney and Arklow nothing has been produced since the strike.

This week a number of mass pickets and 200 'ordinary' pickets took place on the different Roadstone depots. A return to the 'Flying Pickets' will depend on whether the Roadstone bosses are willing to re-negotiate the terms of the productivity deal. Neither the Shop Steward nor the AGEMOU official that we met expected the dispute to be resolved in a short time however. Because they say the struggle is not simply one of a parity claim. The workers are clearly set to fight against the wage agreement and especially the possibility of a new Wage Agreement which Fianna Fail are already planning for.

For the workers who we spoke to, their primary enemy is the Roadstone boss - they see clearly the role of the Unions and Congress but for what they call 'tactical reasons' they do not wish to pit themselves against the Trade Unions. But as one of the men said they have no hang-ups about Congress. The Shop Steward said that they want a higher basic and a cut-down on overtime which is in line with Congress policy of maintaining workers earnings.

The attitude of other Unions has been mixed: the management proposals have been already rejected by the Boilermakers Union and the Painters Union who support the A.G.E.M.O.U. pickets. The strikers reckon the I.T.G.W.U. members will also reject the proposals when put

to a vote. Indeed, it was only pressure from ITGWU full-time officials that forced members of that Union to eventually pass pickets in Galway, Limerick and Wexford.

It is this inflexible, militant and broad political view of the Union and the workers which has provoked the 'heavy' response from Roadstone who refuse to negotiate. Also the Employer/Labour Conference has accused the workers of trying to break the wage agreement, and the CIF who ran scare stories about 5,000 jobs being threatened...finally of Congress who are secretly plotting A.G.E.M.O.U.'s expulsion.

The workers, on the contrary, feel that in a claim which stretches back to 1970 this is the only correct attitude possible. Strike action is the only effective weapon they could use in these circumstances. Conciliation and negotiation have dragged on for too long with no real result at the end.

For Roadstone, of course, the image is a bit grim. The strike hits their major profit-making area. In the first 6 months of 1978 the fat shareholders of the Company enjoyed 35% increase in their profits. This increase was mainly due to their non-cement activities, i.e. ROADSTONE. The profits of the firm add up to something around £9 m. in the first 6 months of the year.

The workers are determined to keep up their resistance until victory. They will, they said, in the weeks to come be looking for the solidarity and support of other workers. However, the shop steward stressed, the most important support that could be given to their struggle is for workers elsewhere to press ahead with militant action in pursuit of their own needs and to oppose any new wage agreement.

ROADSTONE is the testing ground of a long winter ahead. The possibility of no-strike laws, new powers for the Labour Court, and a new deal between Unions and capital loom ahead. The workers from Roadstone are fighting. Enough of playing games, they said, enough battles and sell-outs.

REBEL supports the struggle of the Roadstone workers and calls for solidarity and support of the strike.

"We need not kneel, our cause is high, of true men there is no dearth, and our victorious rallying cry shall be, we want the earth, we only want the earth."

James Connolly



# NICARAGUA

"We are prepared to confront the situation...."

"We are prepared..." says Angel Barrajon, leader of the Sandinist Liberation Front of Nicaragua. In August this year, the SLF took 400 hostages at a banquet in the National Palace of the capital of Nicaragua - Managua. The Nicaraguan dictator, General "Tachito" Somoza gave in to the demands of the SLF and released 60 political prisoners to the nearby Central American state of Panama. From there the revolutionaries flew to Cuba. Only 4 years ago, the Sandinists had kidnapped 17 personalities, including a Foreign Minister and 2 Ambassadors and successfully exchanged them for an enormous ransom.

Nicaragua is in Central America - it's twice the size of Ireland with half our population. 70% of the people make a living off the land - 30% of the cultivated land is controlled by 362 families - most of them relations of the dictator Somoza. The landless peasants produce cotton, coffee, sugar and beef for the 362 landlord families in return for starvation wages and repression. Few Nicaraguans live to see their 50th birthday. Few can read or write but their hatred of General Somoza and his family who have controlled Nicaragua for generations runs deep.

This is why the Nicaraguan peasants support the Sandinists in their hundreds, particularly in the North of the country. Unemployed young people of 16 to 20 years are eager recruits to the Sandinist Army, especially around the capital Managua where 25% of the people are squeezing a living. Along with the peasants and unemployed, soldiers of the National Guard have been won over to the Sandinists by careful political work in the Army.

In January this year, a popular figure of the Broad Front was assassinated by General Somoza. Pedro Chamorro was a newspaper owner much liked by the petty-bourgeoisie and very prestigious in the opposition. His death provoked a crisis in Nicaragua. Following the Sandinists commando action in August, the Broad Front called on the Chamber of Commerce to declare a general strike. Then, the Church also declared its distance from Somoza.

**'I WON'T SELL OUT  
AND I WON'T SURRENDER'**

**Augusto César Sandino**

The Sandinist Liberation Front is named after Cesar Sandino, a revolutionary hero of Nicaragua who fought against the American occupation of Nicaragua and who was killed in battle with General Somoza's troops. This was during an earlier phase of the peoples' struggle. In 1972, after an earthquake which killed 6,000 people, there was turmoil in the country. "Tachito" Somoza took the opportunity to seize total control. He carried on the tradition of his father who had himself been installed by the Americans in a coup d'etat in 1936. The Sandinists were born of this new phase of struggle. Today they are a popular guerilla Army dedicated to the overthrow of the Somoza family which is backed by U.S. multinationals, the landowners and the U.S. Army. The Sandinists are fighting for "a popular democratic government" with "real national liberation" and "a break in all links of dependency with all capitalist powers".

Opposition to the Somoza regime is very wide. Besides the Sandinist Liberation Front, there is also the Broad Opposition Front. This includes the pro-Soviet Nicaraguan Socialist Party and the Christian Democratic Party of industrialists and businessmen.



AUGUSTO CESAR SANDINO

While the Broad Front has good relations with the Sandinists, they in fact hope to get rid of and replace Somoza without them.

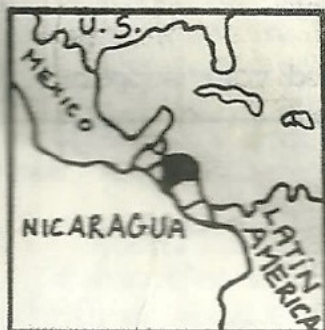
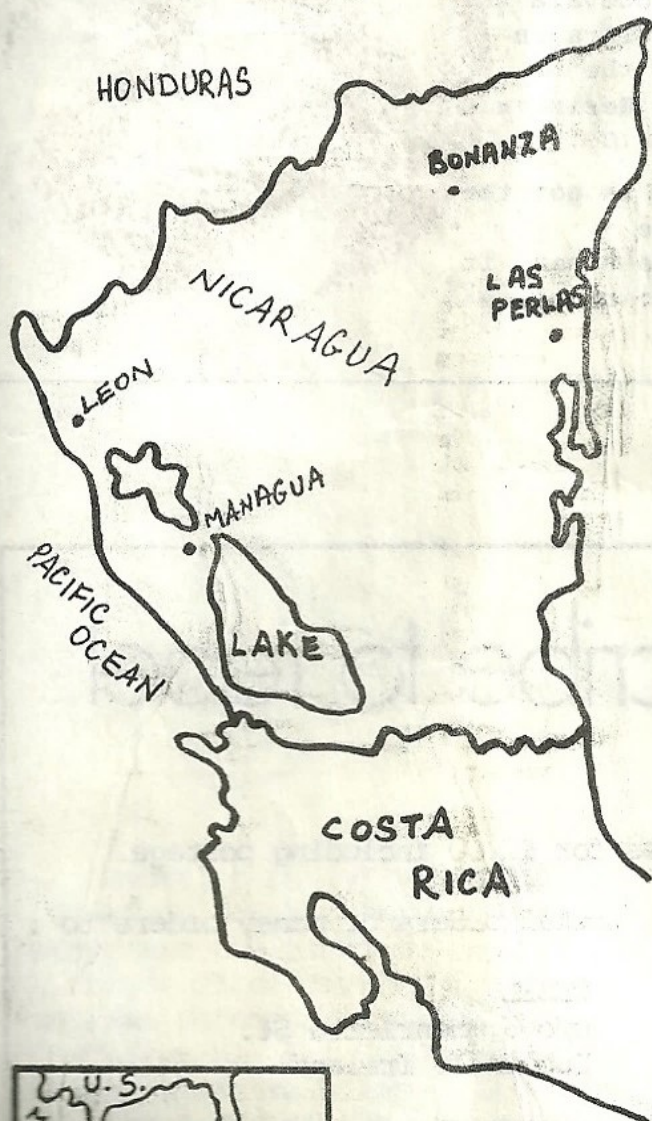
Very influential in the situation is the 'Group of Twelve'. These are intellectuals who are part of the Broad Front but also support the Sandinist Liberation Army.

There followed fierce repression: 1,000 arrests, many deaths and especially 600 peasants from the North, suspected of being Sandinist sympathizers, who have 'disappeared'. Increasingly isolated, General Somoza's dictatorship turned to its Army and proceeded to bomb the communities of its capital Managua, killing citizens, killing Red Cross volunteers, journalists and hundreds of children. U.S. bomber aircraft and U.S. troops also intervened 'discreetly' alongside the Armies of neighbouring Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala.

Once more the United States has intervened on the side of the tyrants and dictators. Once more a peoples attempt to control their country has been massacred.

The Sandinista Liberation Army has pledged itself to continue its armed struggle. Somoza's problems are just beginning.

As for the Free State they know well what side they are on; they have begun 'advising' the Central Bank of Nicaragua on how to set up a tax-free industrial zone like Shannon to get more foreign capital into Nicaragua.







## Why A Newspaper?

Many reasons - let's start with those which seemed the most important to us :

Revolutionary Struggle has been active for about 3 years now in the 32 Cos. Years full of activity, lessons learnt from a few precious victories but also many defeats. 36 months have passed. RS which started with a tiny handful of people has developed to the bare bones of a national organisation.

And we need a national paper. An agitational paper which analyses events and studies the world we live in so that we can change it.

A paper with information and news FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF THE PEOPLE. Not a radical version of Hibernia. A paper useful to working people which spreads the lessons of

struggles so that they can be used elsewhere. A paper which lays bare the plans of the bourgeoisie so that we can be prepared.

A paper also full of news of struggles in other countries. News which the TV and the capitalist press don't carry - and for good reason.

A paper, finally, which will be used by the militants of RS, where we work and live, to explain the politics of the organisation, cement the existing activity, spread the work, open up new contacts.

A paper which took 3 years to prepare. A paper which will move all our forces forward - to better and greater things. To revolution.

But why wait for 3 years ? Why didn't we start a paper straight away - like all the other Left groups ?

Reason one : we were a tiny group of people with no resources, little activity and no base. At the same time there were around 15 papers of the Left, from weeklies to monthlies to irregulars. 3 years later, while RS grew and developed, while we fought all the attempts to marginalise us and criminalise us,

to deny our existence, to keep the bitterness out when they called you names, the others all those 'leaders of the working class' went from bad to worse. If you don't count An Phoblacht whose politics are becoming more and more 'respectable' every passing issue and the 'Irish People' whose preoccupations we do not share, there is no other regular paper of the Left which provides news and information.

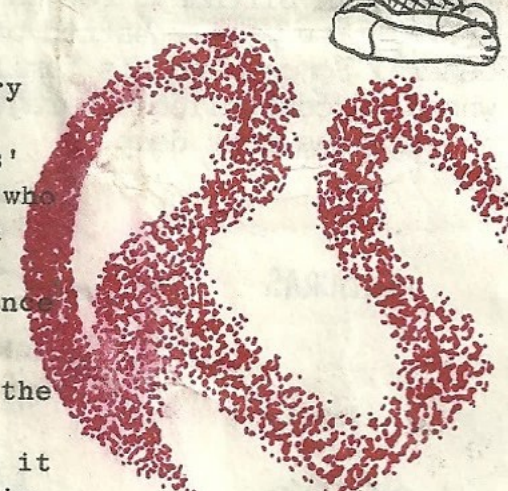
Reason two : Our ambitions have grown since the beginning. We are firmly convinced today that a revolutionary communist organisation on a 32 Cos basis can be built. And a paper will be an invaluable tool to that end.

Reason three : The number of people active in different areas like the Womens Movement, the Anti-Nuclear Movement, different cultural collectives and in the Trade Unions as well as schools and Universities has grown. 90% of those comrades don't belong to political organisations. And they need their voice to be heard. "Rebel" will try and we think can become their paper too. A Movement paper as well as the paper of Revolutionary Struggle. A paper that can be trusted to tell the truth - a paper you can believe in.

## Why Rebel?

There can be no revolution without rebellion. Irish history is a long series of rebellions and uncompromising rebels like James Connolly. All over the world, rebels have led the peoples' first resistances to their oppression. Rebels like Che Guevara who named his first paper in the mountains of the Sierra Maestra in Cuba : El Rebelde - The Rebel. A name later followed by the Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR) in Chile whose Resistance paper for the last ten years has also been named El Rebelde.

So our paper is for rebels and for rebellion - for is not the first awakening of consciousness a rebellion against the existing order of affairs ? Rebellion is personal, it is human, it is passionate. It is a political statement in action. To rebel is right and just. Always.



How you can get involved in REBEL :

★ Take 5 copies for you and your friends. ADVERTISE your local anti-nuclear meetings, womens' groups, discussions through REBEL.

★ Counterinformation. REBEL is publishing in this issue and will continue to publish counterinformation on the State and the ruling class. Confidentiality of sources will be strictly preserved.

★ WRITE for REBEL. Use it for your local disputes and strikes. Have your strike leaflet or report published. Ask for an interviewer to come and talk to your picket. Send articles, news items, photos, cartoons, suggestions & comments to REBEL.

If you like REBEL and you want to know more about Revolutionary Struggle - write to us :

M. McBride. c/o 5, Henrietta St. Dublin I.  
R. Sullivan. c/o 40, Paul St. Cork.  
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