

FREEDOM FOR IRELAND



CLASS STRUGGLE AND... NATIONAL LIBERATION

Wednesday 17th September: Belfast.

Raymond Mooney was shot four times in the back by three loyalist gunmen as he left Holy Cross Church Hall. His companion was tied up with her own tights and forced to watch the cold-blooded murder.

Earlier that same day, Joseph Webb was gunned down by two men who fired repeatedly into his body from point blank range.

Their Crimes? They were both Catholics.

The murders of Raymond Mooney and Joseph Webb are just two events in another month of indiscriminate sectarian attacks by Loyalists. They stand out from a catalogue of petrol bombings, threats, attacks, intimidation and discrimination.

BACKLASH?

The Bourgeois press uniformly talk of a protestant backlash against the Anglo-Irish deal. The reality is very different.

Yes, the Unionists do see the Anglo-Irish Agreement as weakening their relationship with British imperialism. But their actions are not new. The Orange state was built on anti-Catholic pogroms, murder, sectarianism and discrimination. Orange supremacy lies at the heart of the creation of the six-county statelet. Loyalist murders today are merely the latest of a long line of such campaigns. As 'Class Struggle' demonstrated last month, Orange sectarianism and murder are not a reaction to the national struggle. They are the cause of it. The national struggle is far from being the creator of the present conflict. It is the solution, the only possible solution, to it.

NATIONAL STRUGGLE - A FORM OF CLASS STRUGGLE

which brings us to the point of this article. There are none so blind as those who do not wish to see. Most of the British 'left' still consider the national struggle to be a diversion to the class struggle.

In their wisdom, they cry out for Protestant and Catholic workers to unite and fight for socialism, putting aside "national" questions. The problem they do not wish to face up to is that the majority of the Orange working class sees absolutely nothing for them in it. They are quite happy to sit on the backs of Catholics and feed on the crumbs of benefit that such discrimination brings. They believe that their interests lie in siding with British imperialism and gaining the benefits of jobs and housing that the Orange state offers them.

TELL IT TO THE LOYALISTS

If there is to be any unity between Protestant and Catholic workers, that can only be on the basis of Protestant workers denouncing discrimination and sectarianism, and this necessarily means renouncing the Orange state. The 'left' should stop preaching to the Republicans who are fighting against a real oppression. If they really believe what they are saying they should try going to the working class Loyalist clubs and preaching to those who have sided with the oppressor. They will not go because they know that their answer will be short and violent.

It is the Republican Movement that proclaims the objective of socialism and social equality. It is the Republican Movement that puts forward class issues in the community. And it is the Republican Movement:



Larkin leader Jim Larkin

ABOVE: The proclamation of the Provisional Government of the Irish Republic in 1916. "We proclaim the right of the people of Ireland to the ownership of Ireland", it declares.

LEFT: Jim Larkin - Workers' leader, founding member of the Irish Transport and General Workers Union, socialist and nationalist.

that has rallied support among the most oppressed in the working class. The Loyalist-dominated movements are uniformly reactionary.

The message here is not new. Those who have fought for socialism in countries oppressed by imperialism have long recognised the need for progress by stages. Socialism cannot be built in any nation as long as it is under imperialist domination. It has proved necessary therefore to build an alliance of all classes and social strata who oppose imperialism. There is indeed a necessity to "Unite all who can be united", as Mao said. This is the character of the national struggle. But within the national struggle, the working class movement struggles to win the leadership by being the most resolute and the best organised, by taking up the struggles which benefit the most

oppressed, and by giving a vision of a new society to replace imperialist exploitation.

James Connolly pointed out 70 years ago that it would not be enough to win formal independence - that without taking the banks and industry into social ownership Ireland would remain dominated by imperialism through its economic power - which in the end, means political power.

The national struggle is, therefore, not only the first stage in the revolution, it is the necessary springboard to socialism.

The 'left' who call for socialism without nationalism in the context of an oppressed nation not only throw out the national struggle, but inevitably sabotage the class struggle. They end up doomed to isolation and defeat. Those who still cannot



The Republican Movement campaigns on all economic and social issues that effect the working class. Their advice centres in working class areas have broad community support and have contributed to the political strength of Sinn Fein. The above photograph shows a demonstration against drugs in the south. The Republican movement has been active in the campaign which has also confronted state opposition.

fathom this would do well to look at the history of the Stickies - the 'Workers' Party. They followed the slippery road. They ended up in the swamp of opportunism and collaboration.

Predictably though, their call for 'broad unity' for socialism led only to isolation and a dwindling band of supporters in the cauldron of the north of Ireland.

The killer of Sean Downes walked free on wed. 24 Sept. when he was found not guilty on an unlawful killing charge. It seems the court believed that its OK to kill nationalists if the RUC believes that an officer may otherwise be injured. Reserve Constable Nigel Heggarty is not even to face internal disciplinary action. He is now back on duty - but for how long?

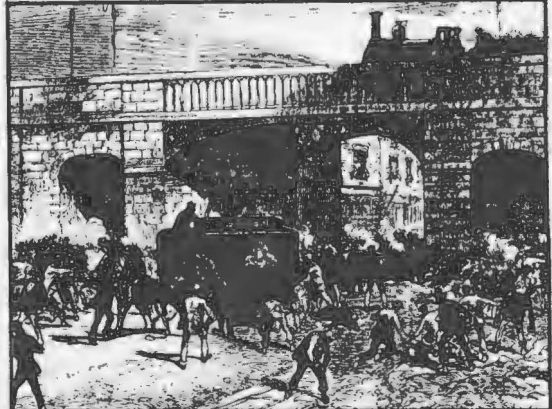
a bit difficult to find excuses for off-duty soldiers murdering catholics at random.

Mark Trotter a RUC soldier and UDR man, Robert Kenny were not so lucky. They were gaoled for life on Sept. 26 for murdering Edward Love. It was obviously

Back in Britain, Manchester business man and Stalker associate Kevin Taylor is taking Police Chief Anderton to court. Apparently he wants an investigation into the one against him. Meanwhile Samson's report on Stalker is running into more problems - several people named in the report have denied statements attributed to them. And we though he had done such a good job.

REMEMBER MANCHESTER MARTYRS

In November 1867, William Phillip, Michael Larkin and Michael O'Brien were executed and their bodies buried in Strangeways Prison. Their legal murders arose after two Fenian leaders were freed from a black maria taking them to prison. A group of Irishmen ambushed the black maria. As the lock was shot off, a police sergeant was accidentally killed by the ricochet. The three martyrs captured afterwards were found guilty of murder despite the fact that there was no evidence that any of them had fired the shot.



REMEMBER THE MANCHESTER MARTYRS!

Demonstrate in Manchester, Sunday 23rd November, 1986.