

workers republic



JOURNAL OF THE LEAGUE FOR A WORKERS REPUBLIC

No 84

SPECIAL ISSUE

10 P



**BRITISH AMBASSADOR
OUT!**

BRITAIN' COLD-BLOODED MURDER

The British government has cold-bloodedly murdered Bobby Sands. The British government intransigently refused to concede the just demands of Bobby Sands, for which he fasted to his death. It refused, despite the democratically-expressed wishes of the people of Fermanagh-South Tyrone, who voted for Bobby Sands and for his demands. It refused despite the tens of thousands of appeals from members of the labour and democratic movement world-wide.

CHARLIE HAUGHEY IS ALSO RESPONSIBLE!

Charlie Haughey refused to publicly demand Britain concede. He refused to meet the elected councillors of Fermanagh/South Tyrone. He refused to meet the National H-Block Committee. He refused to meet a delegation of leading trade unionists who supported the prisoners' demands. Despite last-minute appeals from Bobby Sands on his death-bed, from the family of Bobby Sands, Haughey refused to act.

Bobby Sands' sister appealed for Haughey to throw out the British ambassador. She appealed to him to withdraw the troops from the Border. He refused. Bobby Sands said "Charlie Haughey ... has the means to put pressure on Britain to end the H-Block/Armagh crises and has consistently refused to do so." Bobby Sands was right.

Haughey stands exposed before the Irish people. There is only one thing now for him to do - Throw out the ambassador! Break off all relations with Britain! Close the Embassy! Withdraw the troops from the Border! End the talks!

BRITISH AMBASSADOR OUT!

But Haughey has already shown he supports British policy. We cannot wait for him to act. We must act ourselves.

Thatcher has shown her contempt for the Irish people. She has shown her contempt for the people of Fermanagh/South Tyrone. She has shown her contempt for the wishes of the whole Irish people. She has murdered Bobby Sands, representative of the will of the Irish people.

Her representative is no longer welcome on Irish soil. While Thatcher starves political prisoners to death in H-Block, her ambassador cannot be made welcome in Ireland.

Show Thatcher's ambassador the will of the Irish people! Throw him out! All out to the Embassy! Break off all relations with Britain!

SAVE THE OTHER HUNGER STRIKERS! MAKE BRITAIN CONCEDE! WIDESPREAD INDUSTRIAL ACTION!

Thatcher has said she will never concede political status. British Labour leader Foot has supported her. Meanwhile, Bobby Sands' comrades lie dying in H-Block.

BRITAIN IS GUILTY OF C THROW HER AN HAUGHEY REFUSED TO HE MUST THROW THE SAVE THE OTHERS! M GENERAL

Thatcher must be made to concede! She can be made to concede. In 1972, when Britain murdered 14 people in Derry the Irish people took to the streets to show their response. There was a general strike throughout the 32 counties. The Irish people burned the British Embassy to the ground.

Britain conceded then. Stormont was abolished. After mass action by the Irish people internment came to an end and political status was conceded.

We can force Britain to concede to concede again! All out to the British embassy! Force Thatcher to concede! Save the other hunger strikers!

A GENERAL STRIKE TO SAVE THE OTHER HUNGER STRIKERS

Already before the death of Bobby Sands the workers of Dundaik closed the town. The workers of Tralee, of Derry, of West Belfast, did likewise.

As soon as Bobby Sands died the representatives of the workers of Drogheda, of Waterford, of many other towns, voted to close their town, to strike against British policy in Ireland. They have appealed for our support. We cannot let them down.

All out against British policy. Now is the time for continuous stoppages, for strikes and demonstrations, for a general strike to force Thatcher to concede and to save the other hunger strikers.

UNION LEADERS - MAKE THE INDUSTRIAL ACTION OFFICIAL

In 1972 the Dublin Trades Council called a general strike against the Derry massacre. During this hunger strike a number of trade union leaders have supported the demands of the prisoners "in a personal capacity."

This is not enough! The hunger strikers are fighting against discrimination, against poverty, against Partition. They are fighting for Irish unity. They are fighting for the policies of the founders of the Irish labour movement.

Britain is deliberately murdering them. And our leaders refuse to act. They must act! They must call official industrial action in support of the prisoners' demands, to force Britain to concede.

OLD-BLOODED MURDER- BASSADOR OUT! CT- HE IS ALSO GUILTY AMBASSADOR OUT! KE BRITAIN CONCEDE! STRIKE!

They must call a general strike to make Britain concede their demands. They must represent the will of their members, the will of the workers of Belfast and Derry, of Dublin, Drogheda, Dundalk, Waterford, Tralee and all the other centres who have already come out. There can be no place in the Irish labour movement, in the movement founded by Connolly, for those who now stand by Britain's murderous policy. Only those union leaders who support the action of the workers against Britain have any place in the labour movement.

Telegrams, delegations, lobbies, to the trade union leaders to make them call a general strike!

JOIN THE STRUGGLE OF THE LWR

The fight for political status, Britain's murder of Bobby Sands, has shown yet again that Britain can no longer be permitted to rule in Ireland. It has shown that Britain will murder to maintain that rule.

It has also shown that all Free State politicians defend British rule. Haughey refused to defend Bobby Sands. He still talks with the murderers of Bobby Sands, elected representative of the people of Fermanagh/South Tyrone. Leinster House politicians can no longer claim to represent the Irish people.

The LWR fights for political status. We fight for the immediate and total withdrawal of British troops from Ireland and for Irish unity. We fight against Leinster House and its politicians, who are responsible for poverty and deprivation in the 26 counties. We fight for a 32 county national assembly of the whole Irish people and for a workers' republic, part of a United Socialist States of Europe.

The LWR fights against the enemies of the prisoners in the Irish workers' movement and for a workers' conference for Irish unity, to put the politics of Connolly, the fight for Irish unity, back at the heart of the labour movement.

Join the struggle of the LWR!

LWR Replies to PD

The recent issue (Vol 4 No. 3) of "Socialist Republic", the paper of People's Democracy, contains an attack on the LWR under the title "An Infantile Disorder". While we welcome all initiatives from PD towards opening a discussion, this article unfortunately does not attempt to do so, being no more than a collection of snide - and quite untrue - remarks.

The fact that not a single quotation from any of our publications was used to substantiate the allegations contained in the article reveals the fact that they are utterly without foundation. A few of the allegations (that we "describe the Provos" as 'nationalist provocateurs' who should be run out of the labour movement", for example) are even put in quotation marks. But no reference to publication or date is given. This for a simple reason - this, and the other "quotations" do not exist. Nor do the other alleged "claims" of the LWR.

We leave it to those who read our publications, to those in the North, in Dublin, Sligo, Dundalk, Drogheda and Waterford involved with us in the H-Block campaign, to judge our politics for themselves on the basis of the facts.

The LWR, unlike the PD, has never hesitated to admit its mistakes. But we admit our real mistakes, not those imagined by PD. Deliberate misrepresentation is no way to conduct a debate. However, we remain ready to have one. We will publish any contribution from PD to a debate if they offer the same facilities to us.

In the meantime, a few remarks on one of the major differences we have with PD - that of electoral strategy. In the same issue of "Socialist Republic" a number of articles are devoted to justifying participation in, not only local elections, but in both Westminster and Leinster House elections. It is implied that PD would take seats in these bodies if elected.

Undoubtedly members of PD see this position as offering a political way forward for the struggle of the masses. But is this the way forward for the revolutionary mass movement in Ireland? The LWR does not think so. We are opposed to participation in Leinster House or Westminster.

How this opposition is expressed tactically is currently under discussion in the LWR. We will publish contributions to this discussion, from members of the LWR and others, in the pages of "Workers' Republic". To open the discussion, we publish the contribution below from a member of the LWR.

CONTACT THE LWR

I want to know more about the LWR

Name

Address

.....

.....

Send to: League for a Workers' Republic,
13. Lower Camden St., Dublin 2

Electoral Strategy:

Against Participation in Leinster House

Let us leave aside for the moment local elections, which are quite secondary to the overall political struggle. What is basically involved in elections in Ireland are two institutions (now that Stormont is gone) - Westminster and Leinster House. Most countries of Western Europe have achieved their national unity and independence, and have parliaments based on full adult suffrage through which the people attempt to change their government. This is not the place to discuss the success or failure of such attempts.

But in Ireland the fight for national unity and independence was aborted. The first and only parliament of the whole Irish people, the First Dail, was abolished. In its stead an abortion of a parliament was imposed by the combined forces of Irish capitalism and British imperialism, who murdered all who stood in their way. In this way the working people of Ireland were deprived of an arena through which they could fight for their own government.

Leinster House is, and always was, a denial of the unity of the Irish people, an obstacle to that unity. Anyone who ever entered it did so on the basis of turning their back on the fight for Irish unity. In 1922 the Irish Trade Union Congress and Labour Party betrayed the policies of their founder and paved the way for all their subsequent treachery by voting to participate in Leinster House. Successive generations of traitors, from de Valera to Official Sinn Fein, have travelled down that road.

The people of the Six Counties are offered the opportunity to elect members of the Westminster Parliament. They are allowed to elect MP's who must take an oath of loyalty to the British monarch, who may then vote on how Britain is governed, and on her policy in ruling Ireland.

The British parliament is no place for an Irish revolutionary! The representatives of the Irish people should have no part in deciding how Britain rules Ireland. While Marxists in the past have justified participation in "reactionary parliaments" this has been in a situation in which no other means of struggle was open to the working masses. This is not the case in Ireland today.

The only democratic answer to British rule in Ireland today, to Partition, is a 32-county national assembly of the whole Irish people, sovereign and fully independent, with a government answerable only to it.

This does not mean that Westminster and Free State elections can never be used to fight for a National (Constituent) Assembly. Such elections were used before (in 1918). The Republican movement

has often fought - and won - elections on an abstentionist ticket, the most recent and most effective being Fermanagh/South Tyrone.

The answer to Haughey and the SDLP who claim to represent the Irish people in Leinster House and Westminster is clear. That claim must be challenged. But so must the claim of Westminster and Leinster House to represent the Irish people at all.

Elections can be used to this end. Bobby Sands proved it. All opponents of Partition, all anti-imperialists, can fight in Free State and Westminster House elections for a National (Constituent) Assembly. They can do this only on the basis that they will not take seats in Leinster House or Westminster, but they will take them in a 32-county National Assembly. In this way the Irish people will have the opportunity to show their attitude to Haughey, to Hume and their ilk. And they will also have the opportunity to show their attitude to the institutions which defend the Partition of Ireland - Westminster and Leinster House. That is the only alternative to the Free State and Partition.

Activists in the H-Block campaign have said, "If Bobby Sands dies Fianna Fail will never see power again." But how are we to achieve this? By seeking to elect a pro-prisoner majority in Leinster House? The idea is absurd.

There are many aspects to the fight for Irish unity and against Partition. Part of that struggle is the war against the occupying forces of British imperialism. That war, supported as it is by the most oppressed section of the Irish working class, is in itself an important part of the destabilisation of the political institutions in Ireland as a whole and in furthering the crisis of Fianna Fail and the SDLP, and we unequivocally support it.

But it is by no means the only way to wage the struggle against Partition. Both mass action and political action are equally important parts of the overall struggle. Part of the latter must be ensuring that "Fianna Fail never see power again."

No, we can destroy the mandate of Fianna Fail and Leinster House by opposing both on a national plane. This can be done by standing candidates in all constituencies who oppose them, who oppose Partition, who fight for Irish unity, candidates committed to a 32-county National Assembly. If we elected a majority in favour of a 32 county assembly we would do away with Fianna Fail and Leinster House. Through such a fight we can ensure that Fianna Fail never does see power again.

MARTIN CONNOR