

# THE WORKER

## DUBLIN SUPPLEMENT

SUPPORT THE HUNGER STRIKERS AND JOIN THE  
FIGHT FOR POLITICAL STATUS

### CIVILS ARE NOT ENOUGH

The scandalous offer of civilian clothes - issued by the prison authorities - shows the contempt the Brits have of both the prisoners in the H Blocks and Armagh and also of the entire anti-imperialist movement which has been fighting for political status for the last four years. The prisoners have rightly rejected this contemptuous offer which amounts to nothing more than a change in uniform. So now the die is well and truly cast. The prisoners have stated that they are fighting for full political status and that they will not be fobbed off with any minor and meaningless concessions. They are right. The Brits have shown no sign of compromise and neither should we. Sympathetic church leaders and so-called liberals who are ready to throw in the towel at the slightest nod from the British authorities are doing a grave disservice to the anti-imperialist movement. This is a political fight for political status - a fight to the finish.

### WHAT'S AT STAKE

Of immediate concern, of course, is the lives of those prisoners who are willing to fight to the death. But it is not only the prisoners who will suffer if this struggle is lost. If the Brits are able to smash the demand for political status, it will be a serious defeat for all anti-imperialists - North and South. In the north, it will open the way for Thatcher to push thru some form of Loyalist-controlled Stormont. It will mean more killings by the RUC, more raids by the SAS, more sectarian attacks on the anti-unionist communities and more men and women spending their lives in prison.

But this is not a fight for our brothers and sisters in the North alone - it is our fight too. No worker, no socialist or republican can "stand idly by" in the South. A defeat of the H Block and Armagh prisoners will set back the cause of a United Socialist Ireland by decades. The powerful reactionary and pro-imperialist forces in the South will gain immeasurably in confidence paving the way not just for increased repression of republicans and socialists but direct attacks on workers living standards, trade union organisation, women's rights etc. right across the board.

### BUT WE CAN WIN

The prisoners have embarked on their hunger strike as a "last resort". But the end is not inevitable. On their own the prisoners cannot win - the Brits have amply demonstrated that they don't care how many die. Nor can bishops or other "important" people save them by begging for a "justice" that the Brits wouldn't recognise if they fell over it. No, we can win, but the only way to do it is by re-building a mass united anti-imperialist move-

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ment. A movement that is willing, North and South, to take whatever action is necessary to show the Brits - and their stooges in Belfast and Dublin - that if political status is not granted and prisoners are allowed to die, then all hell will break loose.

But it is ACTION that is the key word. The time for relying on resolutions, petitioning and the polite lobbying of the gatherings of famous people has long gone. It is on the streets and, crucially, in the factories, offices and schools that the real power lies - and that's where the fight must take place. One strike by a group of workers is worth a hundred platitudes from bishops or professional politicians.

#### WHAT YOU CAN DO

None of this will happen spontaneously. The anti-imperialist movement is not what it was after years of taking a back seat to the armed struggle, workers will be inundated with pro-imperialist propaganda. It is up to socialists and republicans to get out and organise like they've never done before. Members of the Socialist Workers Movement in Belfast, Dublin, Waterford and Cork are fully committed to this task. We ask all Worker readers and supporters to join us in the following activities:-

#### NATIONAL N BLOCK CTEE. INITIATIVES

The following events are planned for Dublin in the coming weeks:-

RALLY	MANSHION HOUSE	TUESDAY	OCT. 28th.	3pm.
MARCH	PARNELL SQ. TO LEINSTER HOUSE	SATURDAY	NOV. 22nd.	
MARCH	STEPHENS GR. TO BRIT. EMBASSY	SATURDAY	DEC. 6th.	

#### LOCAL N BLOCK COMMITTEES

There are many local committees in the Dublin area, if there isn't in yours why not start one. (Details and help from the N Block Center, 29 Mountjoy Sq. Tel: 747200 or direct from SWM). Many direct action activities can be organised locally - leafletting and meetings in shopping centers, visits to local factories asking for support, pickets on any prominent British establishments etc. Such activity will help build up support for larger-scale local marches and demos. And, let's be honest, the fact that these may "disrupt" normal life should be no drawback.

#### WORKPLACE ACTIVITY

The key to a successful fight, however, lies on the shopfloor. "Disrupting" production in a capitalist society is far more of a threat to any ruling class than "disrupting" shoppers. Work stoppages in solidarity with the hunger strikers will not though happen at the drop of a hat. Socialists and militant trade unionists will have to work for them - and they will have to begin now. Organise a meeting during the lunch break to discuss the situation, get a petition or resolution around the shopfloor or offices, work to get as many shop stewards as possible involved but don't wait on the "official machinery" - you could wait forever, arrange a delegation down to the union to ask what action they intend (as opposed to mere resolution-passing). Thru these methods we can build towards direct action - and it is workers direct action that will ensure victory to the Blanketmen and defeat for the Brits.