

Form No. 1 (Rev. 7/74)

METROPOLITAN POLICE

S. D. S.

(5007)

Special Report

SPECIAL BRANCH

10th December 74
day of 1974

SUBJECT

Attached herewith are copies of the press statement issued by the London Co-ordinating Committee of the Troops Out Movement concerning the recent bombings in Birmingham.

Reference to Papers
450/74/182

Chief Inspector

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CHIEF SUPERVISOR

To [redacted]
10 DEC 1974
P.A. in [redacted]

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TROOPS OUT MOVEMENT

Press statement about the tragedy in Birmingham issued by the London officers on the National Committee of the Troops Out Movement:

The loss of twenty lives and the terrible injuries which resulted from the bomb explosions in Birmingham on Thursday evening are an appalling tragedy. They are one more disaster in the long chain of suffering and misery which has resulted from Britain's involvement in Irish affairs.

The tragedy makes us even more determined to continue in our efforts to build a massive campaign in Britain urging the government to immediately withdraw the Army from Ireland and to grant self-determination to the whole Irish People.

The war which has resulted from Britain's long presence in Ireland is becoming increasingly bloody. Tragedy follows tragedy. Since 1969 when the Army was sent in force to the 6 Counties, more than eleven hundred people have suffered violent deaths. In the past fortnight alone, thirty-five people have been killed in sectarian murders. People living in the south of Ireland have suffered too - twenty nine people were killed in the "Loyalist" car bomb explosions in May this year.

Particularly at this time, we should not forget that the British Army stands accused of the murder of innocent unarmed civilians in the north of Ireland, notably the murder of fourteen peaceful civil rights demonstrators in Derry on January 30th 1972.

We share the revulsion and horror at all this death and suffering which has resulted from the present conflicts. But we condemn the attempts of some politicians and political organisations to use these genuine feelings to make political capital, and to whip up anti-Irish and anti-democratic sentiments in Britain.

In particular we totally condemn the hypocritical statements of the National Front. It was Lindsay Mason, National Front organiser in Belfast, who said of the bombings in the south of Ireland on May 17th: "I'm laughing about the Dublin bombs". And William Craig, interviewed on Irish Radio on 12 May, said that the Loyalist assassination campaign in Belfast, although "unfortunate" was "understandable" and "excusable".

It is these same people who, together with right wing politicians in both Conservative and Labour parties, are now campaigning for the re-introduction of hanging and other repressive legislation. It is these people, and their political organisations, who stand to gain the most from the Birmingham tragedy.

We condemn unreservedly the repressive legislation which the Home Secretary has announced. Increasing repression - sweeping powers of arrest and detention - has solved nothing in Ireland. It will solve nothing in Britain. We warn workers in Britain that these measures will surely be used against them in the coming months, as they attempt to fend off the cuts in their standard of living. As we have long said, N. Ireland standards of justice are being imported into Britain.

The ultimate responsibility for the tragedy in Birmingham, and for all the death and suffering in the present conflict, lies with successive British governments which have deliberately withheld from the Irish People that fundamental civil right - the right to national self-determination. The only solution which will bring peace is for Britain to withdraw immediately from Ireland.

We urge the British Labour Movement, in particular, to take up this campaign as an urgent priority.