

METROPOLITAN POLICE

SPECIAL BRANCH

Special Report

16th day of March 19 82

SUBJECT

1. The following information has been received from a secret and reliable source:-

2. "In January 1982, the Steering Committee of the Troops Out Movement (TOM) decided it was necessary to organise a large event to draw attention to their organisation and place it in the forefront of the Irish Solidarity Movement in Great Britain.

3. After much discussion it was decided that a National Demonstration should be organised in London on 8th May 1982 marking the first anniversary of the death of Bobby SANDS.

4. The Steering Committee, although wishing to retain control of organising the demonstration, realised that if they were to attract the support of other anti-Imperialist Groups they would need to form a committee and invite other organisations to participate. Therefore, it was decided to call the Committee 'The May 8 Demonstration Organising Committee'. This Committee now comprises a number of people from the Troops Out Movement, Sinn Fein, Irish Republican Socialist Party, Labour Committee on Ireland, Indian Workers Association and Veterans Against the War.

5. To date, a number of prominent sponsors in support of the demonstration have been recruited (see attached leaflets). Owen CARRON, MP, has agreed to be one of the speakers at the rally which will be held after the march. It is hoped to hold an anti-Imperialist Cultural Evening after the demonstration (venue as yet not known).

6. Robert JONES, who is shown as the Secretary of the Committee on all literature being sent out, is an alias used by [redacted] and [redacted], both members of the TOM Steering Committee.

Reference to Papers

May 8th Demonstration Organising Committee

TO [redacted] 19 MAR 1982 P.A. IN

Pa [Redacted]

7. The members of the Troops Out Movement who are known to sit on the Committee are [Redacted] Privacy [Redacted] Privacy is believed to be one of the Sinn Fein representatives."

8. References:-

Owen CARRON Member of Parliament  
Robert JONES No trace

[Redacted] Privacy

Troops Out Movement 400/82/17  
Sinn Fein 335/80/204  
Irish Republican Socialist Party 400/79/71  
Labour Committee on Ireland 400/80/41  
Indian Workers Association 400/76/196  
Veterans Against the War Mention

1

Nigel D. Short

CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT

[Redacted]

# May 8th Demonstration Organising Committee

25/1/82

c/o Robert Jones  
Box 353,  
London NW5 4NH

Telephone 01 267 2004 (24 hrs)

Dear Friend(s),

The May 8th Demonstration Organising Committee has initiated a call for a national demonstration and anti-imperialist festival, to take place on May 8th, in London.

The purpose of this demonstration will be to commemorate the deaths of the 10 Irish hunger strikers, and to call for 'BRITAIN OUT OF IRELAND' and 'SELF DETERMINATION FOR THE IRISH PEOPLE'.

The hunger strikes of last year caused a crisis in Britain's rule of the six north eastern counties of Ireland. Once again, it was shown that there can be no peace in Ireland until Britain disengages, and that only a united Ireland can provide a long term solution to the present conflict.

The fight of the Irish people to determine their own future is shared by those struggling for liberation in Namibia, El Salvador, Eritrea, South Africa and other oppressed countries. We seek to make the links between these struggles and Ireland more obvious to the British people.

The demonstration is being organised by those who believe that Britain should withdraw from Ireland and allow the Irish people as a whole to determine their own future (including the Labour Committee on Ireland, The Indian Workers Association, and the Troops Out Movement).

We urge you to support this demonstration and to complete the sponsorship form below.

Yours sincerely,

Robert Jones (on behalf of the May 8th Organising Committee)

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NAME/ORGANISATION.....

ADDRESS.....  
.....

I/We wish to sponsor the demonstration and will be sending a banner

I/We enclose a donation of.....

I/We would like to be kept informed of progress of the campaign

SIGNATURE.....



# May 8th Demonstration Organising Committee



## BRITAIN OUT OF IRELAND SELF DETERMINATION FOR THE IRISH PEOPLE

c/o Robert Jones, Box 353, London NW5 4NH

### INITIAL SPONSORS FOR THE MAY 8th DEMONSTRATION:

Owen Carron MP, the Labour Committee on Ireland, Dafydd Elis Thomas MP, Dafydd Wigley MP  
The Indian Workers' Association, GLC Councillors Steve Bundred, Valerie Wise and Andy Harris,  
For ~~the~~ Troops Out Movement, the Armagh Women's Group, Barnes & Richmond CLP, Wallesey YS

### NATIONAL DEMONSTRATION ON 8 MAY: BRITAIN OUT OF IRELAND!

A national demonstration marking the first anniversary of the death of Bobby Sands MP will be held in London on Saturday 8 May. Owen Carron will be among the speakers at the rally that will be held afterwards.

The demonstration, which is being organised by the May 8th Demonstration Organising Committee, will commemorate the deaths of the 10 hunger strikers in 1981. It will call for British withdrawal from Ireland and self-determination for the Irish people. It is being called on 8 May because this is the closest Saturday to 5 May, the date on which Bobby Sands MP died.

Sponsors of the demonstration so far include Dafydd Wigley MP (Plaid Cymru, Arfon), Dafydd Ellis Thomas MP (Plaid Cymru, Merioneth), Owen Carron MP (anti-H Flock and Armagh, Fermanagh-South Tyrone), Valerie Wise (GLC councillor), Steve Bundred (GLC councillor), Andy Harris (GLC councillor), Mick Martin (Chairperson, Hammersmith Trades Council), Labour Committee on Ireland, Indian Workers Association, Troops Out Movement, Veterans Against the War (ex-British soldiers who served in Northern Ireland), Barnes and Richmond CLP, Tunbridge Wells CIP, Wallesey Labour Party Young Socialists, London College of Printing Students Union, Sinn Fein, Irish Republican Socialist Party, Black United Front (USA), Rev Daniel Berrigan (an active campaigner for human rights), Rev Kirkpatrick (holder of the Martin Luther junior peace prize), Paul Dwyer (New York State District Attorney), Frank Derbin (Chairperson, American Irish

United States Cultural Foundation (USA)



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In 1968, world attention was focussed on a part of the UK where there was no such thing as "one man, one vote" as gerrymandering excluded one third of the population from political life, equal opportunities and decent housing; in a state that was maintained by paramilitary police, an armed special constabulary and by permanent emergency legislation. For in 1968 the nationalist/catholic population went onto the streets to demand their rights and were opposed with extreme violence by the police and loyalist forces that supported the status quo in Northern Ireland. Trouble flared and within a year at the request of the Northern Ireland Government the British Government poured in thousands of troops. On the mainland it was said that the soldiers were to keep the peace and introduce democracy.

Where are we today? 11,000 soldiers remain on the streets. The police force — the RUC — are more heavily armed, numbering 7,500 regulars and about 5,000 reservists. They are backed up by the UDR — the locally recruited section of the British Army — which is 90% Protestant, numbering 7,500 armed personnel and including members of the former "B" Specials.

Since 1969 over 2,000 people have been killed, many thousands wounded. The unemployed youth of England, Scotland and Wales are still being signed up to kill and be killed by the unemployed youth of Ireland.

### NO DEMOCRACY, NO FAIR TRIAL

The prison population of Northern Ireland has risen from 600 in 1969 to a figure approaching 4,000. The courts for political offences sit without juries and rules for evidence have practically been abolished. The Government has been repeatedly shamed by the degrading and inhuman treatment of prisoners (Bennett and Amnesty reports), it has also been internationally condemned for its unremitting punishment of prisoners who demand a return to the status that existed in the prisons before 1976 and the callous intransigence shown while ten prisoners — one a British MP — died on hunger strike.

### POVERTY AND UNEMPLOYMENT

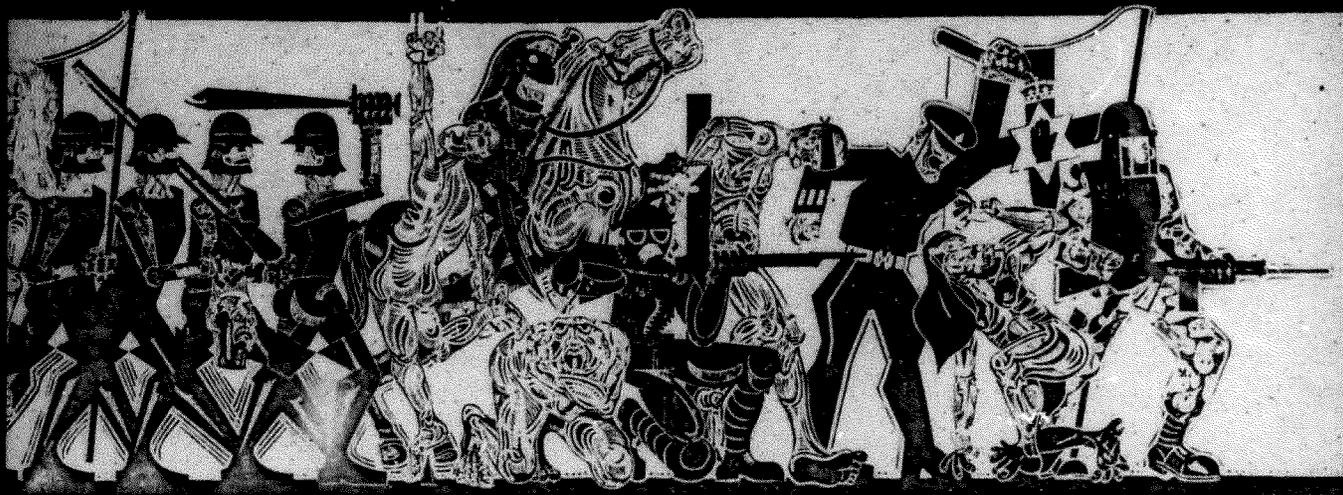
After ten years of Direct Rule from Westminster, the demands for Civil Rights have not been met, although cosmetic legislation enacted some five years after the arrival of the troops adjusted some voting anomalies. In all other ways, conditions have deteriorated. Nationalist districts such as Strabane and Newry suffer three times the Northern Ireland average rate of unemployment (i.e. 60%), as reported by the Fair Employment Agency. Over one in four of all families live below the official poverty line, and one third of the housing is below standard.

Yet the authorities in Northern Ireland receive £1,000 million or more yearly which is being used not to help but, arguably, to repress those who need it most. For a start, one third goes to the Army, police, courts and prisons — unproductive expenditure which would be rendered unnecessary by a political solution.

The Labour Movement, when they offer no alternative, allow the Government to pursue politics that are in direct conflict with the interests of working people of both countries. A Labour Movement alternative begins with a recognition of the basic facts of Irish history.

Ireland was Britain's first colony and Britain has continually exploited Ireland both by manipulating its politics (especially through the Protestants) and by outright repression.

Further, Northern Ireland was imposed for British colonial convenience, against the wishes of the majority of the people of Ireland — a large majority of whom voted in 1918 for independence. The very existence of this artificial state is an obstacle to peace, justice and freedom.



### DIVIDED TRADE UNION MOVEMENT

The British presence in maintaining an Orange State, with its inbuilt institutions of discrimination and sectarianism that favour the Loyalist, can only serve to reinforce the idea that Protestant workers can best resolve their problems at the expense of the Catholics. Only when Northern Ireland is dismantled can there be a realistic dialogue leading to working class unity.

### DIS-UNITED KINGDOM

Political life in Britain is also poisoned. The Prevention of Terrorism Act allows people to be deported from one part of the "United" Kingdom to another, with no charges being brought and without knowing the reasons for their deportation. Trade unionists with no connection with armed rebellion have been held and questioned about their activities. Following the failure of their political and economic policies, the British State resorts to coercion in order to remain in power. As the police here arm themselves with plastic bullets, CS gas and other technology refined in Ireland, it does not need an active imagination to foresee the same repressive response here in future, as failed Government policies cause mounting deprivation and tension.

The May 8th Committee believe that the time for Britain to withdraw is long overdue, and it is in the Labour Movement's interest to hasten that withdrawal and allow the Irish people to decide their own future as a whole. To pursue this demand the committee is organising a march on the Saturday following the anniversary of the death of Bobby Sands MP. This day (May 8th) has been chosen because we believe that it is a damning indictment of British rule in Ireland that an MP who polled more votes than Thatcher should be allowed to die on hunger strike against the democratic wishes of his people.

We would urge your organisation:

- 1) To support and sponsor the march and to send a banner on the day.
- 2) To pass the following resolution, sending a copy to your local MP, Union/Party leadership, and the Minister for Northern Ireland, James Prior:

*"[This organisation] sees the British presence in Northern Ireland as the root cause of the continuing violence and bloodshed in the North, and believes that only a commitment by a British Government to total withdrawal lays the basis for a lasting peace.*

*"We consider the Irish people within the 32 counties of Ireland as a whole have the right to determine their own future, free from British interference."*

For those who are not yet convinced by the arguments outlined above, or who require more information, the Secretary will be pleased to help you, for example by providing speakers, films, slideshows and literature.

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### SPONSORSHIP FORM

Name of organisation .....

Address of organisation .....

We agree to sponsor the May 8th demonstration for Britain Out of Ireland and Self Determination for the Irish people as a whole .....

We wish to be kept informed of developments .....

We enclose a donation for £ .....

Please return to: May 8th Demonstration Organising Committee, c/o Robert Jones, Box 353, London NW5 4NH.