FREEDOM NOW FOR THE H-BLOCK PRISONERS!

The struggle for the H-block prisoners to be given political status has failed. British imperialism does not and cannot oppress Ireland on the basis of textbooks on international morality. The hunger strikes and the campaign around them however, have not failed. Around them a movement has developed to unite Ireland such as has not been seen for decades.

The Brixton "riots" in England, whose tactics of urban guerilla warfare were learnt from the street fighters of Belfast, brought the Irish war home to England at the time when the movement around the hunger strikes was at its height. Unemployed black and white British workers, betrayed and disowned by the Labour Party, showed their readiness to go to the streets to fight the Thatcher Government in solidarity with their Irish comrades. The relatively backward level of struggle, the so—called "riot", was a result of the crisis of Leadership in the British left - the most exploited sections of the British working class lack real revolutionary leadership. As Marx declared, it was the "special task" of the "First International" to awaken a consciousness in English workers that for them the national emancipation of Ireland is no question of abstract justice or humanitarian sentiment but the first constitution of their own social emancipation. The Brixton "riots" are a sign that the consciousness Marx desired to awaken is now a potent force in Britain. The continuation of the Irish revolution form the point at which it was betrayed by Michael Collins, has now become an international issue for the working class.

At every step, in every way, as the dimensions of the Irish struggle broaden, threatening British imperialism directly in its metropolitan heartland, the petty bourgeois nationalist Sinn Fein leadership will retreat before the transformation of national into class struggle. Before the fact -chat the hunger strikes are generating street warfare in England, Neil O'Donnell, the authentic representative of Sinn Fein in Australia, obstinately refuses to go-further than the "fire demands" officially supported by Sinn Fein, though this schematic stages theory of political struggle (first rights for political prisoners, than perhaps in fifty years independence maybe a hundred years later socialism) is overturned by every spontaneous show of support for the Irish struggle even in Australia. The Socialist Leadership group in the ALP and International Socialists try to combine a failure to fight the bourgeois nationalist Sinn Fein with slightly more advanced demands than Neil O'Donnell will allow, claiming that Neil O'Donnell will allow, claiming that Neil O'Donnell doesn't "really represent" Sinn Fein. These opportunist groups end up in the same boat as Neil O'Donnell because they understand bourgeois nationalism worse than he does. O'Donnell knows that when a national anti—colonial struggle becomes an international class struggle, bourgeois nationalism becomes reactionary. Socialist Leadership Group and International Socialists haven't learnt this yet. The demands unrealised by the 1921 Irish National revolution — nationalisation of the land secular republic, reunion with the six counties, amnesty for political prisoners — can only be achieved through a unified socialist republic of Ireland. The British imperialist war in Ireland is now being turned into civil war against imperialism in Britain itself.

The demonstration against 'Windsor and Thatcher's presence in Australia at CHOGM is one more step in taking the fight to save the hunger strikers far beyond the limited five demands. A grouping of governments, however "anti—colonial" whose common basis is the historical experience of British imperialism but which will not condemn Britain's war in Ireland exists for t'e perpetration of British Imperialist exploitations Smash the Commonwealth Thatcher, Windsor out Australian

withdrawal from the Commonwealth now For a socialist united republic of Ireland! Freedom for all Irish freedom fighters

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