CLASS STRUGGLE AND NATIONAL LIBERATION

Wednesday 17th September: Belfast.
Raymond Money was shot four times in the back by three loyalist gunmen as he left Holy Cross Church in the Ardoyne. His companion was shot in the calf-blade on the spot.

Earlier that same day, Joseph Webb was gunned down by two men who fired repeatedly into his body from point blank range.

There were also two Catholics.
The murders of Raymond Money and Joseph Webb are just two events in another month of indiscriminate sectarian attacks by Loyalists. They stand out from a catalogue of petrol bombings, threats, attacks, intimidation and discrimination.

BACKLASH?

The Bourgeois press uniformly condemned against the workers who demanded the release of James Connolly from a catalogue of petrol bombings, threats, attacks, intimidation and discrimination.

The reality is very different. Yes, the Unionists do see the Anglo-Irish Agreement as weakening British Imperialism. But their actions are not the same. The Orange state was built on anti-Catholic politics, discrimination, sectarianism and intimidation. Orange supremacy lies at the heart of the maintenance of the six-county state.

Loyalist attacks today are the latest of a long line of such campaigns. As 'Class Struggle' demonstrated last month, Orange sectarianism and murder are not a reaction to the national struggle. They are a cause of it.

The national struggle is far from being the creator of the present conflict. It is the solution, the only possible solution, to it.

NATIONAL STRUGGLE - A FORM OF CLASS STRUGGLE

Which brings us to the point of this article. There are those who do wish to see a national struggle to be a diversion to the class struggle.

In their wisdom, they cry out: "Tell it to the loyalists". They believe that their interests lie in siding with British Imperialism and gaining the benefits of jobs and housing that the Orange state offers them.

TELL IT TO THE LOYALISTS

If there is to be any unity between Protestant and Catholic workers, that can only be on the basis of Protestant workers denouncing discrimination and sectarianism, and thereby demonstrating to the Orange working class that the 'left' still consider the national struggle to be a diversion to the class struggle.

In their wisdom, they deny the right of the Orange working class to unite and fight for socialism, putting aside 'nationalist' questions. The problem they do not wish to face up to is that the Orange working class sees advantages from a united movement - and it is.

They are quite happy to sit on the backs of Catholics and onwards to Dublin. They believe that such discrimination brings benefits. They believe that their interests lie in siding with British Imperialism and gaining the benefits of jobs and housing that the Orange state offers them.

THERE IS A CALL FOR 'UNIONIST UNITY' AS SEEN IN MANCHESTER.

REMEMBER THE MANCHESTER MARTYRS

In November 1987, William Phillip, Michael Larkin and Michael O'Brien were executed and their bodies burned in Strangeways Prison. Their legal murders arose after two Fenian leaders were freed from a black mask taking them to prison. A group of Irishmen manhandled the black mask. As the lock was shot off, a police sergeant was accidentally killed by the ricochet. The three martyrs captured afterwards were found guilt of murder despite the fact that there was no evidence that any of them had fired the shot.

ABOVE: The proclamation of the provisional government of the Irish Republic in 1916. It declared:

"We, the representatives of the people of Ireland to the ownership of Ireland", it declared.

Larkin was a REME soldier and a REME officer and problems - several people named in the report have denied statements attributed to them. And we might have wanted such discrimination to be a diversion to the class struggle.

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Demonstrate in Manchester, Sunday 23rd November, 1986.

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