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## **Police Infiltrated of the *Irish National Liberation Solidarity Front (INLSF)***

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**EROL Note:** Under the UK government's Undercover Policing Inquiry the cover name "Alex Sloan" was confirmed by the Inquiry. HN347 is the cipher given to a former undercover officer attached to the Special Demonstration Squad. From 1971 to 1973 he infiltrated the Irish National Liberation Solidarity Front (INLSF)

### **The Irish National Liberation Solidarity Front**

The Irish National Liberation Solidarity Front was a group organised by the Communist Workers League of Britain (Marxist-Leninist), a Maoist group. It emerged from around a group of people who had been involved in 1968's Joint Committee of Communists, but split from both it and from Machanda's Revolutionary Marxist-Leninist League in September 1969 to emerge as the INLSF. It was lead by Edward Davoren, who had also been active with another SDS [Special Demonstration Squad] target, the Revolutionary Socialist Students Federation of 1968-1969.

At the time the INLSF called for support of the IRA's armed struggle in Northern Ireland. A brief history of the group at Marxists.org calls it 'a broad campaigning organization which produced the *Irish Liberation Press*, a paper for Irish workers in Britain, starting in March 1970.' It also organised demonstrations and public meetings.

However, the group apparently 'suffered from police attention' over its Irish sympathies and from expulsions.

In early 1972 the group behind the INLSF shifted focus to working class organisation and reincarnated as the Communist Workers League of Britain. Davoren himself was expelled in Autumn

1972. An open question is the extent to which 'Alex Sloan' played a part in this, particularly given his deployment was shorter than the usual SDS length, ending the following year.

For much of the rest of the 1970s, it focused on building unity among the various Maoist groups until it disbanded in 1981. For more see [Marxists.org](http://Marxists.org).

### **First targeting of a family justice campaign?**

An incident involving campaigners from the INLSF during the time Alex Sloan was in the group, was a protest which took place on in March 1971, to mark the [death of Stephen McCarthy](#). McCarthy, aged 20, had been badly beaten by police, who claimed he had ran himself into a bus-stop, and he subsequently died. Following a corrupt coroners hearing which said there was no case for the police to answer, a public meeting was held at Islington town hall, which turned into in a march on the local police station. There it was violently attacked by police with numerous arrests made, including members of McCarthy's family, and Davoren who was convicted for '[inciting an unlawful assembly and criminal libel of police officers](#)'.

We raise this to ask the question whether 'Alex Sloan' was present on the day? If so, this is a very early case of the Special Demonstration Squad spying on a family justice campaign.