

Rebel

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LEBANO

PALESTINE

Record :
 I am an Arab
 Identity card number: 50,000
 I have eight children,
 The ninth arrives next summer.
 Does this annoy you ?

Record :
 I am an Arab.
 Colour of hair: jet black,
 Colour of eyes: brown.
 Distinguishing features:
 My head-dress is a hatta wi'gal,
 My hand as solid as a rock,
 My favourite food:
 Olive oil and thyme.
 Address:
 A remote forgotten village
 Where streets have no name,
 Where the men work in fields
 And quarries,
 And love communism.
 Does this annoy you ?

Record! :
 I am an Arab
 You stole the orchards
 Of my grandfathers,
 The plot of land
 I ploughed with my children,
 You left us
 Nothing but these rocks...and
 Will your government take them
 Too
 As rumour has it ?

So be it !
 Record on the top of the first
 Page:
 I hate no-one
 I steal from no-one
 But
 If I am hungry
 I will eat the flesh of my
 Usurper
 So beware !
 Beware my hunger
 Beware my rage !

Mahmood Darweesh

AGONY of a PEOPLE



The second major wave of Palestinian refugees arrived in Lebanon after the six-day war in 1967, when over 150,000 people were robbed of their land and transferred to 'refugees' by the Israeli State - the Palestinians then came primarily from the West Bank and the Golan Heights. The Maronite Christians, along with their political organizations, which lit the armed flame of radicalization in Lebanon.

The presence of the Palestinians in Lebanon has always been opposed by the prosperous Maronites who saw in the poor but conscious refugees a very serious political threat. The growth of an indigenous Lebanese left, a poor and exploited working section of the people, which allied itself and defended the Palestinians, did not make the job of the Christians any easier.

The left began to really grow by the early 70s and by 1974 it began to threaten the political power of the Maronists. The Civil War in Lebanon which has been raging on and off since 1975 is a continuation of these struggles for control of the minority rule of the Maronites and the desire of the majority of the people to regain political power and control. By 1976, the Palestinians/Lebanese left Alliance in cooperation with the Arab Lebanese Army came up of progress in the south. The Israeli State Army controlled 82% of the Lebanese territory.

These developments created the conditions for the dominant interests of the neighbouring States.... Syria was the first to intervene. It was interesting to note that the Syrians were invited to come to Lebanon by the Maronists who wanted them to pacify the Palestinians. The Syrian Army, in its independence and cutting edge of the P.L.O. - The Syrian attack on the bloodshed of the Tall-El-Zar refugee camp, was well in line with the attack of the Jordanian State a few years earlier or with what the Israelis were doing in the Golan Heights. It is hard to see another example of the political conditions faced by Israel on the one hand and by a radicalized armed popular opposition on the other.

1978 brought the Camp David Recognition and Sadeh's declaration of the State of Israel. Israel, having completed the hand-over of the Sinai to Egypt by late April's, now faced with the implementation of the second phase of the Maronite autonomy and the possible creation of an independent Palestinian State on the West Bank. It is this question which provided the current Israeli invasion of Lebanon.

(Continued on back page)



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Can Intellectuals hear the rattle of blood flowing like a river? Will they continue to dance in their puffy little groups as if life was going on as usual?

'The Builders'
Forms of the Palestinian Resistance

The recent invasion of Lebanon by the Israeli Army is still another chapter in the long history of the Middle East country; a chapter highlighted this time by the concerted destruction of a people: the Palestinians.

When the French were forced to leave Lebanon in the immediate aftermath of World War II, they left behind them a constitutional heritage which married the new Lebanese State from the very outset. The first Lebanese French in Lebanon, together with the Christian minority, imposed a de-facto sectarian division into the social fabric of the country which has plagued Lebanon to this very day.

According to this first post-colonial constitution, the President of the State must always come from the Maronite Christians. The Syrian Maronist always had that particular brand of Islam dominant not only in Lebanon but also in Iran. The President of the Parliament must always come from the Sunnites (the second important brand

Telectron makes it, because there'll be times when you can't.



ON WEDNESDAY JUNE 16th, THE 246 MEMBERS OF NO. 13 BANCHE I.T.G.M.E. AND THE 117 A.S.S. TELETRON AFTER A NINE WEEK OFFICIAL STRIKE AT THE TALLBOUR BASHED FACTORY, WE TALKED TO SOME MEMBERS OF THE STRIKE COMMITTEE DURING THE STRIKE AND HAD SEVERAL DISCUSSIONS WITH PRICEMEN AT THE GATE.

TELECTRON - THE BIG SELL-OUT

Telectron is the largest electronics firm in the country, employing around 800 between the Maronite and Arab hands. Established in 1962, the firm manufactures transmission equipment and exports to over 65 countries. In March 1981 Guinness bought a 24% share in the company. Guinness Board were busy hatching on the board of and at the start of 1982 a 45% stake was bought up by A.T.E.T., American Telegraph and Teletopon, the largest Corporation in the world. This change of management came after the board of Telectron, in 1980, was split into two groups. One group was allied with the American C.I.T. Corporation/Teletopon and the other group was allied to the Maronite system around the country.

The new American executives in Telectron might set about their goal of completely overhauling existing operations. They proposed 'improvements' but at the two most basic sales was by the Union - job destruction and no new work practices without union agreement. Like the situation with the Bank employees and the Post Office workers, the workers were asked to sign a pay agreement and put to the workers as a package deal.

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- Recent proposal to introduce new work practices, methods or technology without agreement being reached with the union.
- Suppression of a member without pay, prior to the dispute.
- The type of 'improvements' outlined by management in a document put to members included new stockpiling and aerial control methods; lighter shop performance measures; control supervision; order when there would be sale; order shortages in Tallights; and the reintroduction of equipment (plating jigs) which had been discarded because it was considered unsafe. The Company also wanted to send to more people from the shop to another as production demanded.

From the start of the strike, the workers were divided. At a series of three general meetings the workers voted to continue was won by just over half of the members voting for. Besides this, the entire clerical and administrative staff, members of No. 2 Branch I.T.G.M.E. were 2nd voting the pickets, working 11 hours a day. From the start the I.T.A.S.S. members gave their support without a strike pay. As one of the T.A.S.S. members said, 'If these proposals were not defeated, the 30, 2 branch members had intention not read their Branch Secretary's report at the last A.G.M. On the question of 'Trade Union solidarity' the Maronite had this to say: 'The important ones for strengthening relations have had to appointing one another in times of difficulty.'

With Ramon Gilmore from the Professional Managers section of No. 2, John Crane voted against the proposals, suggesting that was the mistake from the members:

Besides this worsening division between the clerical staff and the shop floor, there was also the sexual/female question. Some of the women would not have been that the votes were an 60% each time. With 150 out of 216 workers female, it seemed to attract a lot of women related to stri-

Rebel has carried regular articles over the last few issues on the developing opposition in West Dublin to the plans by the State to locate a national centre for the disposal of the toxic waste in Baldonnel. The following article looks at the different groups active in the area and how they were formed. Some of these groups were set up specifically to oppose the Toxic Centre. Others were set up in West Dublin first heard about the State plans in the People's Evening newspapers, although these plans were in the air for about two years under both Coalition and Fianna Fail administrations. Peter Barry, the Coalition Minister who announced the plans (before the election) stated on the 1.30 radio news that a centre for 4,500 tons (out of 25,000 tons of toxic waste produced every year) of the most lethal toxic wastes produced in this country was that there are no organised community groups in the area. This article reveals just how wrong he was !!



Another group that was present at the meeting where the Amalgamated group was formed was from Newcastle, the NEWCASTLE ACTION GROUP. They left the meeting as they felt the issue should be broadened to cover plans for rezoning in the area, which is changing agricultural land into land for industrial usage. In a pamphlet produced by this group they show that much of the area around the Toxic Centre Site has already been acquired by chemical consortiums, such as Hyeiga and Southern Chemicals. They see the plans for the disposal Centre as an integral part of this issue, and in fact intend opposing each application for planning permission by the chemical companies individually.

The CLONDALKIN ANTI TOXIC GROUP as another group independent of the Amalgamated Group but willing to work alongside it. This group has been very active, setting up stalls, organising educational meetings, writing and distributing leaflets, showing the Finglas video and with plans for street theatre, concerts and further public meetings in the area and with ladies clubs, youth clubs. Though seen by the community associations as a "faction", it is in fact the more active, most regular and best attended of all the groups. Both this group and the Newcastle group have a history of antagonism with the community councils, involving a lot of bitterness over the control of resources, the types of community activities organised, their attitudes to whole districts which the community council don't recognise as part of the community, their links to politicians and their general political attitudes on this and other issues.

Along with the Killdare ASH group, recently formed to organise against the Toxic Centre, Dublin ASH and people in the immediate vicinity of the proposed Centre, the Clondalkin Group has been involved in promotional plans to organise a mass demonstration on the 21/22 August site on the weekend of 21/22 August 1982. The festival is intended to show the strength of opposition to the plans and also act as an opportunity through workshops and exhibitions to educate and provide information on the toxic cycle as a whole, and the West Dublin area in particular. There are plans for film, theatre, music and workshops drawing together people across the country who are opposed to toxic industry and toxic waste. It is still tentative that this event will go ahead, as each group fears taking on such a project individually and desire a common agreement to organise for the mass demonstration. If any group takes on this event, it is likely that others will align themselves to it as it becomes a reality, something that has happened in the case of the Carnsore Anti-Nuclear Festival.

The latest public meeting in the area took place on Tuesday

TOXIC OPPOSITION

The night after all the newspaper stories, the first public meeting was organised in Saggart by the Saggart Educational and Recreational Association, an offshoot of the Rathcoole Community Association. Members of the Alliance for Safety and Health (ASH) spoke at that meeting on the nature of toxic waste, the choice of the Baldonnel site and ways of organising resistance to the State plans. A number of Party politicians from the area showed up all expressing opposition to the Toxic Centre and making promises - elections were in the air. That same night, a group of people met in Rathcoole around the community association, along with people from the Newcastle residents association.

The following Sunday, while ASH were all involved at the National Conference in Cork, the different residents' and community groups of the area met, on the initiative of the populist Fianna Fail T.D. Mary Harney, and the AMALGAMATED ANTI TOXIC GROUP was formed. This group was to be a coordinating group with

members from the Rathcoole, Newcastle and Clondalkin Community Councils, as well as others from Saggart and Kingswood and promises of support from Tallaght The Alliance for Safety and Health is one of a long list of groups and individuals who oppose the Toxic Centre and which are allied to the Amalgamated Anti Toxic Group.

For some, the existence of the Amalgamated Group was seen as the vehicle for all activities against the Toxic Centre. Others considered that each affiliated group would continue to organise and mobilise against the State proposal. The main activities of the Amalgamated Group have been the holding of two public meetings in the Rathcoole Community Centre. The main plank of its campaign is a mandate of its elected at the second of these, to meet the Minister of the Environment in front of a mass demonstration. So far, despite the fact that the Fianna fail local TD's say that the Minister is ready to meet, no response has been received from correspondence to the Department.

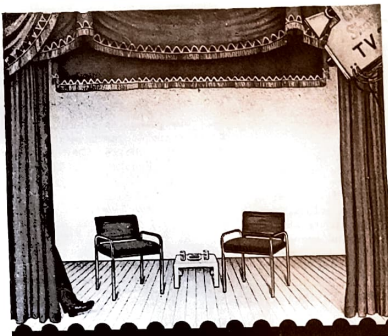
from page 41

6 July in Wainogue Estate and organised by the Clondalkin Toxic Action Centre. About 50 people attended. About 10 speakers from the Action Group and from Dublin ASH. A lot of emphasis in the discussion went on the nature of development that is taking place in this country which produces such a crisis in the toxic waste area. Speakers referred to chemical, pharmaceutical, textile, engineering and other multinationals which make fast profits in Ireland for the time of their tax-free holidays, leave their wastes behind them and operate while they are here with few restrictions or measures to protect the environment. Many pointed to the absolute lack of consultation in the area, while

one speaker referred to a conversation with someone from the Institute for Industrial Research and Standards (IIRS) who stated that the Centre is a time-bomb, which in this country is unlikely to be monitored effectively. Others spoke of the lack of any disaster plans which could guarantee the safety and health of the people and the environment. Time and again people referred to the organisation which took place in Kildare and in Finglas to stop toxic plans in those areas. The Clondalkin Action group stressed the need for people to pace themselves for a long campaign of sustained opposition and talked of the failure and demoralisation experienced as a result of the failure to stop the building of

a prison in the area. No one wants to repeat that

This meeting is one of a series of educational meetings taking place in different parts of Clondalkin. Complete opposition by local people has been expressed at every event in West Dublin. The key issues are how to fight the centre and to make it a victory. With meetings and groups active across West Dublin, the Minister of the Environment, past and current may well have to eat the glib words that no organised community groups exist in the area. People are organising and preparing themselves for a lengthy battle for their communities.



Issue 53 of Rebel carried an article which critically examined the ALLIANCE FOR SAFETY AND HEALTH. The following article is a response to the issues raised and an attempt to define the nature and role of A.S.H. inside the Anti-Toxic Movement.

The Alliance for Safety and Health was certainly formed as a "loose alliance" as stated by the article in Rebel 53. Rather than an alliance based on the elaboration of a particular perspective on the toxic cycle, this was an alliance based on an agreement to carry out two specific projects (hold a conference and publish a pamphlet). Underlying these projects was a recognition, on the part of some of those involved, of the need to nationalize the struggle against toxic industry, broadening its focus to include both work hazards and waste in the communities.

Once the conference took place in Cork the continued existence of A.S.H. necessitated a spelling out of its objectives, aims and role. This was attempted in the "Discussion Document" produced for the national meeting in June. It is true to say that the Discussion Document did not clarify the role of A.S.H. within the Anti Toxic Movement, but rather outlined the type of movement A.S.H. sees itself as part of building, and activities which A.S.H. will be involved in. The

question of whether A.S.H. would play a leadership role within the movement was never debated and thus left unresolved, within that document. In this context, it was inevitable that this question would have to be faced, as it was in a meeting called as a meeting of the Anti Toxic Movement. A.S.H. militants have never clarified whether or not they want A.S.H. to grow nationally, whether the objective is to establish new A.S.H. groups around the country or whether those who meet as A.S.H. do represent a real alliance of groups based in different parts of the country. As it stands, groups were asked to participate in the Alliance on the basis of a general outline of the Cork Conference. A continued alliance of these groups will need further agreement.

In my own opinion A.S.H. has successfully realised the objectives which it has set for itself to date. I see A.S.H. as a potential revolutionary front within the Anti Toxic Movement, and the general Environmental movement in this country. A front made

A RESPONSE 5

up of individuals and groups with a revolutionary standpoint and practice on environmental issues analysing the destruction of human health and the physical environment as part of the logic of capital, exploitation and profit. Such a front would play a leadership role within the movement in the production of information, debate, organisation and taking national initiatives

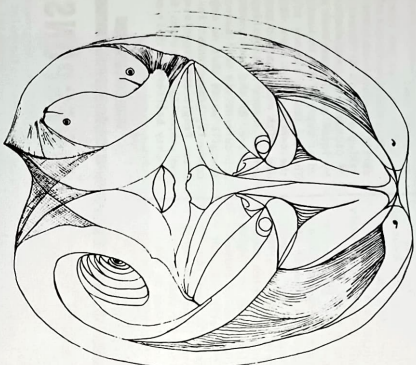
There is the space in this country for such a leading force to be revolutionary, given the weakness of other political forces on the environmental issue.

The people who make up A.S.H. at present have no unified view on this question of the role and nature of A.S.H. There are some who see its role as primarily counter-informational, others who see it as a cover or a vehicle for involvement in the activities of groups, associations and different political organisations, without the need to be identified as part of a specific political current.

These contradictory positions inside A.S.H. emerged clearly during the national meeting. ON the one hand, a "position document" was presented to the meeting, while at the same time people present were told they had no right to change its content. That meeting was a gathering of those primarily interested in the project of A.S.H. The movement against the toxic cycle is wider and more diffuse than those who met that June weekend. As such, they had full rights in the definition of A.S.H.'s role and objectives.

In my opinion, the decision to debate the discussion document and to specify the role of A.S.H. more clearly between now and September was the correct one. That process should involve a debate on the viability and nature of A.S.H. as a long term project, on the contradictions inside A.S.H. and on long term strategy and tactics.

A
S
H



This article is a reply to the article 'The heroin cycle' in Rebel 51. It is a continuation of the discussion held by NS comrades and goes from analysis of the situation with regard to heroin in Dublin and around the country as well as putting forward a number of perspectives developed by comrades, particularly in England, North Dublin.

"The addict who is not satisfied with his work, an exploited who thinks that she is not exploited, a proletarian who refuses to be a proletarian..." This statement, which is a quote from the book 'Rehabilitation Centre, and reproduced in the Rebel 51 article, makes us wonder if these people are serious, if they walk around their centre with their eyes closed, if they are not really alive among junkies, see the pain, the loneliness, the cold and the sweat, the nose running and say that "the nature of the addict is pure protest, not ad?". How can one believe that the truth is that "people are slaves of an illusion" - such a widespread and interactional illusion we have never seen:

Can these people hear and feel the pain of withdrawal and the agony of the addict? Can they understand the user's self-awareness of the exploitation - but his/her relation to Capital is minimal compared with what is food for their survival - the physical side of the struggle - a very long and arduous struggle - but it is the decision - cut off from the cycle, who do you know who's who will help you?

SMOAKER BAKER?

(Heroin Debate continues)

Police harassment, vigilante groups, non-existent social welfare payments, ever rising prices of heroin, 25% of 1800 who are addicts who have nothing to do and nowhere to go and there is also a strong sense of collective defeat after the H-BLOCK Campaign. What we are saying is that, socially, the reasons for the heroin cycle are very different from the 60s and the 70s. The Rebel 51 article says that the 51... use of heroin is confined to the economic and social pressures which MAKE

unhappy minds.

Our younger sisters and brothers no longer have that clear-cut a choice. One young comrade in Finglas expresses it like this: "I see our friends doing heroin because they are physically fit but we are constrained to take Op, I'm OK, I'm OK, control, it's just a nice size until they drop the mask of friendship... conversation is drugs, drugs, drugs and nothing else... then they offer to turn you on... we want to drop the mask do you realize that you are not a junkie, you are a fooling him/herself, and us, AGAIN... It's frightening, convincing and frightening when you see this happening as frequently as now. Honestly we can't do anything... there the junk can be destroyed."

The comrade from Cork tries to answer the question by saying "If thousands of Irish addicts were using heroin, the option of rehabilitation as a task for revolutionaries, would appear as more viable... in the present situation, the immediate reaction is not that of a 'junkie' however..." Let us look at the factors which usually speak for themselves.

Social Condition

The article referred to junkies, robbers and prostitutes being one in their refusal to be proletarian, WHAT THE HELL ARE WE IF NOT WORKING CLASS? The workers and those who choose not to sell their labour to capital, the junkies, criminals, homosexuals, prostitutes, unmarried parents - don't they make a large percentage of the working class, whether they are in the States, or in the UK or in Milan think different?

every junkie would personally know of 5 to 10 more deaths in the previous year/s... HOW MANY DEATHS DOES THAT MAKE? Going back a bit, during the London 'smack boom' of the late 60s and early 70s, other addicts came back, mixing with the hard-fall of junkies then in Dublin. Experienced addicts had lots of scope for getting drugs in this smallish but there were not as many doctors willing to write scripts, sometimes for a gin or whiskey', The Drug Squad was tiny, Chemists kept the 'Dangerous Drugs' list very small, the country had no drug problem, the factors did contribute to the rise of drug addiction to the epidemic proportions it has reached in 1982.

Then, drugs were sold in the streets, in the green, in people's houses in a way which bears little resemblance to the 'professional' first style profiteering business it has become today. Today, there

are additional problems as well as addiction... for example, 'smack' is sometimes cut with chalk or even strychnine to increase weight and thus profits. Strychnine is a very powerful poison which remains in the body for a long time... chalk is also dangerous because it clogs up the veins and

State Treatment

In the early seventies, under pressure from a half-aware public and an angry Pharmacist Association, the State opened a centre for heroin addicts in Dublin. It was a 'cure' consisting of substitute drugs, PHOSPHORIC acid, and other drugs. PHOSPHORIC was the first of these 'cures', widely used in England and the U.S. also. The method used was to reduce the amount of the new drug, The hut of evil lured people with the promise of a cure; when times got bad, the user too sick to rob this inflated promise of a cure,

can cause long-term problems.

Another problem is that smack is 5 to 6 times dearer here than in London... smack bought in London is often not cut and, thus, much more potent. The cause for an overdose can be the cause for an overdose for addicts who are accustomed to cut smack bought in Dublin.

New Patients

Last year's in Dublin (153) quotes New Jersey's St. Hospital patients: "40 to 50 new patients were treated for drug addiction each week. We believe that the number of addicts who are hospitalized for treatment is a very low estimate and, most certainly, on the increase. In the same issue in Dublin says that the official number of deaths as a result of drug addiction in 1981 was 13... and they estimate that



(Continued on next page)

SSS SUPERVISORS SSS

When the BODY was first made all parts wanted to be SUPERVISORS.

The brain insisted, "Since I control everything and do all the thinking, I should be Supervisor". The feet said, "Since we carry man where he wants to go, we should be Supervisors." The Hands said, "Since we do all the work and earn all the money to keep the rest of you going, we should be Supervisors". The Eyes too staked their claim: "Since we must watch out for all of you, we should be Supervisors."

And so it went on: the Heart, the Ears and finally... the BUM! How all the other parts laughed, to think the Bum should be Supervisor!

Thus, the Bum became mad and refused to function. The Brain became feverish; the Eyes crossed and ached; the Legs got wobbly; and the Stomach went sick. All pleaded with the Brain to relent and let the Bum be Supervisor. And so it came to be. That all the other parts did their work and the Bum simply Supervised, and 'Passed' a load of crap.

MORAL : You don't have to be a Brain to be a Supervisor....only a BUM.

(Contributed by Dave Murphy, Cork.)



10

Finglas News

About 3 months ago, we took over the Hairdressers in the Shopping Centre in Finglas South. This premises was used as a youth centre 24 hours a day. During the time we TOLD the pigs we were taking it over and outlined the problems of being a youth in the area. They didn't believe in the power of the youth and soon moved in, as usual with chains, iron bars and batons. They brutalized everyone who was around the centre.

We then burnt down the Shopping Centre, to give ourselves time to re-organise and to show that if we can't use it, nobody will. We showed the cops, with their snickering and intimidation where the REAL power lies. Then we retook the premises, painted and got it together.

At a closed meeting with the bureaucrats - local politicians etc. - last week, they told us that if we had more adults on our Committee we would have a better chance of being listened to and then tried to pressurize us into taking responsibility for the rats and rubbish around the centre and into POLICING OURSELVES. We told them to fuck off, that we were there to tell them that we were taking the centre and keeping it.

This centre is now re-opened. If we are allowed to keep it and the shop beside it, we will allow the shops to re-open.

We support youths in their working class areas in their struggle against the State and its bureaucratic system. We can get what we want by taking it. WE HAVE PROVED THIS BY ORGANISING OURSELVES AROUND OUR NEEDS.

Telectron

(Continued from p. 3)

ke. One woman on the picket argued that married women in the firm were the weakest part of the union. She agreed that they were more likely to take any offer. She also pointed out that it was, in her opinion, a Company policy to introduce married women to the plant, noting that the machine shop, once all men, was now 100% women.

The position of the workers worsened during the 8th week of the strike, when at a general meeting to vote on the proposals the Branch Secretary of No. 13, John O'Brien, urged a vote of acceptance, to the complete surprise and anger of the Strike Committee. The vote, however, went against him, but only just. The union bosses had obviously decided that this strike should not continue. Sensing this, the Company made the next move and threatened by letter to sack each striker unless work was resumed. Not surprisingly with both management and their union now saying the same thing, the next vote ended the strike. John Carroll, Vice President of the I.T.G.W.U. describes this situation, where workers voted with a gun to their heads as "the democratic process" - his style of democracy, maybe. But with the leaders of their union from the start keeping this a clean, quiet strike, and then attempting to sabotage it with their first appearance, and with management threatening to give everyone the sack, this can hardly be called 'freedom of choice'.

This is a serious defeat for the workers in Telectron, and their organisation and leadership will now come under increased attack. The attitude to the union among the members we spoke to seemed to cloud the role the union had played, by personalising the culprits: "We will have to go over his head" was one solution offered, after the Branch Secretary showed his colours. We don't think that either a change of individual or a change of union is the answer; the same lackey worker's control will be found in all unions.

Control of the direction, tactics and theory of organisation by the workers themselves, while using their union to full advantage is how we see organisation - we call this INDEPENDENT WORKING CLASS ORGANISATION - not necessarily a new structure, but a relationship workers struggle which has the workers making the moves, not relying on Liberty Hall.

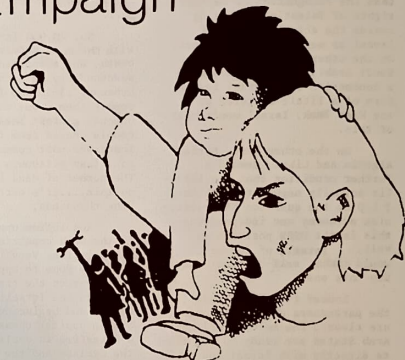
The question though remains: what is it about Telectron, or the telecommunications industry that made the union back down in the face of such a threat to the members in Telectron. According to Otto Glaser, head of Telectron the new government contract, worth £800million, would mean up to 1,000 new jobs in Telectron, 400 of which would be in a proposed new manufacturing plant in Cork. This, together with the arrival of A.T. & T., possibly seeing Ireland as its new European base, goes some way to explaining why the I.T.G.W.U. sold out this time. The largest Corporation in the world and all these new jobs were not to be jeopardised - not at any price.

About 1,000 people attended a meeting in Liberty Hall last month, to oppose the attempts by the "Pro Life" Lobby to amend the constitution by referendum in such a way that abortion would become not only an illegal act but an unconstitutional act in this country. Since that meeting action groups have been set up in different parts of Dublin with the aim of mobilising opposition to the referendum across the city. Groups already existed in Cork and Galway organising against the referendum.

Those who spoke at the Liberty Hall meeting argued against the referendum on a number of different grounds. Some emphasized the need for therapeutic abortions in certain medical instances, others rejected the very concept of a vote against the painful decision made by many women to have an abortion. Hugh Boyle argued that the Pro Life Amendment Campaign has launched this campaign, not out of a desire to change the situation in Ireland, but rather as part of a concerted move by right wing forces in North America and across Europe. Abortion is against the law in Ireland - the State can imprison a woman for life under the offences against the Person Act of 1861 for carrying out an abortion. There is no likelihood that the law on abortion will change in the foreseeable future in Ireland. In this context, Hugh Boyle argues that Ireland is being used by an international force involved in campaigns against sex-education in schools, for censorship, against contraception: a victory in Ireland would be a massive boost for such a movement. Ireland would be the first country to enshrine the absolute right to life of the foetus in the constitution.

The Anti Amendment Campaign is made up primarily from women's liberation and gay groups, Peoples Democracy, Labour Party, individuals, independent professionals from the medical, media and legal fields, those involved in Family Planning Services, some students and other individuals. The Steering Collective which called the Liberty Hall meeting has continued to exist despite the setting up of a delegate structure based on the action groups. Friction within the campaign has already broken out on two major issues: content of leaflets/posters and the structure of the campaign. Earlier battles were fought on the issue of the "Right To Choose" as a slogan for the campaign, which was eventually rejected. This left the campaign without a slogan at all. Staunch attempts to avoid appearing to favour abortion have resulted in leaflets/posters based on the slogan "Hands Off The Constitution". This was criticised by many in the campaign as illegitimate campaigns (e.g. divorce and illegitimacy) actually demand a change in the Constitution. In the end of the day both leaflets and pos-

Anti - Amendment Campaign 11



The fight starts here

The Woman's Right to Choose Campaign was set up by the decision of a Conference called by the Woman's Right to Choose Group in December 1981. This national campaign, which is open to both women and men, has as its aims:

1. Free, legal and safe contraception and abortion on demand.
2. An end to all social and economic discrimination against pregnant women and mothers.

Group affiliations and individual memberships are being sought on a national basis. The immediate objective of the campaign is to oppose and defeat the proposed amendment to the Constitution.

The Woman's Right to Choose Campaign supports and is affiliated to the broad-based Anti-Amendment Campaign. This campaign is intended to have the amendment referendum stopped. If the referendum goes ahead however, it will oppose the amendment on the following grounds:

1. The proposed amendment would do nothing to solve the problem of unwanted pregnancies;
2. It would allow for no exceptions even in cases where pregnancy severely threatens a woman's health or is the result of rape or incest;
3. It would be sectarian;
4. It would impede further discussion and possible legislation on abortion;
5. It is an irresponsible waste of public funds.

THE WOMAN'S RIGHT TO CHOOSE CAMPAIGN can be contacted at P.O. Box 1076, Dublin 1. Phone: 965491.

THE ANTI-AMENDMENT CAMPAIGN can be contacted by phoning 308636.

ters were withdrawn for other reasons, mainly in Fine Gael. Labour have not officially taken a position but the Labour Womens' Council have come out against the amendment, supported by Michael D. Higgins. Nuala Fennell, spokesperson on Womens' affairs for Fine Gael supports the amendment, much to the horror of her recent colleagues.

A general meeting in Dublin proposed and organised by the Dublin 4 group takes place as we go to print - an attempt by some activists to assert greater control over the content and direction of the campaign. Two monthly delegate meetings are clearly marginal to weekly decision-making meetings of the Steering Collective. Some of the Steering Collective oppose such general meetings, preferring to hold the current structure and thus their control of the campaign.

Both Garret Fitzgerald and Charlie Haughey have guaranteed the Pro Life Amendment Campaign that the referendum will happen; Haughey tying himself more in time than Garret. This happened without debate within their Parties

and is causing some internal problems, mainly in Fine Gael. Labour have not officially taken a position but the Labour Womens' Council have come out against the amendment, supported by Michael D. Higgins. Nuala Fennell, spokesperson on Womens' affairs for Fine Gael supports the amendment, much to the horror of her recent colleagues.

Given the unstable situation in government, the chances of the referendum going through over the coming months are slim. Given the nature of political parties in Ireland, they are likely to stall indefinitely over an issue that has already divided the Churches, rather than settle on a date for the referendum. In the meantime parts of the womens' movement and the gay movements are regrouping, on the amendment issue, by accident rather than design, bringing this particular section of the popular movement together.

(Continued from p. 2)

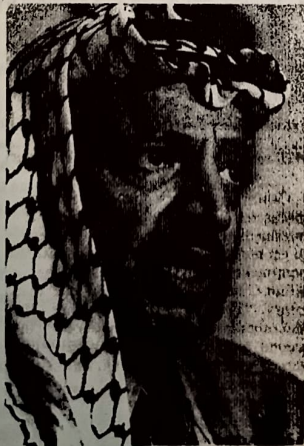
Israel interprets 'Palestinian autonomy' as being no more than the recognition of certain rights of Palestinians living inside the actual borders of Israel as second class citizens. On the other hand, Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Morocco demand a concession from Israel in the form of a little statelet on the West Bank. Israel won't hear of this.

On the other hand, Syria, Algeria and Libya demand a further condition that the Israelis actually negotiate with the PLO on the question of Palestinian autonomy and independence - this is the USSR position as well. Israel, of course, would rather self-destruct than buy this one.

Looked from this angle, the parameters of the situation are clear. The more reactionary Arab States are ready to negotiate directly with Israel and are delighted to see the destruction of the PLO and its Lebanese allies. Israel is determined to clear that hurdle before it engages on any possible negotiation. This Israeli position was made crystal clear as late as May 30th by the Israeli Chief of Staff, General Eitan, who declared: "We will negotiate once we have finished with the terrorists". Prime Minister Begin has also made this point of view clearer when on June 4th he said:

The Emperor is dead - but not Rome
The People are still alive - the City fights
The seeds may have dried
But they can still fill the valley with fruit.

'For Man'
Poems of the Palestinian Resistance



"The time has come now for the world to choose between us and the Palestinians - there is no space and no land for both of us.we can't co-exist....one must go...."

So, 70,000 Israelis, armed with the most modern gadgetry of death, and supported by the most advanced flying machines, enter Lebanon. 15-20,000 Palestinians oppose them. One more time an unequal contest sees a heroic people chased from their shanty towns and poor communities..... countless prisoners are taken. The number of dead is not yet certain....it's certainly in the thousands.

Resolution upon resolution in the Arab countries condemns the invasion. Very little is actually done to oppose it. Syria enters the fray on the 4th day when the Israelis are outside Beirut and beginning to shell the Syrian capital Damas. Soon after a ceasefire is declared between the Syrians and the Israelis. Thatcher is 'concerned'. Mitlerand sets up a committee to engage in a 'self-criticism'; he says the French Socialist Party had misunderstood the situation. Reagan is holidaying but demands the U.S. Congress to give a few \$s to 'alleviate the suffering'.

And us - what are we doing here in Ireland? Tears are no use....just grit our teeth, clench our fists and continue the struggle for the living.

Gossip

While all the talk about fire hazards and safety is filling the front page of all the papers, a friend working for a fire extinguisher company tells us that the Tallaght FIRE STATION, which is supposed to serve a massive area, HAS NO TELEPHONE !! The Post Office, for reasons better known to itself is refusing the firemen a phone. If there is a fire, you have to call the cops and they raise the alarm by CB !!

Some little news from the forgotten little bye-election in the West. Apparently, the brother of the ex-Minister of Justice Jim Mitchell was seen by a Rebel reporter drinking a quiet pintwhen the comrade approached him to ask him a few questions he saw Mitchell sporting a rather black eye..... further enquiries revealed that Mitchell was punched royally by a local Fianna Fail heavy who got into a hassle with the FG touring party. Names like *gombeen man* and *Ballyfermot gurrrier* were exchanged by these defenders of our democracy. The rest of the quotes we can't even print in Rebel !!

Rebel has learnt that the PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF CHINA will soon be defendants in a unique case in Dublin...apparently, the Chinese government has been taken to court because a posh neighbour of their Embassy in Dublin's Ailesbury Rd. is very annoyed that people from the Embassy insist in burning documents in the back garden !! Who is responsible for this mess is not yet clear....but we'll keep you posted. But a few local Maoists are apparently collecting funds to buy the Chinese comrades a brand new paper shredder. Not bad eh ?

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