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CONSPIRACY



**I.R.S.P. and
The 'Great'
Train Robbery
FRAME-UP**



IRSP AND THE 'GREAT' TRAIN ROBBERY FRAME-UP

Introduction

In April of 1976 over 40 members and supporters of the IRSP were arrested and detained under the Offences against the State Act.

In the course of the following week news broke out that many of those detained were tortured and ill-treated during their detention, and this caused a national scandal.

The arrests which followed the so called 'great train robbery' was the biggest such arrest operation in decades in the 26 Counties.

The robbery caused much embarrassment to the Government, and more so to the Justice Minister, Mr. Cooney. The arrests were ostensibly part of the police investigation into the robbery, but the events which followed proved that this was just a cover to enable the Special Branch to freely attempt to smash and destroy the IRSP.

After an initial 'screening' 8 of those arrested were singled out for special interrogation, a euphemism for torture and ill-treatment.

6 men were subsequently charged with the train robbery and 4 of these were forced to sign statements incriminating themselves and others in the robbery.

The following document shows clearly that the arrests and tortures were part of an on going campaign to disintegrate the IRSP as a political party and set the stage for an all out campaign of repression against the entire anti-imperialist movement.

The IRSP tortures and the almost daily complaints of ill-treatment of those held under the new emergency laws has considerably eroded the credibility of the police and the Fine Gael/Labour Govt. This coupled with their failure to have the Murrays hanged has caused a slight setback in their well orchestrated drift towards a southern police state.

This set back must be utilised by the anti-imperialist groups, and a mass campaign against repression must be built on the basis of the unity of all anti-imperialist organisations. If this is not started immediately then all radical groups, both big and small may re live the events of last April. If this is the case then their cries for justice will be ignored by an indifferent and even hostile working class

baptism of fire

Formation of IRSP

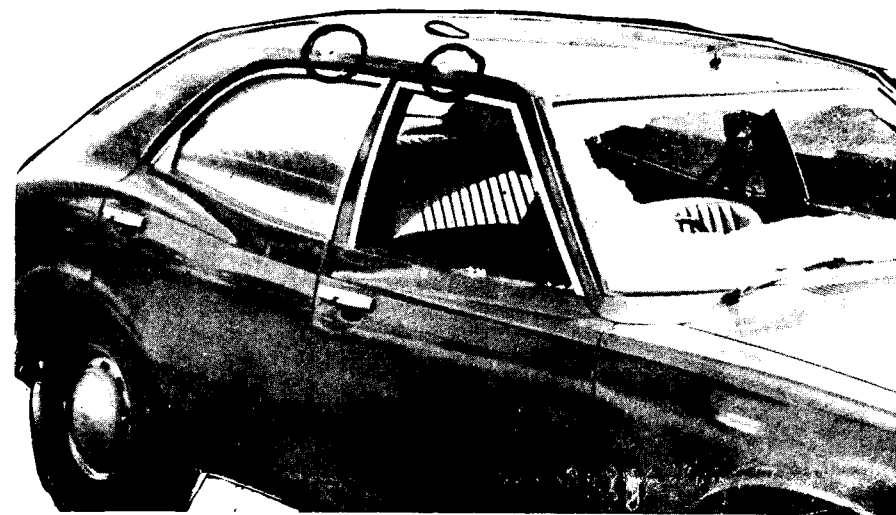
The Irish Republican Socialist Party was formed in Dec. 1974 by ex members of the Official Republican movement. It recognised the need for a party capable of offering the Irish People a programme which would end Imperialist interference in Irish affairs and bring to a successful conclusion the struggle for Democracy, National Liberation and Socialism. Their policy is aimed at replacing the existing 6 and 26 County states with a 32 County Democratic Socialist Republic, with the Irish working class in control of the means of production, distribution and exchange.

Within a week of the formation of the party entire sections of the Official Republican movement were joining the new organisation. The conflict and blood bath which followed was directed and controlled by the leadership of the Officials. The events of the first 7 months of their existence are well documented. With 3 of their members murdered and over 30 wounded in Belfast it was made clear that the new party would not be intimidated out of existence. Throughout the duration of the conflict the media in general sided with the Officials and presented the false image that the IRSP was composed of gangster and sectarian killers.

Ciaran McKeown, well known now as a leader of the 'peace' movement excelled in this respect when he was the Belfast correspondent for the Irish Press.

The British administration in the North and the Government in the South paid special attention to the party.

In Long Kesh concentration camp in the North those members of the Officials who joined the party were initially denied political status. This was granted after a protracted struggle in the Camp. It was a common occurrence for IRSP members to be arrested and held for days on 'suspicion', and then released without charge.



The car of IRSP Ard Comhairle chairman Seamas Costello showing bullet marks after an unsuccessful attempt to assassinate him by the Official IRA in Wexford

In the South new members who were politically inexperienced were singled out for special treatment by the secret police. A week of 'surveillance', a visit to the home/job/school, and 2 days detention did in fact frighten off some potential members.

the Sallins affair

This type of low intensity harrassment reached a climax in June 1975 when the southern police took an opportunity to capitalise on the conflict initiated by the Officials. An attempt was made to blow up a train load of officials travelling to a commemoration in Kildare. While laying the bomb on the rails at Sallins, the assassins were interrupted by a local man out on Sunday walk. This unfortunate man was stabbed to death. The bomb exploded after the train had passed by. Almost immediately the media attempted to blame the IRSP. 10 leading members were arrested in Dublin and held for some days. The arrests further fueled the suspicion among the public that the IRSP was involved. "They would not be held for nothing" was a common expression among the general public. The men being held were questioned about the existence of a loyalist gang in Dublin. The reason for this line of questioning did not become clear until some months later when a member of the U.V.F. was killed by his own bomb in Co. Derry. It emerged that this man's fingerprints matched the finger prints found on the murder weapon found at the scene of the Sallins murder. A full account of the loyalist involvement written by Irish Times staff reporter **David McKitterick** was carried in that paper on October 30th. But neither the Irish Times nor any of the other papers asked why the IRSP had been blackened by the police or attempted to correct the damage done.



Tommy McCourt, arrested during the Sallins affair, being released from the Bridewell, Dublin.

The lessons of the above are obvious. The police knew of the loyalist involvement in the Sallins affair, but this was hushed up in an effort to destroy the credibility of the party. This incident is even more sinister when one considers that the UVF gang responsible could have been acting on behalf of the SAS, who have links with British Intelligence agents in the South, and who in turn are suspected of involvement in the Dublin Bombings.

It is often asked why is so much attention paid to the IRSP? The answer is simple. The British and Southern governments feel that the IRSP has the potential of becoming a mass political party. Along with the Provos and the officials the IRSP is the only anti-imperialist movement which has a national structure. That it is a new organisation means that it is organisationally in its infancy, and thus very vulnerable to repression. The IRSP's growth was stunted by the conflict with the Officials while going through a period when their main work was organising and consolidating the party. New Cumainn (Branches) had to be formed, a newspaper had to be launched, an Ard Fheis (National Conference) had to be organised to formulate policy and the slightest repression or harassment deflected the party from its task.

The current affairs publication 'Hibernia' was on target when it described this period as the IRSP's 'Baptism' of Fire.



"We'll Smash The IRSP"

Part 2.

After the failure of the first major attempt to smash the IRSP the Special Branch intensified their campaign. The pretext for a new onslaught was a big mail train robbery outside Dublin on the midnight and morning of Tuesday and Wednesday the 30th and 31st March 1976. Over two hundred thousand pounds was taken from the train at Kearneystown, Co. Kildare.

On Wednesday 31st March, **Osgur Breatnach** who is editor of the party paper was arrested outside the party head office. He was taken to and held in the Bridewell. He was subsequently released after being cleared of involvement.

Two more IRSP members, **Gerry Roche** and **Sean Gallagher** were questioned that night and were not detained. The arrest of Breatnach and the questioning of the other two is significant because all three were to be tortured some days later.

The robbery was a blow to the prestige of the new police chief Edmund Garvey and a further blow to **Justice Minister Cooney**. The opposition party in the Dail called for **Cooney's** resignation as they had done in the past over spectacular prison escapes. Cooney decided to 'kill 2 birds with one stone' and the frame up began.

the 'heavy gang'

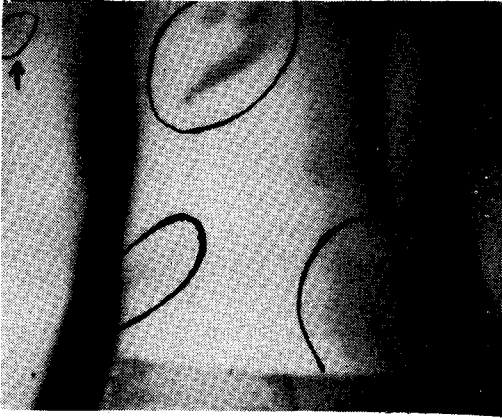
Once the high level decision to commence the frame up was taken, responsibility for the operation was handed over to an elite squad of detectives known as the **Central Detective Unit**. The **Sunday Independent** of 15.4.76 reported on the findings of a Belgian lawyer who had visited Dublin after the arrests. The following is a section of the article. "**He (Belgian lawyer) says that he has discovered the names of nearly all members of the part time interrogation squad against which allegations of brutality to suspects were made in recent weeks.**

"According to him there is no full time squad. He says that none of the members of the squad have any special knowledge of modern interrogation techniques and have to rely on brawn to get results.

"Squad members belong to different stations in the greater Dublin area. They are sent for when something big breaks and are immediately relieved of all other duties.

"They are expected to produce very quick results. They operate in different Garda stations as suspects are brought from station to station to avoid information as to their whereabouts reaching relatives or lawyers.

"The men involved do not conduct any detective work in the sense of seeking culprits and arresting them. Their job is solely to MAKE captured men talk and to do so rapidly"



Sean Gallagher showing various bruises and welts caused by garda tortures. He was not charged with any offence.



Mick Plunkett,
Gen. Sec.

On Monday the 5th April the wave of arrests began. Early that morning the following were arrested.

John Fitzpatrick, Seamus Costello, Nicky Kelly, Osgur Breatnach (2nd Arrest) Brian McNally, Gerry Roche, Sean Gallagher, Ronnie Bunting, Bob Lee. In Wicklow **Jim Doherty** and **Jim Lowe** were lifted. They were all taken to various detention centres and denied access to family or lawyers. The IRSP head office in Dublin was illegally entered and occupied for two days. The office was ransacked files were littered around the floor and in some cases stolen and burned. The secretary of the Dublin executive, **Mairead Casey** and her sister **Maura** were arrested as they called to the office that night. They were held for some hours in the Bridewell. The following day, **Mick Plunkett** the party secretary was arrested at a railway station in Dublin. He was returning from a welfare visit to Long Kesh Camp in the North. In Tullow, Co Carlow IRSP member **Noel Doyle** was arrested. The next morning Ard Chomhairle member **Ite Ni Chionnaith** and her brother were arrested. Later still first reports that some of those held were being beaten leaked out. On Tuesday (7/4/76) 4 members in Cork city were arrested. The 48 hour period in which the police could hold people without charge had expired for those arrested on Monday.

Only the 2 Wicklow men and **Bob Lee** were released, the others were illegally re-arrested as they left their place of detention. In Dun Laoghaire, **Caoilte Breatnach**, Chairman of the local IRSP was lifted. Those illegally re detained were: **Breatnach** (his third period), **Costello, Gallagher, Roche, McNally, Fitzpatrick** and **Kelly**.

Breatnach's family managed to locate him and they took a High Court action to have him released. The following appeared in the 'Independent' the next day, and concerned the evidence of his family doctor. "In the past 1/2 hour he (Dr. Smith) had examined Breatnach in a room in the Four Courts. He Found him to be suffering from head aches, loss of memory, pains in the back of his head and neck and he was suffering from concussion."

"He had a large swelling on the top rear part of his head, bruises on his arms and buttocks and on both legs. All the injuries were on the back and were not consistent with falling backwards. There were no marks on the front of his body, when asked by Counsel if he could state what these injuries were consistent with, Dr. Smith said it was difficult to be dogmatic but he would say that Mr. Breatnach received blows and possibly kicks.

Concussion, he said, was always a particularly dangerous condition, and this man should be resting in bed, preferably in hospital where he could have an X-Ray."

The High Court ordered the immediate release from police custody of **Breatnach** and directed that he be sent to hospital and that there be no further interrogation.

When it became likely that further High Court actions would follow, **Costello, Roche** and **Gallagher** were released. From accounts given by these men it became clear that the police were carrying out a systematic programme of torture against selected men. The IRSP held a press conference that night and several of those released showed visible injuries to Press reporters. The evidence of torture began to mount.

The Irish Times in an Editorial expressed disquiet at the allegations of ill-treatment.

(Irish Times, Friday, April 9th) "In recent weeks disquiet has been caused by Mr. Cooney's decision to change prison regulations in order to allow defendants in custody to consult only with a solicitor approved by the Minister for Justice.

The leader of the Irish Republican Socialist Party, Mr. Seamus Costello, has alleged at Dublin Press Conference that he was arrested on Monday morning, questioned until Wednesday when he was released, then re-arrested brought to Rathmines and there questioned in the Garda station until his release on Wednesday night. At the same conference a number of members of the IRSP - a registered political party - showed bruises to reporters and made allegations of brutality against the Gardai".

The fortnightly 'HIBERNIA' called for a public inquiry into the IRSP allegations. 40 lecturers and professors at Dublin's main university joined in the growing demand for a public inquiry. Some Government circles became nervous of the publicity resulting from the torture allegations. The Director of Public Prosecutions afraid of the case becoming too blatant a political frame-up, refused **Garvey's** repeated demands that **Seamas Costello** should also be framed for the robbery. Because of the mounting publicity the police were in a dilemma. Some of those still held were detained illegally, and four men could clearly show signs of a heavy beating. Of the 6 who were later to be charged **Kelly, Breatnach, Fitzpatrick** and **McNally** had been forced to sign a 'confession'. If these people were released without charge it would prove conclusively that these 'confessions' were beaten out of them.

The State decided to prefer charges in order to buy time. Late Wednesday night **Plunkett, Kelly, Fitzpatrick and McNally** were charged with the robbery before Justice 'O'Huadhaigh at a specially convened sitting of the Dublin District Court.

The following morning the 4 made another appearance and **Plunkett** requested that the Judge order that all the defendants be given immediate medical attention as they were injured in police custody. This was refused as he "should raise this with whoever has him in custody" **Plunkett** removed his shirt and vest and showed the court bruises and welts on the upper portion of his arms. This was reported in the newspapers that day. (7th April).



Osgur Breatnach, Editor Starry Plough, being arrested immediately after a High Court judge ordered his release.

* **Breatnach** was arrested as he left the hospital and charged with robbery. Bail was set at £10,000 with the addition that passports would be surrendered to the gardai and each person was to report twice weekly to their local gardai station.

Mick Barret, from Abbeyveale, Co. Limerick, was arrested in Bray the following day, held for 48 hours and then charged with the robbery. **Barret**, a vital defence witness for **Fitzpatrick**, was in Limerick with him on the night of the robbery. During his detention **Barret** was also badly beaten.

Meanwhile the defence lawyers, **Pat McCartan** and **Tony Salmon B.L.**, exhausted every legal method and were successful in having two independent doctors sent into Mountjoy where four of the defendants were given a thorough medical examination. This evidence will be crucial at the actual trial and it will prove beyond doubt that tortures took place.

At this time public pressure was mounting for an independent public inquiry. The U.C.D. Students Union supported two successful public meetings. A petition amongst the teaching staff was organised by other student bodies. 35 members of the teaching staff in Galway University signed a petition and issued a press statement calling for a public inquiry. In France and West Germany Ireland Solidarity Groups organised meetings and sent protest letters to Irish Embassies. Similar protest letters were sent

to Irish Embassies in England, USA, Belgium, Holland, Switzerland, Austria and Norway. In Amsterdam the Foreign Minister for the Dutch government, Mr. Van Der Stoel told a member of the Dutch Ireland Committee that he had obtained information re the arrest of IRSP members and that this matter would receive his full attention.

Amnesty International began to display an interest in the case. In Dublin the IRSP held protests and public meetings. Similar protests were to have an important role in saving the Murrays (proving that the Free State Government is sensitive about its international image).



MINISTERIE VAN
BUIENLANDSE ZAKEN

Amsterdam

Dear Miss [redacted]
I have noted your letter of 20th April regarding the unpleasant incidents in Eire. I have ascertained that the Research Dept. of Amnesty International in London is also acquainted with your attached papercuttings. I understand that the

subject is under their attention there. Furthermore, I shall make your letter available to a "civil rights group" in another country, so that they can proceed further with the case. Friendly greetings,
A. Heijder.

's-Gravenhage, 14 mei 1976

Dear Miss [redacted]
I wish to thank you for your letter of the 20th April, wherein you supplied me with some information regarding the arrest in Ireland of members of the Irish Republican Socialist Party, the contents of

which I have noted with interest.

You may be assured that questions such as these receive my special attention and are therefore followed with great care.

Respectfully yours,
M. Van der Stoel
(Minister for Foreign Affairs)

amnesty
international

After detailed examination of the evidence of torture, the Association for Legal Justice A.L.J. announced that they would cover the costs of any case brought against the State for brutality. The cost would be covered by the Susan Langley Trust Fund which is based in **Canada - USA**. The A.L.J. gained prominence for their handling of the torture cases brought against the British Government by internees in 1971.

Those charged spent the following month in Portlaoise Jail, the main prison centre for political prisoners in the South. People offering to go bail were turned down in the Dublin District Court for the pettiest of reasons. Finally after many applications to both District and the High Court the Six were released on bail. It is no coincidence that all six were denied bail until their injuries had healed. The Kildare Six made further court appearances in June, October and December '76. Under Irish law, before a case can proceed, a book of evidence must be produced. This is a simple legal document in which the state sets out the evidence to be used in a trial. The book is supposed to be served within 30 days. In June the book was not ready, the excuse being that the gardai had to take statements from 700 witnesses. Objections to the delay were raised, and in reply "**Buffalo**" **Ryan** (infamous for his interrogation of the Murrays), who has in the past been convicted of brutality, asked for a remand until September and promised that the book would be ready. **Justice O'hUadhaigh**, renowned for his benevolence gave him a remand until October.

Charges Thrown Out Of Court

In the October appearance the total number of witnesses was reduced to 300. It became obvious that this was a time wasting tactic. The witnesses would comprise all those who handled or who were responsible for sending cash on the train. This was unprecedented and unnecessary, and if it became the normal practice, simple court cases involving robberies would have literally hundreds of witnesses. The expense involved would be astronomical. Again objections were raised at the delay in producing the book of evidence. Defence lawyer **Tony Salmon** stated that the long delay in the proceedings placed his clients in a "legal limbo". **Justice O'hUadhaigh** unable to stretch his benevolence any further gave a remand until 9th December, and stated that the book should be ready. At the next appearance when the book was not produced the judge had no choice and discharged all the defendants who were set free. By this time the case had become notorious as evidenced by the large number of lawyers and law students who were observing the case from a packed public gallery.

When the Six were freed spontaneous applause and cheering in the court was quickly stifled by the large number of gardai present. In an interview in the **Sunday Press**, **Seamas Costello**, gave a detailed account of the arrests and beatings. The front page of the paper reproduced a photograph of **Sean Gallagher** which clearly showed facial injuries.



Some of those who were tortured photographed on hearing the case was discharged by District Justice O hUadhaigh. John Fitzpatrick and Michael Barret are on left. Nicky Kelly is third from right.

Re-charged

On being cleared the IRSP announced that they would be taking a legal action for assault, false imprisonment and would continue its campaign for the holding of a public inquiry into police brutality. The excuse of not having the book of evidence and the release of the Six was intended to make the public believe that the Six were guilty but had escaped conviction because of bureaucratic slip up. The decision of the IRSP to continue with the civil action against the state placed the government in an awkward position: if they continued with the robbery case the torture and brutality would emerge in court, on the other hand the determination of the **IRSP** to pursue the issue meant that this evidence would come out one way or the other.

The D.P.P. (Director of Public Prosecutions) and the Gardai decided to have another go at a frame up.

In the early hours of Friday morning the 17th December, the special Branch moved. **Kelly, Breatnach, McNally** and **Plunkett** were lifted and brought to the Bridewell. From there they were brought to the Special Courts and re-charged with the robbery. **Breatnach** and **Plunkett** addressed the Court. They protested their innocence and stated that the whole matter was a frame up and a state conspiracy against the IRSP.

To date **Barret** and **Fitzpatrick** are not re-charged with the robbery. The two were in Limerick on the night in question and all their witnesses were arrested in an effort to refute this. The Gardai would find it particularly difficult to frame them.

••

the torture

For legal reasons we cannot give detailed medical evidence here but the following is a general account.

Those arrested can be roughly divided into 2 groups. A group of 9 who were selected for special treatment and others who were beaten and intimidated because they were relatives or defence witnesses or because they were organising protests on the outside.

The group of 9 consists of the 6 charged and **Roche, Doyle** and **Gallagher**.

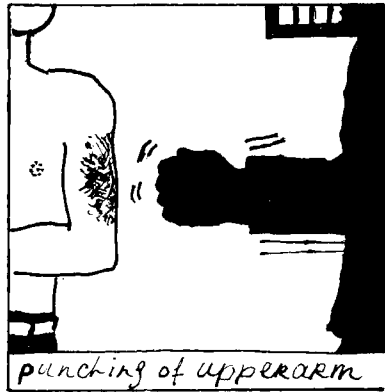
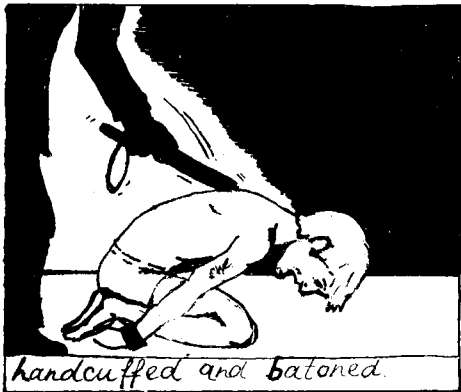
The group who were all held in Dublin were denied food, sleep and in some cases water, for a number of days. They were questioned round the clock by teams of 2 interrogators who were working in shifts.

The torture techniques included being spreadeagled against the walls for hours, beatings on all parts of the body with batons, fists, boots, leather belts and clubs. In one case a prisoner had his body scraped with a heavy wire brush.

All were told that unless 'confessions' were signed their families would suffer. **Sean Gallagher** was told that the British Army had raided his grandmother's house in the North and that because of this she had had a heart attack. Unless he admitted his guilt they would arrange to have the house raided again.

Roche was told that his young son had to be put into an institution and would be kept in 'care' for a number of years. **Caoilte Breatnach** was arrested in an effort to make him sign a statement to the effect that **Plunkett** was not visiting at his house on the night of the robbery. A **Dutch girl** on holiday with family of **Caoilte Breatnach** on the same night was questioned by INTERPOL in Amsterdam regarding

Plunkett's movements that night. **Kelly** was told that his mother was seriously ill in hospital because of him. **Jim Doherty** a native of the 6 Counties and living in Bray was told that he was wanted by the Army in the North and that he would be dumped on the other side of the Border. He was told that his wife would also be arrested.



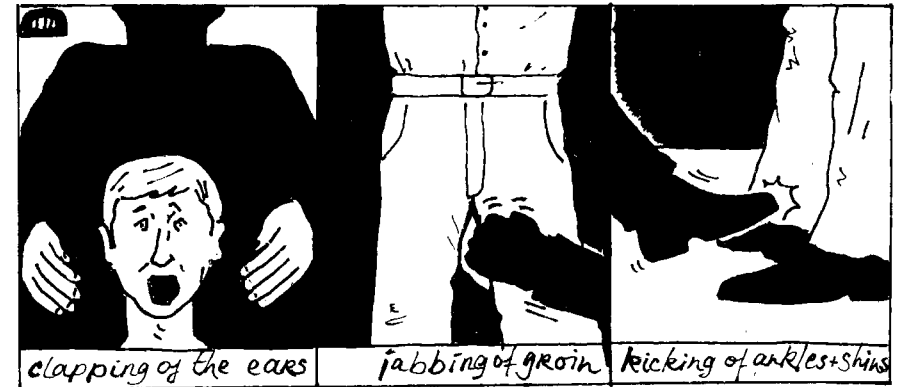
Some were told that they would lose their jobs as a result of the arrests, and 2 people were told that they would be certified as insane and sent to a mental hospital. Barret was taken to a lonely spot in Bray and Det. Garda Egan produced his gun and offered it to Barret to examine. This is particularly sinister as other armed Branchmen were hiding in the vicinity waiting to shoot him if he held the gun. Fitzpatrick was beaten up in his cell by 2 men dressed in Train employees uniforms. It later emerged that these were policemen in disguise.

Kelly was taken to the scene of the robbery and threatened. Many of the prisoners were offered large sums of money if they would act as police informers when released. Some were offered large sums of money if they would confess and become informers. The 'reward' money would come from the proceeds of the robbery and no one would "know as the banks and C.I.E. often make mistakes as to the amount of money in transit". This type of interrogation, along with the psychological pressures exerted was accompanied by foul and abusive language. The purpose of this was to convince the prisoners that they were totally isolated and that nobody outside cared about them. Because of this the prisoners felt that their interrogators had the power to do as they wished and were not subject to any restraint from their superiors.

The police repeatedly stated that they had sanction from the Minister for Justice to do as they wished, they were under pressure from their superiors and had to get somebody for the job. They also tried to convey to the prisoner that he, his family and all Republicans were the lowest form of animal life and that nobody cared what became of them.

The physical tortures consisted of the following:

1. **Violent simultaneous clapping of the ears. This caused pains in the head and resulted in partial loss of hearing, and caused permanent damage to eardrums. In countries where torture is state policy this is called the 'telephone'**
2. **Constant blows with fists or batons to the biceps. After about a half an hour of this the upper arms swell up and the arms are rendered useless.**
3. **Jabbing of the groin and stomach with extended fingers.**
4. **Kicking, punching and squeezing of the genitals. In the case of the IRSP prisoners this was the favourite of the police as it left no marks while it caused the maximum of pain.**
5. **Kicking of shins and ankles while in the search position.**



A point of political significance to emerge from the interrogations was the claims by the gardai that a new law was to be introduced soon which would change the detention period without charge from 2 days to seven. This proves that the Government planned this move long before the death of the British Ambassador in July after which the Government introduced 7 days detention as a 'new move to combat terrorism'. With 7 day detention the special branch feel they have enough time to obtain 'confessions'.

Again we reprint from the Sunday Independent article the visit of the Belgian lawyer. This gives an insight to the workings of the mind of members of the special interrogation Squad.

"Yesterday in strict confidence and on the understanding that his name would never be revealed, one of the gardai named by the Belgian lawyer discussed the allegations and gave his answers.

"He is not a Dubliner, is in his late 20's and is very fond of sport and the outdoor life. He says, indeed, that his fellow interrogators are mainly sports activists rather than mere sports fans. One member of his team is prominent in a National Sport.

"There is nothing sinister in what we do. We know they are guilty! We also know that evidence must be produced for the Court and often that evidence is not there.

Our job is to find out the truth. There is only one way these fellows understand. There is no use in treating them with kid gloves. WE NEVER USE INSTRUMENTS. We are doing a job for law abiding citizens. We are ordinary people who happen to be Guards and happen to take our jobs seriously.

"This is an elite group and we all know that we are doing something special and something important. It is our job to put down crime in this country . . . Yes, we are given special payment. We get overtime for what we do. Yes, we are willing to work around the clock. Yes, we do believe in what we are doing. We are not ashamed, we are proud.

"Unless we are ordered to stop our methods of interrogation we will continue with the way we have successfully worked up to now."

The above is clear and needs no elaboration. It demonstrates the hypocrisy of Cooney who has refused all demands for a public inquiry and states that an internal Garda inquiry is satisfactory to deal with allegations of police brutality.

Conclusion.

The 4 charged, Breathnach, McNally, Kelly and Plunkett made an appearance in the Special Courts on Friday the 21st January. They eventually received their books of evidence on 26th January and the Trial is expected to commence at the beginning of May. There is still the possibility that Barret and Fitzpatrick will be re-charged.

The final outcome of the trial is uncertain. There is no jury in the Special Courts, and 3 judges appointed by the Government act as Judge and Jury. This trial will be of significant political importance.

If the frame up fails it will be a victory for public opinion over the growing repression in the South of Ireland. The Government will be forced to rethink their policy of extracting statements and 'confessions' by torture. On the other hand if the frame up is successful those charged will receive jail terms from between 8 to 20 years. If this happens it will be taken by the Government and the infamous Central Detective Unit as a sign that there is approval for their actions and methods of repression. These same methods will then be used against other organisations and individuals.

Anyone who doubts our claim that the frame up is politically motivated or who believe that the torture took place without Official sanction should look closely at the evidence.

The arrest of the party Chairman, the Secretary, the Editor of the party paper, the illegal seizure of the party office, the burning of office files, all were designed to cause the maximum of disruption of legitimate party activity. In fact many people were solely questioned about the political activities of the IRSP.

The screening process of those in custody, the similarity of the torture and interrogation methods all point to a high level of police organisation and approval.

The determination of the Government to frame the IRSP with the robbery must not succeed.

All Republican, Socialist and Democratic organisations must unite in defence of democratic rights. It is the task of the above to build up a political interest in the case among the working class. This would effectively put a brake on the steady drift towards a Southern police state and the daily erosion of basic civil liberties

HELP....

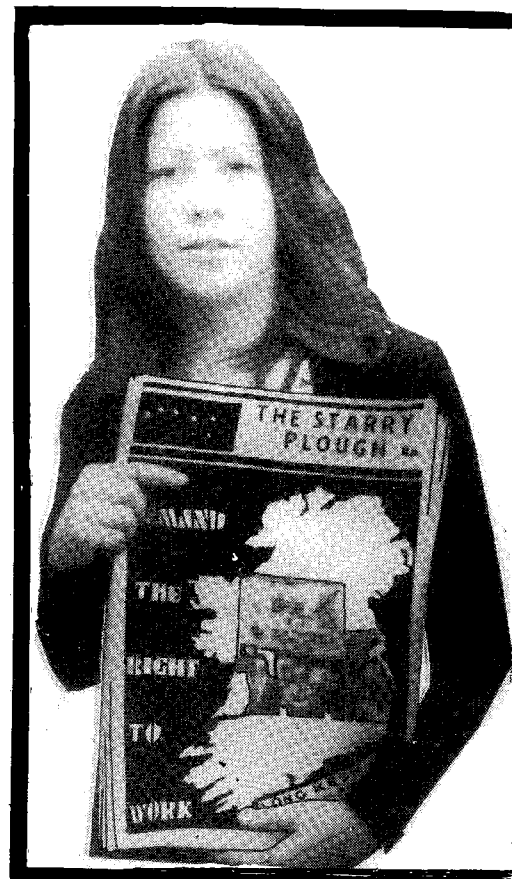
The IRSP makes an urgent appeal for funds which are needed by us in our campaign on this issue.

The ALJ and the Langley Trust Fund will cover costs incurred in the civil action being taken against the Government.

Money is needed for the defence of those facing the robbery charge.

All monies should be sent by check or postal order (no cash) and should be addressed to:

KILDARE 6, DEFENCE FUND,
34 Upper Gardiner St.,
Dublin 1.
Ireland.



telling the truth

The STARRY PLOUGH, published monthly, covers Irish economic, political and cultural affairs while also giving some foreign coverage. It represents the views of the Irish Republican Socialist Party. It has outlets in Europe and America as well as in Ireland. An annual subscription is available for only £2.20 (Ireland); £2.70 (Europe); and \$6 (United States).

Make sure you are getting the news from a republican socialist point of view by ordering your copies from 34 Upper Gardiner Street, Dublin 1.

We urge all Democratic, Socialist, and anti-Imperialist organisations abroad to send protests to Irish Embassies in their countries and to forward copies to the Committee.

JM

Independent machinery needed to probe charges, says SC

INQUIRY CALL ON GARDAI CHARGES

Arrested, freed, rearrested, freed. Arrested again, finally acquitted

The existing interrogate the to

A Belfast woman living in Dublin tells a of being forced to take her clothes off idewell.

man arrested after the murder of Garda Michael Clerkin says he lost two toe-nails and over a stone in weight during a four-day detention.

Gardai using

'We can do what we want'

North-style brutality