

INTERNAL BULLETIN NO.22

JANUARY 1982

Resolution on the Ballykelly bombing from Glasgow WSL

"The Crisis of the FI and our tasks" - text as amended by  
OC.

Summary minutes and resolutions from November 1981 NC.

(A number of other items have already been submitted for the Internal Bulletin. The present contents are being got out earlier for the January NC, and a further Internal Bulletin will follow shortly.

Please send articles for the Internal Bulletin to the centre, typed if possible ~~xxx~~ A4 on Roneo stencils.)

To be distributed with the present Internal Bulletin -  
"The Crisis in the British Section", by Evington.

"Glasgow WSL unreservedly condemns the shameless editorial on the Ballykelly bombing which appeared in [REDACTED]

The editorial represented a gross betrayal of some of the most fundamental principles of revolutionary socialism: there was not a word of defence of, and support for the struggle of, the Irish Republican movement; there was not a word of the need for immediate British withdrawal; instead, the bombing is described as "carnage" and "indiscriminate slaughter" with the emphasis placed on the civilian casualties caused by the bombing; and the 'solution' to the war in Ireland is posed in terms of a vacuous liberalism ("... a just solution ...", "... a democratic solution ...") as opposed to the defeat of British imperialism.

The editorial was a close parallel to that which appeared in the 'Militant' the same week, the only basic difference being that 'Militant' took the anti-socialist arguments in its editorial to their logical conclusion.

The NC must therefore:

- ensure that the full text of this motion is circulated to all branches in the next branch circular/IB, whichever appears the first,
- ensure that an attempted justification of the contents of the editorial by its author is contained in the next branch circular/IB,
- ensure that the next branch circular/IB contains a report from the convenor of the Irish commission on what, if any, work it has carried out in the last twelve months,
- provide an explanation in the next branch circular/IB of how it came about that the editorial's author was permitted to write such an editorial for publication in the first place,
- ensure that either a special aggregate is called on the question of Ireland for the immediate future, or that extended time at the national conference is allotted to the question of Ireland,
- ensure that all future editorials/articles on Ireland which appear in the paper are in line with revolutionary socialist politics, not the scab politics of the 'Militant' tendency,
- ensure that a meeting of the Irish commission is held early in the New Year for the purpose of restoring a revolutionary socialist position on Ireland to the organisation's political programme and publications, and for the purpose of discussing the solidarity work which needs to be carried out in the period ahead to build support for such a position."

from Glasgow WSL branch (one vote against)