

"Ireland's War" Support Group (London)

September 12th 1986.

To: E.S.C.

Dear Comrades,

We are writing to you, an organisation representing black people, to request that you sponsor the picket called by the Wolfe Tone Society Republican Support Group on October 6th to protest against the use of plastic bullets (details enclosed).

Home Secretary Hurd has made it abundantly clear in the most threatening terms that he fully endorses the use of plastic bullets when black people and those who support them strike back at police harassment. "I am not prepared," he recently stated, "to see the police helpless under the kind of attack they endured in Tottenham... When a chief officer thinks that, for the protection of his men or citizens, he needs them (i.e. plastic bullets) rather than to ask in the army with live ammunition, then I think he should have them."

Police have been training in the use of these supposedly non-lethal weapons in West London. In fact the true nature of plastic bullets as a lethal murder weapon is shown by the fact that well over a dozen people have died in Ireland as a result of police murders by plastic bullets. They were on hand during the Broadwater Farm uprising, and clearly now present an immediate threat of police murder by gunfire of oppressed people who fight back.

The Wolfe Tone Society is a support organisation for the Irish Republican Movement that has distinguished itself by its internationalist support for black peoples' struggles in Britain. We greatly hope you will agree to sponsor this street protest which is of such great relevance for the common struggle of the Irish, black and other oppressed peoples against the racist British state.

Warmest fraternal greetings,

*Hugh Stephens*  
IWSG(L)

I/we agree to sponsor the picket of Astra called by the Wolfe Tone Society for October 6th 1986 to protest against the use of plastic bullets.

Signed . . . . .  
Organisation . . . . .  
Address . . . . .

Please return to the following address:  
Mosquito Press (IWSG)  
27A, Old Gloucester St.,  
London WC1N 3AX

# Ireland's War Support Group (London)

**PICKET**  
OFFICES OF "ASTRA"

Address:

**IWSG**  
c/o Mosquito Press  
27A, Old Gloucester St.  
London WC1N 3XX

FIREWORKS ARE ILLEGAL IN NORTHERN IRELAND —

PLASTIC BULLETS ARE NOT !!

The Wolfe Tone Society Republican Support Group has called a picket of the offices of "ASTRA", manufacturers of plastic bullets, to take place at 5-7 pm on October 6th. This picket will coincide with a similar event in Scotland. The IWSG (London) calls on all its members and supporters to do their utmost to mobilise as many people as possible to attend this picket.

This picket is being organised at a time when the Irish Republican Movement is attracting growing attention from progressive people in many countries. As events during Thatcher's visit to Norway have just shown, more and more people around the world are coming to see Ireland's fight as an honourable and heroic national liberation struggle that can justly be upheld alongside the national liberation struggles of Asia, Africa and Latin America. The IRA, who have not been defeated by 16 years of British army suppression, are preparing to write a page in world history that can stand proudly alongside the achievements of the Vietnamese, Korean, Chilean and Nicaraguan patriots, the Red Army of Lenin and Stalin, and the freedom fighters of ZANU-PF and Umkhonto we Sizwe. The IRA is leading the way forward for anti-imperialists in the imperialist heartlands.

This picket has been initiated by a prominent Republican Support Group which has justly earned widespread support among Britain's Irish community and its friends. The picket therefore provides an excellent opportunity for all anti-imperialists to respond to Republican initiatives, rally round Ireland's fight, and take the issue of British Army suppression to the streets here in British imperialism's homeland.

Picket offices of ASTRA, Suite 334, 162/168 Regent St., London W1.

Monday October 6th 5-7 pm.

The Wolfe Tones Society leaflet will be available soon; for other information contact us at the above address, or write direct to: Wolfe Tone Society, BM 6191, London WC1N 3XX.

Read "Ireland's War". New issue out this week: articles on Republican Bands movement in Scotland; letters from prisoners, etc.