

# forum

## INTRODUCTION

In this issue of Forum, we are publishing articles which go beyond the traditional parameters of "criminology" and raise important issues about the relationship between crime, the state and the political economy.

The civil war in Ireland continues one of the world's oldest colonial wars. It is an important birthplace of modern liberation struggles. British repression in Northern Ireland uses the most modern counterinsurgency and riot-control technology, the latest forms of military and police intelligence information gathering and sophisticated internment and interrogation methods. These tactics were developed in Britain not only for use overseas, but also against domestic political groups; furthermore, they are a model for counterinsurgency in other parts of the world. (1) The United States is integrally involved in Ireland, both directly as a large-scale imperialist power with economic interests in Ireland, and indirectly as the major source of military and economic aid to Britain. A crucial aspect of U.S. imperialism's network is the export and import of counterinsurgency technology and expertise. (2)

A Marxist analysis of crime and repression requires a global analysis, since working class struggles against exploitation cut across national boundaries, just as imperialism's military and police apparatus defends the interests of the multinational corporations. Al Lee's "Imperialism, Class and Northern Ireland's Civil War" clearly demonstrates the links between U.S. imperialism and British repression in Northern Ireland. Conn Hallinan's "The Subjugation and Division of Ireland" puts the centuries-old Irish struggle in the historical context of British colonialism.

In the past, we have published articles which expose and analyze the relationship between imperialism and criminology. (3) We continue that commitment in this issue with Boehringer and Giles's case study of criminology and neocolonialism in Papua New Guinea.

### FOOTNOTES

1. For a thorough and detailed discussion of British repression in Northern Ireland and the use of new repressive techniques, see the excellent pamphlet, "The New Technology of Repression: Lessons from Ireland," published by the British Society for Social Responsibility in Science, 9 Poland Street, London W1, England.

2. On the export of police technology, see Nancy Stein and Michael Klare, "The U.S. Public Safety Program," in *NACLA (North American Congress on Latin America), The U.S. Military Apparatus*, (1972); "AID Police Programs for Latin America," *NACLA Newsletter*, (July-August, 1971); and "Policing the Third World," in Susie Bernstein et al., *The Iron Fist and the Velvet Glove*, Oakland: Center for Research on Criminal Justice, 1977.

3. See, for example, "Teaching Criminology (in Montreal): Always on the Right Side of the Bars," *Crime and Social Justice* 1 (Spring-Summer, 1974): 62-63; and Rosa Del Olmo, "Limitations for the Prevention of Violence: The Latin American Reality and Its Criminological Theory," *Crime and Social Justice* 3 (Summer, 1975): 21-29.