

### INLA SEEKS NEW SUPPORT



**After the Feud and the Fox, the INLA is purged and prepared for a new campaign. Mark Piggott and Martin McNamara talked to Ireland’s most hardline paramilitaries.**

A leading member of the Irish Republican Socialist Party (IRSP) - the political wing of the Irish National Liberation Army (INLA) - has defied a British exclusion order to hold secret talks with revolutionary left wing groups in London.

The man, who claimed to hold the position of Welfare Officer in the IRSP, refused to disclose his name. He breached an automatic exclusion order and risked arrest in an attempt to renew support for the INLA/IRSP.

Last year the movement was torn apart by a bloody internal feud in which 13 of its activists were killed. But, in an exclusive interview, the IRSP spokesman claimed that the feud was an attempt to destroy the INLA by “counter revolutionary” forces.

“We do not see what happened last year as a feud. We see it as an attack on the movement. These people had been expelled by us, they were power seekers,” he said. Arguing that the movement was recovering, the spokesman referred to former INLA gunman, turned “Border Fox” kidnapper, Dessie O’Hare, as a “maverick.”

Media coverage in the wake of the killing spree and O’Hare’s activities reported that INLA could not recover. “The reports were without any consultation with us, but no amount of media distortion will dismantle us,” claimed the spokesman.

Despite the fact that his talks with left wing fringe groups here had not been as productive as he had hoped, the IRSP man maintained that support for his organisation was growing again in Britain, Europe and the United States.

“The INLA is here to stay. We are small with room to grow. People who left, high profile people known to Special Branch both in England and Ireland, are coming back into the movement. There is still a need for us.”

In the past the INLA has grabbed world headlines. In March 1979 it planted the car bomb in the House of Commons car park that killed Tory Northern Ireland spokesman Airey Neave. In December 1982, an INLA pub bomb at Ballykelly, Co Derry claimed 16 lives, including five civilians, ten British soldiers and a member of the UDR. The following November, an INLA unit, thought to be led by the organisation’s leading military figure, Dominic McGlinchey (now in jail in the Irish Republic) killed three worshippers at an evangelist church service in

