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IVEAGH HOUSE OCCUPIED BY BELFAST GROUP

One of the nine members of the Workers' Association who occupied offices of the Department of Foreign Affairs in Dublin yesterday, being escorted from Iveagh House. The group staged their two-hour sit-in in protest against the Dublin Government's policy on the North.

—(Photograph: Eddie Kelly.)

A Belfast member of the Workers' Association who padlocked himself to a radiator during the sit-in at Iveagh House, Dublin, yesterday. He was released after two-hours when fellow demonstrators handed the key to gardai.

—(Photograph: Eddie Kelly.)

NINE MEMBERS of a Belfast-based left-wing group occupied the Department of Foreign Affairs in St. Stephen's Green, Dublin, yesterday. They chained themselves to statues and radiators in the main hall of Iveagh House.

All members of the recently-formed Workers' Association for the Democratic Settlement of the National Conflict in Ireland, they were protesting at the "undemocratic claim of the Southern Government to rule over Northern Ireland". They were supported outside the building by about 20 colleagues carrying placards. Some of the placards bore the association's slogan: "National Rights for Protestants; Civil Rights for Catholics".

About 15 people travelled for the protest from Belfast, where the association was founded last August. The other demonstrators came from Dublin and Cork. The association claims 200 members, both Catholic and Protestant, in Ireland, with branches in Belfast, Coleraine, Newtownabbey, Dublin, Cork, Limerick and Donegal. It also had members in Germany, Australia, the U.S.A., Zambia, France and West Germany, Mr. Jeff Dudgeon of Belfast said.

Mr. Dudgeon said the group opposed violence and for this reason held few protest meetings in the North. They had protested at recent Labour Party conference in Wexford, he added. The most important question facing the working class movement in Ireland today was the polarisation of Catholic and Protestant workers into separate and hostile camps.

"The ultimate responsibility for this state of affairs and for the conflict between Catholic and Protestant communities as a whole lies with the Southern capitalist class, whose claim to rule over the majority in the North lies at the root of the present conflict."

This claim was based on the

totally unproven assertion that Ireland was a single nation. In fact, the Workers' Association states, there are two. "As long as the 'one nation' myth exercises any significant influence in the South, there will always be those, like the Provisional I.R.A., who will seek to follow out the logic of this assertion. "The ultimate responsibility for the terrorist campaign in the North lies with the southern State, which for 50 years has used its influence to saturate the population with the 'one-nation' propaganda."

9 charged with forcible entry

Seven men from Northern Ireland and two from the Republic were charged in the Dublin District Court yesterday under the Forcible Entry and Occupation Act. The men were charged with remaining in forcible possession of land the Department of External Affairs, in Dublin—earlier in the day.

They were Eamon O'Kane, the Mount, Albertbridge road, Belfast; David McRoberts, Tennent street, Belfast; George Wilson, Melville Garden Village, Newtownabbey, Co. Antrim; Michael Devaney, Albert street, Belfast; David Morrison, Dunlambert park, Belfast; Thomas Dwyer, Beechmount street, Belfast; John Bowman, Sydenham drive, Belfast; John Kearns, North Circular road, Dublin; and Colm O'Shea, Sunday's Well, Cork.

The men were remanded on £300 bail and will appear again in court on April 11th.

