FIGHT RACISM!
FIGHT IMPERIALISM!

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HANDS OFF ZIMBABWE!

VICTORY TO THE PATRIOTIC FRONT

The most dangerous stage of the Zimbabwean liberation struggle has now been reached. The Lancaster House settlement has not ended the war but has taken it to a new and perilous phase. Perilous for the Patriotic Front and the black masses of Zimbabwe.

The same forces which underlay the war continue to exist. The suffering and injustice which drove the people of Zimbabwe to take up arms under the leadership of the Patriotic Front still exists. The same reactionary racist state apparatus still exists. The same imperialist interests which have tried time and again to 'stabilise' Southern Africa by procuring the defeat of the Patriotic Front still exist. The victory of the Patriotic Front still threatens the ability of imperialism to exploit the resources and the masses in Southern Africa. Most of all it threatens the very existence of the bastion of reaction – the South African apartheid state itself.

No agreement or settlement alters any of that. Only victory for one side or the other – for the Patriotic Front or for imperialism – could end the war in Zimbabwe. It was the military successes of the Patriotic Front which finally drove the British ruling class to force a settlement. Had the Rhodesian racist regime, with the backing of South Africa, been able to defeat the Patriotic Front, nobody would have been more pleased than the British ruling class. But such a victory proved impossible. Even with martial law covering 90% of the land, with half a million Zimbabweans in 'protected' villages, with tens of thousands of political prisoners and with an army of sophisticated troops and equipment – even with all that against it – the Patriotic Front fought on undefeated.

Even worse, from the viewpoint of imperialism, the Patriotic Front moved from success to success. The great majority of black Zimbabweans support the Patriotic Front. Thousands of trained freedom fighters have fought bravely and effectively. Large numbers of whites have been leaving the country. The internal settlement proved a non-starter in the face of Patriotic Front resistance. Fear and panic spread in the camp of imperialism.

British Imperialist plans

British imperialism saw that the time had come to intervene decisively in a manner that would weigh the scales against a Patriotic Front victory.

Nothing could have been more brazen than the role played by the British imperialist state at the Lancaster House talks. The motives and interests of British imperialism were displayed for all to see. The British state wants the defeat of the anti-imperialist struggle and the installation of a pro-imperialist puppet regime.

Of all the imperialist powers, Britain has the greatest stake in Southern Africa. A victory for the Patriotic Front in Zimbabwe is a threat to its interests in the whole region, in Namibia and in South Africa itself. The extent of British involvement in South Africa is enormous. British companies account for more than 50% of total foreign investment in South Africa. For that reason the British state will stop at nothing to prevent any movement endangering imperialist interests in the region. That is why the British-imposed Lancaster House Settlement is designed in every particular to prevent a Patriotic Front victory.

The Lancaster House talks were not talks. Britain dictated. The Patriotic Front was directly up against the total weight of British imperialism and British backed Rhodesian military forces supported by the armed might of the South African racist state. These pressures included raids and bombings of the Front line states housing Patriotic Front forces. In the case of Zambia this was added to by blocking all grain supplies and thus creating the prospect of famine.

The Patriotic Front had to face these mighty forces of imperialism with scarcely any support from the British labour movement. In addition they were continually attacked and abused by the petit bourgeois socialist groupings of the British left.

The result was that the British were able to get away with murder at Lancaster House. The British imposed plans included an elected assembly with one fifth of the seats reserved for whites. The whites make up one-thirtieth of the population. Built in to the constitution is a substantial bloc of reaction. Also built in by the British were clauses enforcing compensation for redistributed land. Land that was stolen from the Zimbabweans! The British were determined to reward the white settlers for services rendered.

But such constitutional questions were not the real issues at stake. If the liberation struggle is victorious it will chew up and spit out such provisions. Crucial for British imperialism was that the transitional and election arrangements should lay the basis for the political or military defeat of the Patriotic Front. The British plan was simple: Patriotic Front guerillas are to be mobilised in assembly camps while the whole racist

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Photograph by Laurie Sparham (I.F.L.).

INTERVIEW WITH ROBERT MUGABE

The following interview was given to Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism! by Comrade President Mugabe – President ZANU – Patriotic Front. The interview took place at Heathrow Airport on 22 12 79 – just before President Mugabe flew out of Britain. It is the last interview he gave before leaving Britain.

Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism!: *What positions would you like organisations in this country to take on the settlement, and what would you like us to do over the coming weeks and months in your support?*

Comrade President Robert Mugabe: The struggle hasn't ended. It's only just begun in our view. In the sense that if all goes well during the elections and we emerge as the government there will still be another form of struggle. But there's going to be lots of work in reconstruction, resettling people. In the initial period we will expect all the support groups we have here in Britain and elsewhere to concentrate their efforts in enabling us to re-settle our people. There are many refugees, if not more refugees inside the country than outside the country. There is also the question of working to aid us at the present moment when we are campaigning for elections.

FRFI: *What we are particularly concerned about is the role of Britain in Zimbabwe and South Africa in particular and we believe that the possibility of intervention of British troops or South African troops is one that we have got to fight against. What's your comment on that?*

Comrade President Robert Mugabe: Yes, certainly we must combine forces just now. South African troops are within the country. We raised this matter yesterday with Mrs Thatcher and Lord Carrington when we met them and we wanted to get from them a definite commitment that they were going to get the South African troops out. They were not that convincing. They said that as far as they knew the South African troops were not in the country. There is the possibility that these troops will be used against us if we are victorious. There is also the possibility that in fact the South Africans are there at the invitation of Britain, because Britain is hesitating to remove them. Hence there is a need for us to combine forces and demand through all political platforms, through all media, the withdrawal of South African troops and action, definite action, by Britain to get those South African troops out.

FRFI: *If you win the election, as we think you will win the election, and General Walls and the British act with the South Africans to overthrow your power, do you envisage going back to the armed struggle?*

Comrade President Robert Mugabe: The armed struggle is not ending just now. We are upholding a ceasefire. We have our arms with us. If anybody attacks us we will readjust and mobilise ourselves for action immediately. That will be the end of the

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apparatus of the Rhodesian police mercenaries, judiciary, civil service and media remain intact. According to the British, the Rhodesian military would be withdrawn to barracks leaving only: South African troops, white reservists and 120,000 armed whites roaming the country. For the purposes of 'law and order' the British governor would rely on the white officered butchers of the Rhodesian police force.

The reality of this is now emerging in Zimbabwe. A black crowd welcoming Patriotic Front leaders was attacked by Rhodesian police using tear gas and dogs. Courtesy of Britain. The Rhodesian army is assembled near Beit bridge – the main supply route from South Africa. Courtesy of Britain. Governor Soames ordered the Rhodesian military into action against a group of Patriotic Front freedom fighters killing seven of them. Protected villages still exist, the nearly quarter of a million refugees are not being allowed back into the country to vote. And most ominous of all, South African troops continue to enter and to operate in the country. These are border movements which the British turn a blind eye to.

One further reality is also becoming clearer every day. The fact that the Patriotic Front has the overwhelming support of the black masses in both rural and urban areas. Crowds of up to 100,000 have braved the attacks of the police to welcome Patriotic Front leaders. There is no doubt that the Patriotic Front would win a free election. The question that is worrying the imperialists is whether, even with all the odds Britain has stacked against them, they might win the rigged election that is to be staged.

South African intervention

Britain's plan, should such a Patriotic Front victory come about, is simple. It is called 'Get out and leave it to General Walls and South Africa'. Already Walls has warned that a Patriotic Front victory would lead to civil war. And South African intentions have been clearly stated. General Magus Melan said:

> 'The future of our country, indeed of the whole constellation of Southern African states, whether they remain part of the free world or fall prey to Marxism depends on the statesmanship displayed by the present leadership. In this Rhodesia fills a key role'.

South Africa will not stand idly by and watch a revolution in Zimbabwe. Botha, Prime Minister of South Africa, has stated that they would intervene militarily 'if chaos should prevail' in Zimbabwe. British imperialism knows that South Africa is attempting to create the economic and military means to dominate the whole of Southern Africa. With the price of gold rocketing, South Africa has the means to suit its actions to its words. Should the British plan prove insufficient to defeat the Patriotic Front, the threat of a South Africa – Walls – Muzorewa coup is a real one.

And it is the British plan which has set the stage for this. It has kept intact the racist apparatus of the Rhodesian state, it has tried to gather the Patriotic Front forces into assembly points where they will be vulnerable to attack. Nkomo called these camps "death camps". If they prove to be so, they will be *British* death camps. If there is a coup, then whether Governor Soames's thawed body is back in Britain or not, it will be a *British* engineered coup. If there is a South African invasion then it will be a *British* backed and *British* inspired invasion.

Britain has strongly fostered an image of itself as neutral arbiter. Today the media continues to play up this image with films

and photos of benevolent-looking British soldiers unpacking corned beef and cigarettes at the Patriotic Front assembly points. Anti-imperialists are not fooled. Britain is the oldest imperialist butcher of them all. But today, with 13,000 British troops tied down in Ireland, it lacks the capacity to make a decisive military intervention It does not need to. It has pumped every form of assistance into South Africa so that its dirty deeds may be done at one stage removed. Behind Botha, Walls and Muzorewa stands British imperialism backing them to the hilt.

It has been and remains the task of anti-imperialists in Britain to expose the British imperialist plans and to oppose British imperialist intervention, whether direct or covert. It has been and it remains our task to give full support to the Patriotic Front.

During the talks at Lancaster House, that task was an urgent one. The British state was determined to isolate the Patriotic Front. Willy Musaruwa (Publicity Secretary ZAPU) made the point clear when he said 'we are being punished for coming to negotiate in the enemy's home ground.'* While the British state was threatening and bludgeoning the Patriotic Front, real practical demonstrations of solidarity from the British working class would have been of *enormous* significance. What a blow would have been struck at the imperialist arrogance of the British state had tens of thousands of British workers been on the streets demanding **Victory to the Patriotic Front! British Hands Off Zimbabwe!**

Betrayal

The opportunity was there for the activities of British socialists to make a practical difference to the fate of the Zimbabwean revolution. The result would have been a more favourable position today for the Patriotic Front and the Zimbabwean masses. That opportunity was destroyed by the British petit bourgeois socialist organisations.

The British petit bourgeois left organisations are renowned for their attacks on liberation movements. They have criticised every major anti-imperialist movement in the world, reserving the most vitriolic abuse for those movements in the forefront of the fight against British imperialism – the Provisional Republican Movement, the African National Congress (SA) and the Patriotic Front. By these attacks, the British petit bourgeois socialist groupings have proved that they stand in the camp of British imperialism.

* ZAPU Publicity Secretary Willy Musaruwa made this comment in an interview with *Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism!* on 15 November while the Lancaster House talks were still going on. We are not publishing it in full because the interview refers to the pre-settlement stage of the talks and has therefore been overtaken rapidly by events. We would like to express our appreciation to Comrade Musaruwa and to ZAPU comrades in Britain for arranging the interview.

Never has this been shown more clearly than during the Lancaster House talks. While the British imperialists were working militarily, politically and diplomatically to isolate the Patriotic Front, the British petit bourgeois left *added* to the imperialist campaign by directing a ceaseless stream of attacks at the Patriotic Front.

Socialist Worker had this to say:

> 'The Lancaster House Conference on Zimbabwe has seen the self-avowed "revolutionaries" of the Patriotic Front make concession after concession to the white minority and their allies'.
> (*Socialist Worker* 6 October 1979)

This was because:

> 'The war is not going too well for the Patriotic Front'.

Socialist Challenge wrote:

> 'The Patriotic Front leaders have fought by exclusively military means, shunning political organisation among the working class, not encouraging land seizures by the peasantry – in short doing nothing to upset their image as responsible neo-colonial leaders.
>
> This is what has enabled Britain to impose its solution. The military position of the guerillas is undoubtedly weak. Their talk of controlling ninety percent of the country is sheer bravado. They are able to draw on the good will of the overwhelming mass of the population but they have done nothing to mobilise the workers and peasants, to conduct their own resistance.'
> (*Socialist Challenge* 22 November 1979).

So, according to these petit bourgeois socialist organisations, the Patriotic Front is militarily weak. What rubbish! It is the very fact of its mass support and its military strengths which have forced British imperialism to adopt its present tactics. Since when did imperialists sit down to negotiate with liberation movements suffering a defeat in the field? According to the petit bourgeois socialists the Patriotic Front has engaged only in the military and not the political struggle. On the contrary, as all oppressed peoples have learnt, the military struggle is part of the political struggle for liberation. Only those born and bred in conditions of bourgeois democracy could think otherwise. Such a criticism is doubly shameful when it is recalled that the Patriotic Front has been a *illegal* organisation having to work underground. It is only the privileged pro-imperialist petit bourgeois left in Britain who cannot understand this reality. And the crowning absurdity? The Patriotic Front, says Socialist Challenge, has not mobilised the masses. Who then is flocking to greet the returning Patriotic Front leaders, if not the black masses? Who has provided the fighters for the war of liberation – if not the masses? Who has given the support which no liberation movement can survive without – if not the masses? Why are half a million black Zimbabweans locked up in concentration camps called 'protected villages' – if not to prevent them from giving support to the Patriotic Front.

All this ceaseless criticism from the petit bourgeois socialist organisations has been, and is, a source of comfort and succour to British imperialism: as are the identical attacks they have made on the Provisional Republican movement and the African National Congress (South Africa): as is their consistent support for the pro-imperialist Labour Party which, in office has supervised the operation of British imperialism throughout the world.

This criminal betrayal of the Patriotic Front by the petit bourgeois left was fully carried through *in practice* on 11 November. On that day, the Socialist Workers' Party and the International Marxist Group, both so scathing about the Patriotic Front's so-called inability to mobilise the masses, did not mobilise *even a tiny fraction* of their membership to attend the demonstration against British plans for Zimbabwe called by the Zimbabwe Emergency Campaign Committee. That demonstration came at a crucial time and could have helped break down the isolation of the Patriotic Front. Instead it was a demonstration of the British petit bourgeois left's treachery. Only between 2-3,000 people marched that day. The largest part of the demonstration was made up of the Patriotic Front contingents. On the march showing common cause with the Patriotic Front's struggle, were the African National Congress(SA) and the Provisional Sinn Fein. The Revolutionary Communist Group, recognising the importance of the march, mobilised nationally, including in Scotland.

And the SWP and IMG, the mass mobilisation experts? The IMG had 15 people behind three banners. The SWP announced before the demonstration that only students and branch representatives should go since their priority went to the TUC 28 November anti-cuts demonstration. Evidently two demos in a month is too much for these people who think that fighting a liberation war is a very simple thing. The result was 50 people on the SWP contingent.

Hands Off Zimbabwe

The months ahead will decide the future of the liberation struggle in Zimbabwe. The Zimbabwean masses, under the leadership of the Patriotic Front, have sacrificed everything, their lives in many cases, to reach their goal – a liberated, democratic Zimbabwe. We are confident that they will continue the struggle until victory is achieved.

But there are immensely strong enemies blocking their path to a democratic Zimbabwe. Britain along with its racist partner South Africa is the greatest obstacle. British imperialism has tried and will continue to exert every effort to prevent the people of Zimbabwe under the leadership of the Patriotic Front, from gaining their victory.

Anti-imperialists in Britain have a duty and a responsibility to stop British imperialism from robbing the people of Zimbabwe of this victory. Large scale mobilisations must be carried out around the slogans **British Imperialist Hands Off Zimbabwe! South African troops out of Zimbabwe! Victory to the Patriotic Front!** In doing this, the British movement will be aiding the victory of the Patriotic Front in Zimbabwe and so strengthening the liberation forces throughout Southern Africa and the anti-imperialist movement in Britain.

The Revolutionary Communist Group has always given its unconditional support to the Patriotic Front. In future issues of ***Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism!*** *we will continue to give a platform to the Patriotic Front and to mobilise on the basis of full and unconditional support to the Patriotic Front. We will continue and step up our work in Britain in support of the struggle in Zimbabwe. We will continue to expose British imperialism and its agents in the working class movement.*

Maxine Williams 2 January 1980

HANDS OFF ZIMBABWE

19 YEARS OF TORTURE FOR FREEDOM

At a press conference in London, Eddison Zvobgo, spokesman for ZANU, paid this moving tribute to Maurice Myagumbo who had arrived in Britain that day, having been released after 19 years' detention by the racist Rhodesian regime.

Let us meet a very strange, unusual individual. He is a beautiful man, one of the most beautiful people this world has been privileged to have. He has just been released from Salisbury Prison after 19 years in prison, Maurice Myagumbo. Nothing special about him. He started as a waiter in South Africa, waiting for whites in their hotels in Johannesburg. He moved to East London, was promoted, he became a chef.

Then he moved to Port Elizabeth from East London and became aware of the oppression in South Africa of all people. He quit his job and came home in 1956. In 1957 he was among the first five to launch the nationalist struggle in our country, the African National Congress. They had one truck, it was his. That car vanished, disintegrated, during the next two years. He was detained in 1959 by Whitehead. We saw no more Maurice until 1963 – he was released after Winston Field fell. We formed ZANU together. He vanished once again in 1964. Zimbabweans did not see anything of Maurice again until 1975, 11 years after. Immediately he came out, he intensified his campaign for the liberation of the country, recruiting, day and night, forces to cross the border into Mozambique. He was again arrested, tried and sentenced to 15 years imprisonment.

He is out here. Just a personal note. His daughter is here. She was born as a result of the visit of her mother, his wife, to a detention camp in 1960. She saw him when she was three years old in 1963 when we formed ZANU. Then he vanished. She grew up and did not know her father. He came out in 1975. She was now here in Britain as a student. He vanished four months after he came out – back to jail. She got married and had two children. She was born when he was behind bars for freedom. Two of his grandchildren have been born when he has been behind bars for freedom. Something the world has not seen very often. He's a grandfather, his daughter was born when he was in jail, his two grandchildren have been born when he has been in jail. He is a beautiful person. And for what remains to free Zimbabwe he will be there. Never has history been so made by living people than is the case in Zimbabwe. Maurice Myagumbo is it. You can sum it all up – he is it. Zimbabwean history here. He saw it when nationalism began. Talk of torture and pain and suffering – he has been through it. Let us clap to 19 years of torture for freedom.

Patriotic Front/RCG Demonstration
Assemble 1.30pm
Saturday 29 March
Thrissell Street
(Outside Easton Sports Centre)
Bristol
Rally

VICTORY TO THE PATRIOTIC FRONT!
HANDS OFF ZIMBABWE!
Speakers: Patriotic Front, African National Congress(SA), Provisional Sinn Fein, Revolutionary Communist Group
7.30pm Wednesday 27 February
Crown Tavern, Lawfords Gate, Old Market, Bristol.

INTERVIEW WITH ROBERT MUGABE

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ceasefire if it happens during the ceasefire period. If it happens after we have won the elections, naturally we will put up a resistance. We will defend our victory through armed struggle. We will have to do that.

FRFI: *In the elections that are taking place, is the Patriotic Front standing as separate organisations?*

Comrade President Robert Mugabe: The Patriotic Front is two organisations under a banner, and we cannot create one party over-night. It takes time. Even if we wanted it, this is not the time to do it; it would raise more contradictions in the Patriotic Front. We will fight the election in the most effective way which ensures that the two parties are there, but we can agree on pooling our results and forming a coalition. There are many, many possibilities, but certainly the two parties will maintain their identity.

FRFI: *During the talks at Lancaster House, there was a great failure of the anti-imperialist forces in this country to give you support. Do you think this made a difference?*

Comrade President Robert Mugabe: Yes, the anti-imperialist forces in the country here, I think are not that strong. The capitalist forces, the reactionary forces are far more formidable, far better organised. But we would have wanted to hear the voice of the anti-imperialist forces, those who espouse the cause of freedom, the cause of independence, everywhere. There was not that failure as such, but it is a state of affairs which continuously exists in the country. It did not start with our coming to Lancaster House. I think that the movement is weak in this country, much weaker than it is in Italy for example, much weaker than it is in Spain, much weaker than it is even in Germany, although there the groups are small they are very vociferous and you get them speaking loudly and organising. We expected anyway that the democratic forces which have agreed with us in this country would have rallied behind us. But it was a difficult struggle. Even some of our friends, not only here, but in the international community, in Africa as well, were beginning to show weakness and their weakness did not lend support to us and we found ourselves weak negotiators at various stages.

FRFI: *Something which concerns us greatly is the Irish struggle against British imperialism. Do you have any comments to make on that struggle?*

Comrade President Robert Mugabe: Our view is that we would want to see the situation in Ireland resolved, but we do not intervene in that situation for tactical reasons. Our view is commonly known that imperialism wherever it is must be fought and that justice must be done in Ireland.

NOVEMBER 11 DEMONSTRATION

In England the Revolutionary Communist Group mobilised for the 11 November demonstration and participated on local ZECC committees. In Scotland where no such committees existed, the RCG was the *only* British organisation which held mobilising meetings for the march.

The widespread support for the Patriotic Front amongst anti-imperialists in Britain was well illustrated by the well attended public mobilising meetings held in Glasgow, Edinburgh and Dundee by the RCG. In Glasgow a message of solidarity with the Patriotic Front was received from Provisional Sinn Fein (Glasgow), Palestinian and Iranian organisations. In Dundee solidarity messages were received from Provisional Sinn Fein, the African National Congress (South Africa), The General Union of Palestinian Students, the Iranian Students Society and the Latin American Society. As a result of the meetings, £35 was collected for the Patriotic Front and a coachload of people attended the march in London from Scotland. All three meetings were addressed by speakers from the Patriotic Front as well as from the RCG.

THE ATTACK ON OVERSEAS STUDENTS

The overseas students in this country are being victimised and harassed by the British state. The massive increase in fees is perhaps the most devastating of the attacks on them. In many instances situations have arisen where students have not been able to cope with the fee increases and have had to leave without completing their courses. To wage a successful campaign against this victimisation it is important to have a correct understanding of its basis.

The presence of overseas students in this country – the vast majority of whom are from the underdeveloped world – is not something which is determined by the free will of these individuals. It is in fact a logical consequence of Britain's colonial relationship with these countries. It is important to emphasise at this point that the word 'past' which is frequently used in this context by sections of the so-called left in Britain is absolutely false and can only serve to demonstrate their ignorance of the workings of imperialism. Once colonial rule had been established – the means of which were always treacherous and brutal – the existing indigenous social and economic formations of these nations (some of which were comparable to those existing in Western Europe) were systematically and ruthlessly destroyed. For centuries all developments beneficial to the colonial masses were suppressed in order to maintain the relationship of exploitation which deprived these people of the benefits of their immense natural resources and labour. As a consequence of this plunder of natural resources and labour and the availability of the colonised nations as markets for the industrial goods of the colonial power great technological and scientific advances were made in the colonialists' camp.

To quote Frantz Fanon:

> 'Europe has inordinately stuffed itself with gold and raw materials of the colonised countries: Latin America, Asia and Africa. From all these continents, under whose eyes Europe today raises up her tower of opulence, there has flowed out for centuries towards the same Europe diamonds and oil, silk and cotton, wood and exotic products. Europe is literally the creation of the third world. The wealth that smothers her is that which was stolen from the underdeveloped peoples'.

With this picture in mind it is quite easy to understand the present situation in which there are underdeveloped countries in need of modern science and technology necessary for their development but the facilities and institutions that can provide these are in the advanced capitalist nations.

This is the reason for the flow of students from the underdeveloped world to Britain and is analogous to the migration of labour from the impoverished colonies to the coloniser countries.

The attacks on the overseas students by the British state are not an isolated occurrence. They are part and parcel of a whole barrage of attacks on the working people of this country and should always be considered in that perspective. The attack on the living standards, the massive cuts in social expenditure and education in order to boost private capital are all symptoms of the same disease – the crisis of British capitalism. The onslaught of the British ruling class is of course not uniform. It isolates the weakest sections for the worst excesses. The vicious attacks on the immigrant community and the overseas students are a reflection of just that.

The movement against the racist increases in the fees of overseas students under the chauvinistic leadership of the National Union of Students has been bankrupt. The platform of the NUS has been that the presence of overseas students contrary to general belief benefits the British economy and is in its long term interest and hence the fees increase which endanger these interests should be stopped. If this didn't happen to be the case then of course the overseas students could go to hell, immigration laws permitting.

The Labour Party which itself introduced racist immigration laws and fees increases is most upset by the recent Tory excesses and vociferously champions the anti-Tory cause. Opportunism obviously knows no bounds, the depths to which it can fall are fathomless.

The movement as it stands today is totally bankrupt and an insult to overseas students. It can achieve nothing except maybe the demoralisation of the overseas student community.

The overseas students are aware of this and their awareness is increasing every day. They are refusing to be a tool in the hands of opportunists. They know that their fight is a fight for equality, a fight against racism. They know that they must be the leaders of their struggle which should be based on an anti-imperialist and anti-racist platform. They recognise British imperialism as the basis of their oppression. In this struggle they are one with their immigrant brothers and sisters in this country.

The mobilisation of overseas students for equality and justice could be the rallying point for all student struggles and serve to revitalise the impotent student body as a progressive political force.

Death to racism!
Death to imperialism!
Long live the revolutionary struggle of the oppressed!

Haqeeqat

RACIST ATTACKS

NOVEMBER 5TH: POLICE GET ROCKET IN CHAPELTOWN

On November 5 the police launched a violent attack on the black people of Chapeltown. This is not the first time that the police have launched such an attack. In Chapeltown, the police have used Bonfire Night as an excuse to try and terrorise young people because they are black and on the streets. Their record over the past few years proves this.

In 1975, a massive police operation launched against the black youth of Chapeltown failed miserably. Community workers had requested that the police maintain a low profile, since the police presence the year before, coupled with their attempt to extinguish a bonfire, had provoked a disturbance. Despite police agreement, they turned out in force. A police car driven at high speed into a group of youths signalled the beginning of the police attack. But the young people of Chapeltown showed that they were not going to stand around and become hopeless victims of British State barbarity. On the contrary, November 5 1975 will be remembered as a crushing defeat for the police. Four policemen were injured, one of them seriously. At least one police car was a total write-off – several others were damaged. Not one person was arrested at the time, but throughout the night police raided homes, arresting 12 people. Initially they faced minor charges mainly of assault, but nine of the defendants had their charges changed to the more serious one of affray. Undoubtedly, the police were anxious to do in the courts what they had failed to do on the streets. An indication of the lengths they will go to in trying to smash a community came to light later. Younger children at a local school were asked to write essays on 'Bonfire Night'. The police picked their way through these trying to find 'evidence'! However, substantial community protest over the court cases, along with the ease with which contradictory police statements were shown to be largely fictional resulted in a further police defeat in the courts. Out of the 24 charges brought, there were 21 acquittals!

All in all, the police attack resulted in severe blows being inflicted on them. Throughout the next three years, the police, not wishing to confront such solid resistance, resorted to a low-key approach. This went hand in hand with the development of their 'community relations' police work – their term for gathering information as the 'friendly community coppers', while continuing and even intensifying their racist oppression.

Hardly anyone is fooled by this rather threadbare velvet glove over an iron fist. They maintained high numbers at each bonfire night, but opted for plain-clothes and unmarked cars – common features at any time in Chapeltown.

The only incident of any note took place on Bonfire Night in 1977 when some cowardly National Front supporters hurled a barrage of racist abuse from a car window while travelling at high speed through a crowd of youths. They disappeared at even greater speed, complete with smashed windscreen. Apart from this incident, these three years were quiet and troublefree, and in spite of the presence of plainclothes policemen, people enjoyed the bonfire night celebrations. Police confidence grew!

The police attack again

1979 saw a return to openly repressive tactics. Police provocation took three main forms. First, there were numbers of uniformed police in almost every single street in the area. Second they were trying to stop people from setting off fireworks. Finally they simply resorted to open violence. A youth on his pushbike, arriving to join his friends, received a completely unprovoked punch in the face from a policeman. This year, it was clear, the police were intent on brutality and intimidation. This is particularly evident in the rapidity with which a military-style operation was launched. The following are extracts of an interview given to a *Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism!* supporter by 'RJ', a black youth present when the police attack took place. The extracts outline what happened and also show some of the conclusions reached by this youth and others, following this state assault.

What happened

FRFI How soon after the incident involving the youth on the pushbike did the police arrive with riot shields?

RJ Minutes after. They came with riot shields just then. They went all the way down to the 'Gaiety' (a night-club on the opposite edge of the community – FRFI) and were just starting on people even people who had nothing to do with the bonfires.

FRFI How many policemen were there?

RJ About 12 or 13 were chasing us at first and then they were coming from all over. You know those vans they come in, the blue ones, well they started jumping out with riot shields and lining up on the roads and marching down. I've seen it in Belfast, but it's the first time I've seen it here.

FRFI Didn't the police come in cars this time?

RJ No. I didn't see any police cars. Maybe they learned a lesson from 1975.

FRFI Apart from riot shields, what else did the police have?

RJ Those long batons – the kind they can swing and just hit people, and helmets with glass fronts. You know the bricks that we were defending ourselves with – the police were trying to pick them up and throw them back, but when they tried to we just kept up and they couldn't. Anyway people were getting dustbin lids and using them as shields to defend themselves.

FRFI How else did people defend themselves?

RJ People just had to pick up whatever was near. Anything. When the police tried to grab somebody others went up to them and made them go back.

FRFI Did you see any of the police being injured?

RJ Yes. One got a brick in his forehead. Others had leg injuries and ankle injuries.

FRFI One story that was going round was that police told a resident that the reason they were in his garden was that they were looking for an air-rifle which they said someone had been using against them. Do you know anything of that?

Chapeltown Leeds 1975

RJ They weren't. I know why they were there. A whole heap of them hide in gardens and when they see a black youth coming, they jump out and do what they want. They're smart but they're not smart enough.

FRFI Have you seen that happen before?

RJ I've seen that happen in Manchester and Birmingham – Handsworth. That's the problem with the police. As soon as they're faced with a number equal to theirs, they can't handle it. Only a mob of them can mash one up. But say there's twelve of them and twelve black youths, they won't do it 'cos they know who's gonna come off best, and that's the black youth, even though they've got truncheons. Well what would you do, if they're coming and harassing you, pushing you about, if they punch you in the face for nothing? I won't take it. They've really got it in for people with skin this colour. Same as the Irish. They're really getting a battering, but they're fighting back like Hell as well.

I'm glad IRA are doing that. Like when I hear of a bombing in England, I go 'Yeah Man! Go Deh!' That's their *revolution*. Why should the next country poke their nose into something which has nothing to do with them. I see some black soldiers in there. All I can say to them is they are a partaker of the beast and that's it, I don't want nothing to do with it. He's dealing with *their* law. One day they'll bring the army in here for something like bonfire night.

FRFI What about 5 November next year?

RJ Well all I can say is people have realised. If they do it again next year there's gonna be a riot for days, 'cos if they come looking for trouble we'll give them it. Even though I'm dealing in Rastafari, a man of peace, there's one thing you got to fight for – your rights.

The Fight Continues

The immediate result of the attack in 1979 was six injured policemen and no arrests. One ANL supporter trying to take photograph of the attacks was beaten up by the police and had his camera taken.

The significance of the police attack is that it is part and parcel of the countrywide terrorising of black people by the British State. During the three quiet years of 1976-8, police hypocrisy reached the level of putting a message of congratulations in the local press. A cynical pat on the back for the community for its good behaviour on bonfire night. But the real message is abundantly clear: it is the police who bring *their* brutality to Chapeltown, and the British state which uses all the means at its disposal to attack black people in their homes and communities, on the streets and in the courts. Another message is equally clear – black people are fighting back and will continue to do so.

Alison Scott

CHAPELTOWN RASTA

THE PERSECUTION CONTINUES

Readers of FRFI 1 will remember the case of the young Rastafarian who having been suspended from school for refusing to cut off his dreadlocks was threatened with being taken into 'care' by Leeds Local Authority. His case was taken up and fought by the Chapeltown Rasta Defence Committee. The Committee organised protest actions, including a picket of his school and the Headmaster was forced to allow him to re-enter school.

That was on 4 September 1979. Those who have experienced the racist education system in Britain will not be surprised to hear that since that time he has been victimised and suspended no less than *four* times.

On each of these four occasions he has been singled out for punishment. The first occurred when, about one and a half weeks after he had been re-admitted to school, another boy took his pencil and threw it across the room. It was the young Rastafarian who got suspended. Then on 24 October, when there was no heating in the school the pupils were ordered to take off their coats and jackets. About half of them did not. The young Rastafarian was again singled out and suspended. On November 28th he was yet again suspended for two weeks. This time a whole number of pupils were larking about, the teacher called the young Rastafarian to the front and immediately began to fill in a suspension form. Finally, he was allowed back into school on 13th December. He had been in school for just three quarters of an hour when a teacher ordered him to remove his Rasta badges. He took all of them off except one, pointing out that many of the pupils wore badges. The Headmaster told him to get out of school. The youth told him that he wanted to stay and that he would not be denied his education. The Headmaster called the police.

Clearly enraged at the success achieved by the Defence Committee the school authorities have put out the word to persecute this youth. They appear quite determined to rob him of any chance of education. To add insult to injury, Leeds Education Authority have again summonsed the youth and his mother to court for his "non-attendance" at school. By continually suspending him they obviously hope that he will be taken into "care". This for them would remove an embarrassing reminder that their authority was once successfully challenged and can be so again.

Leeds Correspondent

RACIST ATTACKS

LEEDS: THE POLICE THE COURTS AND RACIST ATTACKS

Today, when we read in the British press of the activities of the racists in this country, the picture that we are being force-fed is that of a mob of ranting degenerates waving their Union Jack and National Front banners, of Willy Whitelaw or Enoch Powell delivering one of their speeches or even of a house-seller advertising his house for sale to whites only. But how much is this picture a true assessment of the increasing acts of racism blacks in Britain have to put up with. The truth is that British institutionalised racism affects black people day in and day out. It affects them in their employment (if they are 'lucky' enough to be employed), it affects them in their education, it affects them on the housing market but most of all it affects them in their dealings with the law – British racist law.

As a black man living in a black community, I have witnessed the way that the police and courts are used against us – and especially against the youth of our community. There are hundreds of racist acts by police every year. For example: I have witnessed the invasion of our community by 200 policemen on November 5 equipped with riot-shields and batons to face 15 and 16 year olds. There are the arrests of the youth on suspicion of having committed a crime they could not possibly have committed, and the subsequent hours of detention in the police cells for refusing to give a statement before seeing a solicitor. There is the constant stopping and questioning and searching, of the youth in the streets and of car-owners. The latter are frequently harassed for trivialities. There is the near-military invasion of black people's social gatherings whereby whole streets are blocked off by police vans and rows of police, while they invade premises, with dogs, batons and cameras, lifting people at will. There was of course the case of David Olewale, continuously hounded and finally murdered by the Leeds police, who subsequently walked free from the court.

Just recently, six youngsters, having just returned to Leeds from visiting a youth club in Bradford, were stopped by policemen and accused of stealing six polythene bags of fibre-glass. The youngsters protested their innocence, which was backed up by a Scotsman who had seen the youngsters making their way home. For his trouble, this witness was told by police in no uncertain terms to keep out of the way. The six explained that they had just returned to Leeds and that they could not possibly have stolen the fibre-glass. Nonetheless, under a barrage of racist insults, they were forced into the waiting police van and driven to the police station where they were kept for five hours. While there they were made to stand all the time, without their shoes and socks, and subjected to continual racist abuse. These youths have now been summonsed to appear before the courts on this charge.

Another example shows how the police and the courts collaborate against black youth. A sixteen year old youth, found beaten up, bruised and dazed, by a policeman and policewoman, was driven to the local hospital for treatment. The police waited for the youth to be treated and then offered to drive him home. This he accepted. Arriving at his street, the youth asked the officers to drop him off at the top of the street as he didn't want to alarm his mother. The youth left the police car and walked to the back of his house, as the back door was always left open for him. On opening the gate to his back garden, he suddenly saw a police car racing down the narrow backstreet towards him. The youth hurried into his garden to get out of the way. The police car screeched to a halt, and both occupants jumped out. It was then that the youth realised that it was in fact the same heavily built policewoman and policeman who had just given him a lift. The policeman started poking the youth in the chest and asking him where the Hell he thought he was going. The policeman produced a pair of handcuffs, at which point the youth resisted and then ended up on the ground with both officers on top of him. The youth's mother and sister, awakened by his screaming, came out to see what was happening. Asking the police what they were doing with her son, she was told abusively to get back inside and get some clothes on. The sister told the police to leave the boy alone, at which point she was called a 'black bastard' and told to get back inside before she was arrested as well. The mother was told that she could come to the police station and that she could find out there what he was being arrested for. At the police station she was initially allowed in with her son, but then she was asked to sit outside, while he was questioned in her absence. The mother was then told that out of the goodness of the police officers' hearts they had taken him to hospital. She was told that there would be no charges and that she and her son could go. However, three months later the mother received a summons to court, her son charged with causing actual bodily harm to a police-woman. Both mother and son were very shocked by this. The case went to court and there the police-woman made a statement saying how during the struggle in the boy's back garden, her finger had been bitten. The judge paid no attention to the circumstances under which the youth had been subjected to *two* unprovoked attacks in one night. The Judge said that he had no alternative but to believe what the policewoman said as he could see no reason why police officers would lie in court!!!!

Again in court a black car-owner was the victim of 'legal' racism when he was found guilty of crashing his car when he wasn't even in it. This man had parked his car in town. A white driver subsequently ran into the back of it. On being breathalysed this driver was found to have over the legal limit of alcohol in his blood, and yet in court the black driver, his car stationary, was the one who was penalised.

These examples are just a small part of the racist onslaught perpetrated on our and other black communities. The whole thing has reached such a pitch that many feel that collective action is needed, against not just the police but all the other agencies of institutionalised racism. It is generally the feeling that we as a community must do something to halt this beast. This now, or death at their hands (as in the case of David Olewale) later.

Leeds Contributor

DEFEND THE EARLINGTON FAMILY

Racist frame-ups, arrests and assaults are part of everyday life for black people in Britain. In Highbury and Islington, North London, police activity on this score is notorious. The Islington 18 only won their freedom from police trumped-up charges after a long campaign waged by the Defence Committee. Unabashed by this exposure of their racist activities during the case of the 18, local police have continued their harassment of black people in the area. Their racist activities have been highlighted this year by the *arrest of five members of a single black family*. **In April 1979 a total of five members of the Earlington family were arrested by police. Where?** *In their own home*. **For what? because, allege the police, Mrs Earlington had been having an argument with a neighbour, it was necessary to arrest first her, then four more members of family in case a 'breach of the peace' might occur.**

One of the regular street meetings organised by the Earlington Defence Committee.

Arrest of the Earlington Family.

On the afternoon of April 9 1979, Mrs Earlington was at home on sick leave from work. She has been a ward orderly in the local hospital for the last eight years. Mrs Earlington's son, Trevor, on his return home from work, was involved in a short argument with a neighbour's son over a bicycle wheel, which had been removed from his bicycle. Mrs Earlington and the mother of the boy next door joined in. Neighbours have since stated that at this time, no noise or disturbance could be heard.

Then there arrived two policemen (the first of many). They had been 'called', they said in court, but they 'did not know by whom'. And in fact, according to police evidence in court, everyone in the nearby flats *refused to speak to them* when they arrived. After trying one door, the police arrived at the Earlington's flat where Mrs Earlington was standing in the passage way inside the house. One of the policemen advanced towards Mrs Earlington and said: 'Did you phone for the police you black bastard. Any more noise from you and I'll have you nicked'. Mrs Earlington angered by this provocative racist abuse, protested that she was sick, that she was not doing anything and that the police had no right to be there. The policeman then grabbed hold of her. On hearing his mother calling out for a doctor and for help, Trevor came from upstairs where he had gone to watch TV. Seeing what was happening to his mother, he tried to prevent the policeman from manhandling her. Meanwhile, the second policeman had radioed for help to assist the two in the arrest of this sick woman. Audrey Earlington then arrived. She too was horrified by the scene.

Very quickly, an estimated 18 police in five cars and three meat wagons, arrived outside the flat. Having announced their arrival by knocking down the sitting room door, which was locked, they then proceeded to arrest the family. Mrs Earlington was handcuffed and dragged off down three flights of stone steps. It was at this point, neighbours state, that they first heard a disturbance and came out to look. That is, the peace of the neighbourhood was broken only by the activities of the police. Trevor was arrested and so was Audrey. Angela (14) who had just arrived home from school, protested at the sight of her handcuffed mother and tried to prevent her from being dragged off. For her trouble she was slapped on the face, handcuffed and dragged off too. Mr Earlington, who had been dozing in front of the TV, came downstairs and had hardly time to take in the scene before he was punched in the stomach and arrested.

At the police station, all the family were charged with numerous counts of assault etc. Mrs Earlington's thumb had been twisted to a degree where she was unable to work for several weeks. She was refused medical attention at the police station. The blow to Angela's face has since re-activated a childhood illness in her jaw and she is due shortly to go into hospital.

Two of the family, Mrs Earlington and Trevor, charged with both Actual Bodily Harm and assault of a police officer with intent to resist arrest, elected to be tried at Crown Court. However, their belief that this would lead to a 'fairer' trial than at Highbury Magistrates Court, notorious for its racism and the heavy sentences meted out to black people, was shaken. The question of precisely why 18 police had found it necessary to beat up and arrest five members of one family in their own home was never an issue during the trial. The judge's summing up was devoted almost entirely to police evidence. As a result Mrs Earlington and Trevor were found guilty by the jury who failed, however, to reach a unanimous verdict on the second charge. Trevor Earlington lost the job which he had only just managed to get, due to having to take time off for the case.

Defence Committee Formed.

Mrs Earlington and Trevor have since decided to appeal against this racist injustice. The cases of Mr Earlington, Angela and Audrey are still to come up at Highbury Corner Magistrates Court. The Earlington Family Defence Committee has been formed by the Earlington Family, friends, Hackney branch of the PNP and supporters of **FRFI**, to fight the charges and to raise money and support for the Earlington Family. The Defence Committee is determined that police victimisation of black people, in this case the Earlingtons, cannot go unchallenged in this area where such things happen week in week out. The Defence Committee is leafletting the area, holding meetings and other events and collecting money in support of the Earlington Family. Money is urgently needed to pay the fines already incurred, to pay any additional legal costs and to pay for publicity to build up support for the family. Please send money and make cheques payable to the Earlington Family Defence Fund.

The Defence Committee needs your help as well as your money. Please send all donations and enquiries to: The Earlington Family Defence Committee, c/o 49 Railton Road, London SE24 0LN.

Olivia Adamson

THE FRONT LINE

NEVER ON OUR KNEES

On Thursday 19 November 1979 the racist apartheid regime of South Africa sentenced James Mange to death in a 'court' in Pietermaritzburg. The South African regime intends to add James Mange's name to a long list of people murdered 'judicially' – the most recent being Solomon Mahlangu who was hanged on 6 April 1979. James Mange is one of the African National Congress 12 Treason Triallists.

The ANC 12 Treason Trial was part and parcel of the war between the South African regime and the ANC(SA). This is obvious from the background to the trial, the conduct of the ANC 12 in the trial and the viciousness of the racist court at Pietermaritzburg.

War in South Africa.

All 12 comrades were charged under the treason laws, with 43 alternate counts under the Terrorism laws. Two were also charged with conspiracy to incite murder. All 12 were alleged to have been involved in armed actions against the security forces. This was the first time that a South African 'court' has admitted that the security forces are engaged in a war with Umkhonto we Sizwe (Spear of the Nation – the military wing of the ANC).

Part of the evidence against the 12 was a statement from the ANC describing a major battle in Bophuthatswana on August 10 1978. In that battle ANC freedom fighters engaged the South African security forces and the Bophuthatswana National Guard in a 50 minute gun battle, killing 10 members of the security forces. Normally, the South African regime simply denies the existence of such battles. However, the fact is that the campaign waged by the ANC has reached such a pitch that a tiny part of the truth gets through the systematic censorship. In other words, the ANC Treason Trial was a reflection of the strength of the liberation movement.

Rejection of apartheid 'justice'.

This strength was demonstrated in the heroic conduct of the 12 throughout the trial – which began on September 4th 1979. The fear of the authorities was shown in the fact that a specially built bullet-proof glass dock was constructed for the trial. The whole front row of the public gallery was occupied by police throughout the trial. When the 12 came into court or during any of the frequent demonstrations by the 12, this row of police would stand up so that supporters could not see the 12. The courtroom was surrounded by policemen armed with rifles and sub-machine guns, and armed patrols guarded the whole of the surrounding area. This concerted display of force completely failed to cow either the 12 or their supporters.

Throughout the trial, the ANC 12 rejected the authority of the court, sang freedom songs, shouted slogans, laughed and showed their complete opposition to the apartheid regime. As one South African paper put it:

> 'Never before in South African legal history can there have been such prolonged and steadfast defiance of both the political and juridical system from those arraigned before the court' (*Sunday Express* 18 November 1979)

On 13 September, 'Justice' Heffer ruled that the evidence of state witnesses would be heard in camera. He based his ruling on an ANC statement which said that the ANC 'aimed to eliminate police informers, witnesses who testified for the state at security trials and the security police'. At this point, the 12 dismissed their defence and refused to participate in the proceedings any longer. Their statement to the court, read by the defence counsel, pointed out that:

> 'the nature of treason is a crime affecting society itself and to exclude the public is to exclude the people affected by what the ANC seeks to achieve'

The statement also defined their 'crime' as:

> 'attempting to overthrow the South African Government by all means including violence. They (the 12) consider the courts as part of the apparatus of the Government'

Repeated attempts were made by 'Justice' Heffer to break the united refusal of the 12 to participate in the court. All to no avail. The ANC 12 refused to accept the discipline of the court in any degree whatever. At one point Mandlenkosi Hadebe entered the dock smoking a cigarette. His response to 'Justice' Heffer's repeated orders to put out the cigarette was simply to say 'Leave me alone'.

Court proves that ANC is a national liberation movement

The evidence, as is usual in such cases, was either circumstantial or based on anonymous informers. However, it amounted to 'proving' that the 12 were disciplined, committed and trained freedom fighters ('terrorists' in the jargon of imperialism) who were members of a national liberation movement dedicated to the overthrow of the apartheid regime. One incident which particularly horrified the regime concerned James Mange. Whilst in custody, Mange was given a 14.5mm anti-aircraft gun to dismantle and re-assemble. Major Adriaan Kleinhans testified that Mange was not only fully conversant with the weapon and highly trained, but also that Mange had cleared the weapon's jammed block in 10 minutes – *after* Major Kleinhans had struggled unsuccessfully to clear the blockage for more than half-an-hour! The state 'evidence' even included slogans written on the cell walls by the ANC 12. Slogans such as *There is only one way to freedom. Fight!* and *Viva Umkhonto we Sizwe*. Such slogans being evidence enough for the racist regime!

The state evidence also proved the nature of the 'independent' Bantustans so beloved by apologists for the apartheid state. The battle of 10 August 1978 was fought out between Umkhonto we Sizwe fighters and the South African Defence Force (SADF) on 'independent' Bophuthatswana soil. Two of the 12 were arrested in 'independent' Bophuthatswana by the SADF! Security police Major M D Ras muttered in court that 'it had occurred to him that he might have been guilty of kidnapping a suspect that he took into custody at the Bophuthatswana border'. The suspect was John Sekete. So much for the much-vaunted 'independence' of the Bantustans!

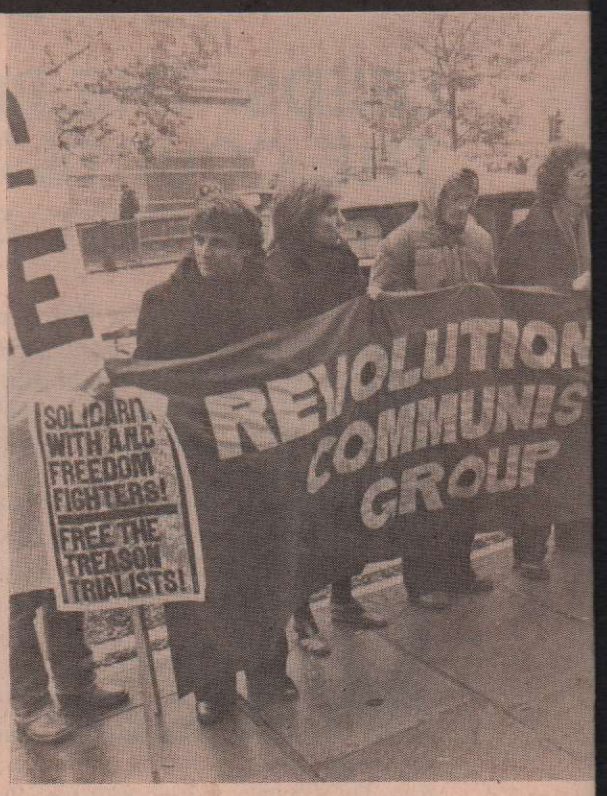
On Thursday 15 November, sentence was passed. Right up to the last moment, the 12 maintained their courageous defiance of the South African Government and its courts. There they were, completely in the power of the barbaric apartheid regime, yet never once were they victims – they were always fighters. As sentences were handed out they sang, shouted and laughed.

'Apartheid is high treason'.

Eventually the court was finished with the state 'evidence' – an accumulation of stories, lies, truths and half-truths gathered from touts, traitors and policemen. On Thursday 15 November, sentence was passed. Right up to the last moment, the 12 maintained their courageous defiance of the South African Government and its courts. There they were, completely in the power of the barbaric apartheid regime, yet never once were they *victims* they were always *fighters*. As sentences were handed out they sang, shouted and laughed. They even displayed placards smuggled into the dock proclaiming:

Apartheid is a crime against humanity!
Apartheid is high treason
Never on our knees

The petty revenge of the humiliated court was carried out by (In)Justice Heffer who gave all the ANC 12 additional sentences for 'contempt of court'. James Mange was sentenced to death. In an ironic demonstration of his anger, 'Justice' Heffer also gave Mange 18 months for contempt! Mange replied by shouting *Amandla* (Freedom). Hadebe shouted *Hang us all!* and was dragged out of court shouting *You will pay!*. 'Justice Heffer' described Mange as a 'thoroughly repulsive and objectionable character'. This insult from a man who lives off the barbarity of the racist South African state is typical of imperialist hypocrisy. The other 11 were sentenced to prison for 14-19 years.



RCG banner the CP chose to forget.
photograph by Andrew Wiard (Report)

Mange must not hang!

The ANC 12 Treason Trial and the death penalty for James Mange are designed to try to break the heroic struggle of the ANC(SA). The trial is a measure of the regime's desperation. The South African state knows that the liberation movements throughout Southern Africa are moving forward towards victory. It has to try and destroy the liberation movement inside South Africa. It is using all the means at its disposal to do so – terror, torture, and rigged trials. The similarity with British imperialism's war against the Irish people is no coincidence. The entire trial of the ANC 12, with only minor changes of detail, could have taken place in the Six County statelet in Ireland. Throughout the world, imperialism is fighting a rearguard action against the oppressed. The ANC 12 have given inspiration to this struggle. That is why South Africa wants to murder James Mange.

James Mange must not hang! He is appealing against his sentence, but time is desperately short for the campaign to save his life. Pickets have taken place weekly outside South Africa House in London. Messages of solidarity should be sent to James Mange's wife, Dipuo Moerane, c/o the ANC office in London. Dipuo Moerane was herself in detention for a year. She was released at the end of the ANC Trial. Solidarity action should be taken whenever and wherever possible. Mange must not hang!

All 12 Treason Triallists were involved in the Soweto rising in 1976. All 12 have dedicated themselves to the struggle for national liberation in South Africa. The ANC 12 deserve our complete support.

James Mange must not hang!
Prisoner of War status for all South African political prisoners!
Free all POWs!
Victory to the ANC!

Terry Marlowe

Information, leaflets etc. can be obtained from:
ANC, 28, Penton Street, London N1.

The Pietermaritzburg 12

	Age	Sentence (years)
John Mofokeng **Sekete**	(24)	16 + 1
Jeffrey Ramasaka **Lagbabe**	(30)	16 + 1
Thibe Jimmy **Ngobeni**	(27)	16 + 1
Andrew **Mapheto**	(20)	14 + 1
Bennet Pantese **Komane**	(46)	16 + 1
Titus Mogaletoe **Maleka**	(25)	16 + 1
Sydney Sekwati **Choma**	(23)	16 + 1
Mandlenkosi **Hadebe**	(27)	16 + 1
Mandla Jack **Mthetwa**	(22)	16 + 1
Vusimuzi Nicholas **Zulu**	(28)	13 + 1
James Daniel **Mange**	(24)	Death + 1½
Thadzuge **Mudelle**	(23)	18 + 1

(the second figure is the sentence given for "contempt of court".)

ORNING TAR ENSORSHIP

16 November the ANC Treason l Defence Committee called a et on South Africa House to protest nst the death sentence passed on es Daniel Mange and to call for the se of the ANC 12.

rganisations present on the picket were ANC, the AAM, London District munist Party and the RCG. The ers of only these 4 organisations were ayed at the picket.

in its front page report of the picket *lorning Star* managed to mention only of these organisations. It said:

banner saying "Remember Solomon hlangu – Stop apartheid murder of nes Mange" was joined by the banners he London District Communist Party, ANC and the Anti-Apartheid Move-nt' (*Morning Star* 17 11 79)

that only two banners from the British ere present on the picket, the CP's and CG's, the omission is a glaring one!

RCG gave the Morning Star ample tunity to correct this omission by g to the Editor pointing out the e, even sending the letter recorded y to ensure that it was received. But rection was printed. When telephoned occasions by the RCG, *Morning Star* Tony Chater 'could not recall' the Still suffering from a total failure to the letter (which the Post Office us was delivered) Mr Chater informed G that it was anyway too late to print ction.

Morning Star made no 'mistake' in its of the 16 November picket. It was ngly guilty of censorship. Such anism damages the movement which e built in solidarity with the liberation e of the ANC(SA). It does great harm building of that solidarity movement icealing from the working class the t which revolutionary anti-imperial-anisations give to the liberation e in South Africa led by the A).

Morning Star would have aided the of the solidarity movement by print-ruthful account of the organisations ting the picket. Then the real n would have stood out – the shame-nce of the major British left organi- – the SWP, IMG, WRP etc, who iticising the ANC(SA) in their news-have found it unnecessary to attend a ne of the weekly pickets.

BLACK PRISONERS

FROM PRISON TO PRISON

The prospect of going to prison is in itself daunting for anyone, but for black people, prison is a most dangerous institution to encounter. For black people, for whatever reason, apart from the obvious and sometimes understandable reason of shame, there is also justifiable fear. Black people in prison not only have to cope with 'rejection' by their families and friends, but also with overt racist attacks, sometimes extreme ones.

Brutality.

For black people, inside or outside prison, brutality is a reality. On the outside blacks face police brutality and NF attacks. On the inside, black people face brutality from racist screws, also NF members, both staff and white inmates. The harassment of black people by racist screws, often organised into NF 'cells' is completely blatant:

- A brother in Wandsworth was thrown down the stairs by prison officers and broke a number of ribs. He was beaten up as well.
- A brother in Wandsworth found bits of glass in his sugar. Brothers are usually subjected to their 3-course meals being served on one plate!
- Basil Brown died in Albany Prison, Isle-of-Wight, of 'natural causes' in November 1977.
- Michael Morris died in Canterbury Prison, of 'natural causes'.
- Percy Campbell died in Bristol in April 1977 of 'natural causes'.

To further intensify the tension between blacks and whites the divide and rule tactic is used to smash any solidarity between prisoners. However, the systematic brutality meted out to black people is unlikely to break the fighting spirit of these determined brothers and sisters. Since the Wormwood Scrubs 'riot' where prisoners organised around the issues facing them and identified the real enemy, various methods of intimidation have been adopted. The most blatant method adopted so far is the 'mufti' (riot) squad. This group of specially trained prison officers can be mobilised to any prison to deal with 'disturbances'. These thugs are armed with riot shields, clubs, batons and helmets. At the Scrubs they descended upon unarmed men who were conducting a peaceful sit-down in the prison yard. The 'mufti' squad has been used before against unarmed prisoners, especially against black resistance as part of the terror campaign at Hull, Gartree and Wormwood Scrubs. Mufti members are being trained at Long Kesh in the North of Ireland to deal with any form of black resistance, especially since the appearance of the prison manifesto that came out of Wandsworth. The victimisation of Wadi Williams shows but one of the methods used to 'teach these rebellious blacks a lesson'. Wadi is now having to serve an extra 2 years for allegedly assaulting a prison officer. His political activities inside prison have nothing to do with this of course!

Having failed with the stick and the boot, the 'liquid cosh' is now being used to the hilt. Michael Blake was severely drugged in Gartree prison, an event which precipitated the recent riot there on 5 October 1978. Michael Blake was forcibly stripped and left in a padded cell with a naked light bulb shining for 23½ hours prior to being given a nearly lethal does of Phenothiazine. (Phenothiazine is usually used for severely psychotic patients and its side effects are similar to that of Parkinson's disease).

Rastafarians are now the most obvious targets for experimentation and the 'nutting-off' of 'trouble makers'. Rastas are either harassed so much that their religious beliefs become a joke to the racist prison establishment, or they are in turn dismissed as insane and sectioned. One such person that we know of is in the notorious Rampton. There is now an ongoing campaign to get him out. Failing all these methods of intimidation, deportation 'for public good' is the other avenue to rid the prison of the black presence.

Black people are resisting, irrespective of the innumerable odds against them. Nothing can conquer a people determined to be free and as a brother once said:

WE HAVE NOTHING TO LOSE BUT OUR CHAINS.

Black Prisoners Welfare Scheme.

Black Prisoners Welfare Scheme can be contacted at c/o 61 Golborne Road, London W10

RASTA HELD IN RAMPTON

Steve Thompson was arrested in 1973 on charges of robbery. He was later tried and sentenced to 5 years imprisonment. In 1976 he was released on parole but, within a few months, he was accused by the police of 'breaking his parole licence' and charged with committing another robbery (a charge Steve consistently denies). Consequently he was sent to Gartree Prison.

After having served part of his sentence in Gartree, the prison authorities suddenly decided his 'locks' contravened prison rules and ordered Steve to cut his hair. Being an orthodox Rasta, Steve naturally protested as this was an infringement of his religious ethics and an attempt by the prison authorities to demoralise him. As a result, he was given 'medication' by a Dr Smith, and when Steve awoke, his hair had been cut. Dr Smith and two other doctors decided that Steve's disapproval at having his hair cut was sufficient reason to send him to Rampton mental hospital (August 1979 – release date 1982).

In Rampton, Steve has been subject to further 'medication'; when his family and other friends have visited him, they noticed that his joints were very stiff and his speech slow. Steve's family spoke to Dr Than, a senior consultant (but not a qualified psychiatrist) at Rampton, but he refused to give details of Steve's treatment (eg type of drugs used and length of treatment etc).

The Black Prisoners' Welfare Scheme is in the process of organising a Defence Committee to raise funds for legal fees and reports by an independent psychiatrist and initiate a campaign for Steve's release.

Birmingham Correspondent.

LIVERPOOL PRECINCT 5 DEFENCE COMMITTEE

A significant, but as yet incomplete victory has been achieved by the Liverpool Precinct 5 Defence Committee. The Committee was established to defend five black youths arrested following a racist attack by security guards at the Liverpool St John's Precinct Centre, last March. The security guards, notorious for their racism, had picked on a group of black youths in the market, ordering them to clear out of the area. The group included two of those who were arrested – Eugene Sylvester and Karl John. They had gone to the market in the centre to buy cigarettes. This was the excuse for a flood of racist abuse. 'Move on you black twats', 'You black bastards', 'All you blacks come down here to thieve'. One of the youths stopped to protest his rights, asking why white youths were not being moved on, to which the guard replied 'You niggers don't have no rights'. And to prove the point, he and his associates drew quite illegal batons, and lashed out with them. Eugene and Karl were knocked to the ground, and held by six of the security guards. More racist abuse occurred when the police arrived, one police officer referring to 'black cunts', and another, radioing in for reinforcements, referring to a 'second Zulu war'.

Eugene and Karl were charged with causing an affray, and assault occasioning actual bodily harm. Three black girls, part of a crowd which had gathered protesting at the brutality of the guards, and demanding that they release Eugene and Karl, were arrested for 'threatening behaviour'.

The Defence Committee put in a great deal of work preparing the cases of the five, and when after several delays the trials took place at the beginning of December, was able to record significant success. The case against Linda Lee, and Hayley and Debbie Sutherland was dismissed by a magistrate's court. Police witnesses proved about as incompetent as those in the Nazir Ahmed case (see **Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism!** No1). One officer not only could not recognise the girl he was supposed to have arrested, but he could not even remember her name! At one point, the prosecution, exasperated at continual references to the racism of the security guards, asked one of the girls if it was not then a good idea to have called the police. 'No', was the answer, 'they're just as bad!'.

The cases of Karl John and Eugene Sylvester were heard before a jury court; maximum sentences for these charges are up to ten years' gaol. The prosecution claimed that the security guards did not have batons, and that the crowd which had gathered protesting against their brutality was in fact screaming with fear at the conduct of the youths! That could not convince the jury, who were unable to reach a verdict after five hours. A retrial was ordered, which will not take place before January. The Defence Committee will be redoubling its efforts to get 100% success. Messages of support and donations should be sent to:

Liverpool Precinct 5 Defence Committee,
19, Buckingham Avenue,
Liverpool 17.

Stop Press

In an ominous development in police racism, two Liverpool blacks have been stopped by the police, to be asked for their passports. This was despite their very obvious Scouse accents! What clearer evidence that immigration laws are nothing more than Apartheid-type Pass Laws, being used to harass and intimidate *all* sections of the black community. The two cases are being pursued locally.

Liverpool Correspondent.

IMMIGRATION CONTROLS

REPATRIATION HAS ALREADY BEGUN

The Conservative Government's White Paper on immigration has now been approved by the House of Commons. It is the latest in a long line of immigration laws implemented by the British state in order to maintain its stranglehold over the lives of black people. Even before the White Paper's introduction the British state's immigration laws had split thousands of black families, causing untold suffering and anguish. With the new rules the British state has announced its intention to step up the attack on black people and immigrant workers. The new rules are specifically designed to separate *more* husbands from their wives, *more* children from their parents and *more* aged people from the relatives they depend on. By doing this, the British state hopes not only to keep out further black immigrants but also to drive out many of those already settled here by robbing them of any prospect of family life if they remain.

THE NEW RULES

These are the cold facts of the new rules.

Husbands and fiances

The husbands and fiances of women settled in Britain will not be admitted if immigration officials believe that: **1** The couple married or intend to marry with the primary aim of gaining entry to Britain **2** That the husband or wife do not intend to live permanently together as husband and wife **3** That the husband and wife (or fiance and fiancee) have not met. These rules will *only* apply to so-called 'non-patrials'. In plain terms, the rules will not apply to white women who, for one reason or another, have been born abroad to British parents.

Children

Children under 18 will be unable to enter Britain unless: **1** Both parents are settled in Britain or are entering Britain with the children **2** One parent is settled here and the other is entering with the children. The only exceptions made are for the case where one parent is settled in Britain and can *prove* sole responsibility for the children's upbringing or where a parent can *prove* that the other parent is incapable of looking after the children. Only in the most 'exceptional cases' (ie never) will children over 18 be admitted.

Aged People

Parents and grandparents over the age of 65 will only be admitted if they can prove **1** That they are wholly or mainly dependent on their sons and daughters in Britain **2** The sons and daughters are able to wholly maintain and accommodate the aged relative **3** The aged person's standard of living is below that prevailing in their own country.

Overseas students

The wives and children of overseas students will only be admitted if they can prove that they will be wholly maintained and accommodated by the student. Neither the student nor his dependents will be able to work here.

THE RESULTS

Home Secretary Whitelaw openly admitted what the consequences of the new rules on husbands and fiances would be when he stated blandly:

> 'Inevitably this means that the ability of some women settled here to be joined by their husbands and fiances will be removed.'

Many couples will be permanently separated. How will they be able to prove that they wanted to get married for reasons other than immigration? The humiliating questioning to which they will be subject can only be imagined. And at the end of it all they will, no doubt, be told that the immigration officials are not satisfied and will be barred from entry. Many black women settled in Britain will face a terrible choice – either enforced separation from their husbands or leaving Britain in order to live with their husbands abroad.

Parents will be separated from their children. Using the new rules the British state will ensure that there are many more Anwar Dittas and Manju Patels, who, if they stayed in Britain, would never see their children again.

Old people will, whatever the rules say, *never* qualify for entry. For example, an old person in India would have to prove that their standard of living was substantially below that prevailing in India. If their sons and daughters send them money then the bloodhounds of the British state will say this has raised their standard of living above that prevailing in India. Alternatively if the old people were forced to live in conditions which would qualify them for entry then they would die before their turn in the queue came.

The rules on overseas students coupled with the massive increases in fees will ensure that working class students from the oppressed nations simply will not be able to come to Britain to acquire the skills needed desperately in their own countries. If they can afford to maintain only themselves then they will face the prospect of years of enforced separation from their families.

REPATRIATION

With the 1971 Immigration Act the British state ensured finally that virtually no new black immigration was possible unless under the strictly controlled work permit system. It has long been virtually impossible for black people to enter Britain to seek work. It has long been the case that the relatives of black people settled in Britain either could not enter or waited years to do so. Indeed the British state has, for some time now, been using immigration controls as a method of enforced repatriation of black people. With the rules contained in the White Paper, the British state has simply added to its already colossal powers to deny entry and induce repatriation. It will now be saying *more* often – 'No your husband cannot join you here – why don't you go'. 'No, your children may not join you here – why don't you go'. 'No, your parents may not join you here – why don't you go'!

WHY THE WHITE PAPER?

A view common amongst left Labourites and the British petit bourgeois left was put forward in the debate on the White Paper in the House of Commons by Alex Lyons (Labour, an ex-Immigration Minister). He argued that the Tory Government was introducing the White Paper out of a desire to

> 'pander to the racial prejudice of a very limited minority in this country'

In saying this he was echoing the explanation put forward by *Socialist Challenge*. They said that the White Paper was:

> 'quite clearly a concession to the most disgustingly racist and sexist members of the Tory Party'.

This explanation is false and dangerous. It is false because it obscures the real motive force behind the White Paper – the needs of British imperialism. It is dangerous because if followed through it would lead to a phoney war against Tory racism rather than the much-needed movement against British imperialism.

The new rules are not the product of concessions to racists on the right of the Tory Party or anywhere else. They are the product of that most vicious of all beasts – British imperialism in crisis. The new rules are an addition to the huge armoury which the British state uses against black people in Britain and immigrant workers from the oppressed nations. British imperialism has grown fat on the blood of the oppressed nations both by exploiting their resources internally and by exploiting the workers forced by poverty to emigrate to the imperialist countries to seek work. It was this reserve army in the oppressed nations which fed the post war boom.

Faced with steadily deepening crisis, British imperialism, from the mid 1960s onwards, demanded an end to the unrestricted flow of immigrant workers. Instead it wanted to place these workers in a position of complete powerlessness. They would be admitted only when their labour was required after which they would be expelled from the country. British imperialism finally achieved this goal in 1971.

Since then, as the crisis has deepened, the interests of imperialism have demanded that even greater attacks be mounted on black and immigrant workers. Where possible (and this is the purpose of the White Paper) the British state will ensure that their families are excluded. It will ensure that their homes are raided and that they live subject to surveillance, harassment and intimidation. To those black people whom it cannot drive out of Britain by these means the British state delivers a violent message: 'Put up with your oppressed position in a racist society – put up with it or we will smash you'. It delivers this message through its police force, its racist courts and its prisons.

Yet for the British petit bourgeois left this mounting attack is the product of concessions to right-wing Tories or other racist sections of the population. Such an explanation is extremely convenient for them. It hides the real enemy to be fought – British imperialism. Even better, by pinning the responsibility on fanatical Tory racists, the British petit-bourgeois left can continue to maintain an alliance with sections of the Labour Party.

Under the last Labour Government a massive state onslaught against black people was unleashed. While it was going on the British petit bourgeois left spent most if its time and energy chasing the National Front, the 'Nazi menace'. In this chase it was joined by sections of the Labour Party keen to divert attention away from the racist Labour Government. Together they formed the Anti-Nazi League. Now when the Tories are in office, these partners can continue to cover up for British imperialism and for the dedicated services performed by Labour Governments, by concentrating attention on 'fanatical' Tory racists.

Unfortunately for the British petit bourgeois left, black people will not be taken in by this. They remember only too well what was done to them by the last Labour Government. In consequence it was black people who loudly heckled Tony Benn's speech at the recent demonstration against the White Paper. It was a black organisation, the Bradford Asian Youth Movement, which attacked the racist record of the past Labour governments from the platform of that demonstration. (And it was the newspapers of the CP, IMG and SWP who censored this attack on the racist Labour Party – see article below).

Black people are building a movement which has nothing but contempt for such trickery, and which will expose and sweep aside all those who side with or cover up for British imperialism. That movement knows the real enemy – British imperialism – and is out to smash it along with all its White Papers, rules, controls and detention centres.

SMASH BRITISH IMPERIALISM!
END ALL IMMIGRATION CONTROLS!

BEWARE FALSE FRIENDS

On 25 November a demonstration took place which received little publicity from the ruling class press. On that day 20,000 people marched against the British state's racist immigration laws and against the Conservative Government's proposals to introduce new rules and a Nationality Act.

The demonstration was called by the recently formed Campaign Against Racist Laws. The great majority of those on the march were black people mobilised by the Indian Workers Associations and other Asian organisations. The major organisations of the British petit bourgeois left, despite the fact that they are on the steering committee of CARL, had made little effort to mobilise for the demonstration. The SWP, for example, had declared before the demonstration that it would not make a national SWP mobilisation. Its priority went to the 28 November cuts demonstration. As a result, its contingent on 25 November numbered around 500. The ANL which has mobilised tens of thousands for its Carnivals against the NF could only muster about 500 people for this demonstration against the British state's racist attacks. The British trade union movement representation on the march was also pathetically small with only a handful of Trades Council and trade union branch banners on the march.

The Revolutionary Communist Group mobilised nationally for the march, bringing its members and supporters from Scotland as well as from its branches in England. They marched behind the banner of Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism! Over 300 copies of **Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism** were sold on the march.

The march showed the clear determination of black people to fight back against the racist attacks they are facing. And at the rally in Trafalgar Square not only did this determination show through but so too did the contempt many black people, particularly the youth, have for the Labour Party.

Speeches

After speeches by the IWA, Pakistani and Kashmiri organisations and the ANL, Tony Benn, Cabinet Minister in the last Labour Government, spoke. His verbal opposition to the 1971 Immigration Act and support for a 'non-racist' nationality law was greeted with jeers and heckles by sections of the crowd, particularly the black youth. They remembered only too well what they had

IMMIGRATION CONTROLS

ANWAR DITTA: BLACK FAMILY DIVIDED

Britain's immigration laws are used not only to keep out and deport black people, but also to break up black families. The case of Mrs Anwar Ditta and her family shows the inherent racism and the inhumanity of the immigration laws.

Mrs Ditta is 25 years old, she was born in Birmingham and brought up in Rochdale. She married her husband Mr Shuja Ud Din in Pakistan, in 1968. While living in Pakistan Mrs Ditta had three children; Karan Shuja (now 9), Imran Shuja (now 7) and Saaima Shuja (now 6). In 1975 Mrs Ditta and her husband came to live in England. They left their three children in Pakistan in the care of Mr Ud Din's parents until they had settled down in Rochdale. After getting a job and buying a house they sent for their three children, but entry was refused on the grounds that 'the couple had not established that they were the parents of the three children'.

The evidence that Mrs Ditta has, birth certificates, medical records, photographs, etc shows conclusively that she is the mother of the three children. The evidence is so conclusive, if fact, that solicitors who have looked at the case have said that there is nothing for them to do except present the evidence at the appeal. When Mrs Ditta phoned the Home Office to see how the appeal was progressing she was told to ring back in 1980 or 1981.

The Home Office has put up every possible obstacle to block the entry of Mrs Ditta's children. As Mrs Ditta said, 'there are plenty of people in Britain who could prove they were my children, but no-one asked'. Mrs Ditta offered to pay the expenses of an investigator to fly to Pakistan to prove they were her children, but the Home Office refused. That is in sharp contrast to the use of investigators by the Home Office in cases where the right to enter or stay in Britain is refused.

Mrs Ditta has also suggested that herself, her husband and her four children, three in Pakistan and Samera Shuja (3½) born in Britain, should be subjected to a blood test, to prove that they are her children. The Home Office has refused this request, an official said 'there's no need to go that far'. That is not what they said in the case of Afzal and Shemin Mohammed, husband and wife from Whitby. The Home Office used blood tests to try and prove Afzal Mohammed was not the father of his two children, that he had engaged in a marriage of convenience and that he should be deported. Because of the large amount of public support, Afzal Mohammed received, the Home Office has so far failed to deport him, but the case shows quite clearly the lengths the British state will go to deport someone who is black. The case of Mrs Ditta shows how the same laws and procedures are used to keep out someone who is black.

Mrs Ditta told us how she was treated by the immigration officer of Manchester airport. She had to endure an interview of over 5 hours and from the start he took the attitude that Mrs Ditta was not the mother of the children. As Mrs Ditta put it, his attitude was 'very rude' and he asked 'awful questions'. Mrs Ditta's husband was moved to vow on the Koran that they were the parents of the children, he said 'this is the first time in my life that I'm going to swear on the Koran!'.

Mr Ud Din is forced to work seven days a week to send clothes and regular monthly payments to Pakistan. Their telephone bill came to over £300 with calls to Pakistan to check up on their children. As Mrs Ditta says, 'nobody can work seven days a week for other people's children'.

The blatantly racist way Mrs Ditta and her children have been treated makes sharp contrast to the case of Mrs Shirley Webb. Mrs Webb was a British mother of four who was deserted by her South African husband, after a personal appeal to Mrs Thatcher she was allowed to enter the country with her children. Mrs Ditta made a personal appeal to Mrs Thatcher and received the reply 'Your letter is receiving attention'.

The difference between Mrs Webb and Mrs Ditta is that Mrs Webb is white and Mrs Ditta is black.

The Ditta children excluded from Britain.

A Defence Committee has now been set up to fight the case of Anwar Ditta. The committee includes Anwar Ditta, Rochdale Asian Womens Group, **Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism!** and other individuals.

It has planned the following activities:

Street Meetings in York Street, Rochdale, every Saturday at 10.30am.

Public Meeting Tuesday 19 February, 7.30pm. Champness Hall, Drake Street, Rochdale.

Benefit Friday 1 February 7.30pm Whitworth Civic Hall, Rochdale.

A **demonstration** is provisionally fixed for Saturday 1 March in Rochdale.

For details contact: Anwar Ditta Defence Committee, c/o Rochdale and District CRE, Champness Hall, Drake Street, Rochdale.

RCG Public Meetings
Fight Racism!
Smash Immigration Controls!

Edinburgh
Tuesday 12 February, 7.30pm
Trades Council, Picardy Place, Edinburgh

Glasgow
Wednesday 13 February, 7.30pm
City Halls, Candleriggs, Glasgow

BRADFORD ASIAN YOUTH MOVEMENT

is organising a march against racism. The march will go from Bradford to London and will take place in the summer, 1980.
For further details contact
BAYM, 266 Lumb Lane
Bradford 8

continued from previous page

suffered at the hands of the Labour Government.

A speaker from the Bradford Asian Youth Movement put those feelings into words. His speech was a powerful revolutionary exposure of the role of British imperialism, its looting of oppressed nations and its attacks on black people in Britain. He stated that the BAYM would be organising a march from Bradford to London in 1980. Having firmly stated that all immigration controls are racist, the BAYM speaker went on to denounce the record of Labour Governments in implementing the 1971 Immigration Act. He delivered a clear warning about the Labour Party by saying, 'Beware false friends'. This was greeted with great support from sections of the crowd.

Such a frank denunciation thoroughly embarassed the Labour Party representatives on the platform and their embarassment grew acute when a speaker from Southall, Suresh Grover, having outlined the massive attack suffered by Southall first on the streets and now in the courts, went on to ask where was Tony Benn's and the Labour Party's statements on Southall? Where was their support for Southall? There had been none. He, like the BAYM speaker, referred to the Labour Government's operation of the 1971 Act. Once again much support was given by the audience.

The embarassment of the Labour Party representatives and their friends in the petit bourgeois left turned to anger as they realised how thoroughly they had been exposed. Chairman of the rally, CP member Maurice Styles took the unprecedented step of answering the BAYM speech by saying that Tony Benn had made clear the policy of the Labour Party! CP speaker, Gordon McLellan, steered clear of trouble and tried to placate all present by making the astounding announcement that he had just sent a cheque to the Southall Defence Fund, bringing the CP's total contribution to £930.30 (that is, less than 5p per CP member!).

So it was left to Labour Party NEC member, Joan Lestor, to respond to the attacks made on the Labour Party. Cut to the quick by them, she bad-temperedly rounded on the critics of the Labour Party saying that if they had been fighting racism as long as Tony Benn then they would not criticise him. Hell hath no fury like a social democrat exposed!

Censorship

For the revolutionaries and anti-imperialists attending the demonstration, it was this superb exposure of the Labour Party, coupled with the militant determination of the black people on the march to fight back against racism, which made this an occasion to remember.

Not so for the British petit bourgeois left! They all called for a vote for Labour in the last election. So the attack on Labour also had the effect of exposing them. As a result, in their newspapers they adopted various stratagems for hiding what occurred at the rally.

Socialist Worker adopted the 'least said soonest mended' policy and published a photo and a 97 word report. Rather astonishing brevity for an organisation on the steering committee of CARL and with a speaker at the rally! Their 'report' did not include a word about the attacks made on the Labour Party.

Socialist Challenge adopted two techniques—censorship and diversion. They reported speeches by many speakers. But they failed even to mention, let alone report, the speech by BAYM. They reported Suresh Grover's speech but toned it down so that he was reported as simply asking of the Labour Party: 'Where was their record of action? What had they done to defend the Southall 342?'. After censorship came diversion. They ended their report by saying that the absence of many West Indian people on the march revealed a gulf between Asians and West Indians which must be bridged. What about the gulf between black people and the pro-imperialist Labour Party which was so openly revealed? Not a word.

The *Morning Star* reported most of the speeches at the rally. Like the others it excluded *any* mention of the BAYM or their speech. Suresh Grover's speech was reported as having 'outlined the position of those on trial in Southall'.

Pro-imperialist alliance

All three organisations, the CP, SWP and Socialist Challenge, had speakers at the rally. All three organisations saw and heard what happened at the rally. The revolutionary message delivered by black speakers and applauded by black youth represented an enormous threat to the petit bourgeois left. If they had reported criticisms of the Labour Party made at the rally then their alliance with the pro-imperialist Labour Party would have been threatened. Once again the petit bourgeois left made it choice—*with* the Tony Benns and imperialism *against* the revolutionary voice of the oppressed.

But censorship has its problems. After all, 20,000 people heard what happened at the rally. Many of these supported the attacks made on the Labour Party and will have read these reports in the petit bourgeois left's newspapers. And as they read them four words will have come into their minds—**Beware of False Friends**. They will!

Maxine Williams

Become a Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism! Supporter

Fill in your name and address, enclose £2.00 (cheques payable to RCG Publications Ltd) and send to 49 Railton Road, London SE24 OLN. You will receive a supporters card, a year's subscription to FRFI! and details of all our activities in your areas and nationally.

Name.....
Address.....

DEFEND SOUTHALL

SOUTHALL 342

On April 23rd in Southall 759 people were arrested, of whom 342 were charged. These people were arrested on trumped-up charges. The majority of them were just picked up by snatch squads, beaten over the head with truncheons and later charged with assaulting the police. The attack on Southall which began on 23 April now continues in the courts. Now for the cases so far heard in Barnet Magistrates Court, the conviction rate is around 70%. At one time it reached a horrifying 89%. One magistrate bound over two *witnesses* for being part of a 'hostile crowd'. This magistrate achieved an incredible 93% conviction rate in the Southall Cases he heard. The conviction rate in the Southall cases is much higher than the 52% conviction rate for cases of similar nature.

The magistrates have so far sentenced 13 people to periods of imprisonment. Only one of the appeals against prison sentence has been successful. In fact at the other appeals we have been told:

> 'You are lucky you only got 3 months for this, you could have got much more'

This is part and parcel of the state racism which we are experiencing now.

If you look at the facts and figures for the cases it is clear that the trials are just an extension of what happened on 23 April. They are just a continuation of the racist processes of this state. The magistrates at Barnet are not prepared to accept credible defence evidence. This despite the fact that in 99% of the cases the defence evidence is much stronger than the prosecution.

Intimidation

Attempts are made to intimidate the defendants and their witnesses in court. For instance, one defendant said he was on his way to have lunch in Southall. The police solicitor asked him why he picked 23 April of all days to have lunch in Southall! Questions such as 'Why were you in Southall that day?' or 'why didn't you go home when the police moved in?' are part of this pressure. They know that nobody could leave because there was a police cordon thrown around the centre of Southall which meant that 20,000 Southall residents *couldn't* go about their daily business. They know that people coming home from work or just going about their business ended up being snatched by the police snatch squads.

In court the police gave false and contradictory evidence. For instance, there was one defendant charged with threatening behaviour. On 23 April he was walking home down a very narrow road when all of a sudden an SPG van pulled up alongside him. An officer got out, drew his truncheon and hit him on the forehead. The result was that his skull was fractured. Yet in court, under oath, the officer said that this man had thrown a brick and a milk bottle at the police.

In another case a man was standing by the gates in Southall Park. Both he and witnesses testified that he was just standing by the gates. But the police claimed that he was stooping down picking up stones and throwing them at the police. The police couldn't find any stones but still stated that he had been throwing them!

We have even heard of a case where a priest was alleged to have charged through a police cordon brandishing his umbrella. He was convicted.

Police violence

Some of the worst police violence on 23 April occurred at 6 Park View, the headquarters of **Peoples Unite.** All those inside were arrested. Many of the defendants have stated that they were beaten up by the police as they were being taken down the stairs. In all their cases except one the police have denied this. But you only had to see the defendants to see their injuries. Many had severe head injuries. Clarence Baker was in hospital for 10 days in a critical condition with a possible brain haemorrhage and many others had to have stitches inserted into head wounds inflicted by the police.

The whole operation of the police on 23 April was designed to come and smash the black community. All the events on that day make us ask just what was the police brief. For example at 3pm on 23 April there was a peaceful picket taking place opposite the Town Hall. The Southall Youth Movement had previously got permission from the Community Liaison Officer, Chief Inspector Goss, but the police told the picketers to move on. When the Officer in charge was told that police permission had been granted by Goss, he said 'Fuck Goss, I'm in charge here'. Then the police started making indiscriminate arrests. Also, if anyone approached the cordons that were put up by the police to get through in order to get home they were refused. One SYM member did so and had a shield shoved in his face and was told to 'fuck off, you black bastard' by the police.

There has been a cover-up of the events on 23 April and there is now a cover-up about the trials. For instance, the local paper the Ealing Gazette is not reporting what is happening at Barnet Magistrates Court. The people of Southall want to know what is happening to their sons, daughters, brothers, fathers and mothers every day at the Court. But the Gazette, despite approaches to them, has done nothing. The Defence Committee has produced a bulletin which tells the people of Southall what is actually going on in the courts. It is vital for the people of Southall who were affected on that day to know what is taking place.

On 23 April the whole community was united in protest. The people were shocked by what happened and by what is happening in Barnet Magistrates Court. The police will never patch up the ill-feeling that was created by the April events. And the people of Southall will not be divided or defeated. This was shown at the recent demonstration and torchlight picket of the police station. The people who led that demonstration were the same people who had earlier been given suspended sentences, conditional discharges or were on bail pending appeal. They know that there has been a political frame-up, that the 342 charged are on trumped charges and are innocent.

We want a public enquiry into the events at Southall and into the cover-up surrounding Blair Peach's death. We want to see the SPG disbanded and *all* the charges dropped. We hope that all those interested in the struggle against racism will come forward and protest to make sure that these demands are met.

Kapil Juj – Chairman
Southall Youth Movement

Defend the Southall 342!

In support of the black people of Southall and the Southall 342, the RCG has held public meetings and street meetings in Bristol, London, Birmingham, Manchester, Bolton, Leeds and Sheffield.

At these meetings a clear political message has been heard – the British state has tried by all means to smash the black community of Southall, first on the streets and now in the courts. This racist assault must be resisted. Full support must be given to the Southall 342 and the work of the Southall Defence Committee. Drop the charges now!

At all these activities and from workmates, friends and relatives, money has been raised for the Southall Defence Committee by FRFI! supporters. So far over £315 has been raised for the Defence Fund by FRFI! and more is coming in. Particularly notable amongst the donations was the £15.00 collected by two young FRFI! supporters at a school in Broxburn. As well, FRFI supporters have raised motions committing financial and political support to the Southall Defence Committee. For example, a Manchester ASTMS and a London NALGO branch both committed support and donations. More work of this kind is needed and every trade unionist reading this should make sure that a motion is put in their trade union branch. The trade union leaderships have kept very quiet about Southall and that silence should be challenged in as many trade union branches as possible.

Appeal. £40,000 is still needed to cover the costs of the defence of the Southall 342. Donations should be sent to:- Southall Defence Fund, c/o Southall Defence Committee, 54 High Street, Southall, Middlesex.

Support the Picket called by the Southall Defence Committee on Monday 28 January at 10.00 outside Ealing Magistrates Court, Greenman Lane, London W.13.

Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism! is not a newspaper designed to be read and put aside. Its purpose is to involve its readers in the struggle in defence of those under attack, in the struggle against British imperialism. That is what we mean when we say it is a political weapon.
The effectiveness of that weapon depends on our readers using it.
We need many more people **selling Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism!** so that new people can read it and become involved.
We need many more people **writing for Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism!** about their local struggles, and writing articles and letters for it.
We need many more people **subscribing to Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism!** and thus giving us a regular income.

Become a **Fight Racism! supporter:** For £2.00 you will not only get a year's supply of **Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism!** but also details of activities in your area, and the opportunity to join with us in anti-racist, anti-imperialist work.
Become a **Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism! subscriber** – for £1.00 you will get 5 issues of **Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism! For £1.80—10 issues.**
Become a **Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism! Seller** – order 10, 20, or more copies and sell them. 10 issues, post free—£1.75. 20 issues post free—£3.00.
Become a **Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism! correspondent.** Send us news of the issues and struggles in your locality.
(All cheques should be made payable to RCG Publications Ltd, and sent to 49 Railton Road, London SE24 OLN.)

LETTERS

When I got the Leeds Chapeltown Rasta Defence Committee petitions (see *Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism* No1) I took them along to a meeting of my shop stewards committee, which is all social work department members of Lothian Nalgo. Nearly all of the shop stewards signed the petition and several asked at the meeting what else we could do to help. What was suggested was that I write to our counterpart committee in Leeds, as it would be their members there who would have to take the boy into care if the Education Department and the courts continued their persecution. In the event the struggle was won and protest action from Leeds Nalgo did not have to be considered. I also got 100% success with the petition in my workplace. Lothian Region Nalgo has also recently sent a donation to the Southall Defence Fund and supported the Garners workers strike.

I hope this encourages other comrades to tell their fellow members of trade unions of similar cases and see if they can win practical solidarity for the anti-racist struggle.

Yours fraternally,

Maggie Mellon
Shop Steward,
Lothian Region Nalgo.

29 November 1979.

Comrades,

I welcome the issue of this bulletin. Our fight against imperialism is getting closer and closer as more and more different sections of society are getting attacked.

As an overseas student I would like to explain another suffering from imperialism. The Government of Thatcher which has even made the face of imperialism more shameful by putting up College and University fees and surely that means no education for us. What I mean by no education is that because of increasing the fees so much, most of us, especially those whose parents are working class, will not be able to follow their studies.

Of course this comes from the crisis of imperialism and the only imperialist solution for the crisis of imperialism is to attack the British working class and the overseas working class and also overseas students because they are amongst the most oppressed section of society.

I demand the right from this imperialist state to get an education because for countless years imperialism has robbed oppressed people. We have paid for our education with the blood of our people, and we are still paying for it! So the only way to defend the rights of overseas students is not to beg, or to try to convince the imperialists to be humane, it is to fight against imperialism.

When we look around the world we can see anti-imperialist movements, (Ireland, Iran, Zimbabwe, Nicaragua and Southern Africa, to name but a few), and I think it is time to make an anti-imperialist movement in Britain itself. I hope that the Revolutionary Communist Group and *Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism!* will help in this task.

Forward to the unity of the working class and the revolutionary leadership!
Forward to the unity of all anti-imperialist movements!
Victory to the armed struggle – the only path to liberate the masses!

Dedicated to the fight against racism and imperialism,

J G,
Iranian Student
Edinburgh
2 December 1979

RACISM AT WORK

ASIAN WORKERS STRIKE IN SLOUGH

Over 90 Asian workers – mostly women – are on strike at the Chix factory in Slough. The Chix strike, like so many other strikes, is for union recognition. It is also a strike against racism. As one of the strike organisers put it: 'It is a trade union struggle... but all the scabs are white.'

Chix is a typical small factory. It employs about 120 workers – a great majority are Asian women. Before the strike accidents were an everyday occurrence. The pay was 95 pence per hour, and the work was dirty, non-stop and hard. Racism was the weapon used to keep the work-force under. If women left the shopfloor to go to the toilet – white supervisors pursued them, hammered on the toilet door and shouted racist abuse at them. The white supervisors commonly used racist abuse against the workers to force a faster pace of work. There were no sickness benefits, no holiday benefits.

Through a long history of struggle Asian and black workers have shown again and again that they are ready and able to fight these conditions. The workers at Chix began to organise. They joined the General and Municipal Workers Union (GMWU). Yassin, a shop steward, explained the event which hardened their resolve to fight. A pregnant woman in the factory produced a note from her doctor stating that she should be taken off heavy work and put on a lighter job. The manager refused. She was kept on the heavy work despite all appeals. The result was a miscarriage.

The strike was called in October, by which time 96 out of the 120 workforce were in the union and joined the strike. They have maintained constant picketing and succeeded in blacking sugar supplies to the factory. There are now only about 30 scabs in the factory and production has fallen to 25% in the middle of the peak Christmas period.

The owner – Denis Rose – is using every means he can to break the strike. Rates of pay for the scab workers have been dramatically increased. For a period, Rose was paying agency workers £2.40 per hour to do the same job the Asian workers did for 95 pence per hour. Scabs are being transported to work in privately hired vans. The scabs are working hours to suit themselves. Rose is even bringing in ready made sweets to be re-wrapped and sent out again!

The GMWU leadership has been dragging its feet on the strike. Only after 10 weeks on strike were the workers granted hardship pay. The nationwide campaign needed to break Rose has not been organised by the GMWU leadership.

The workers themselves, with support from local GMWU representatives, are fighting back. Mass pickets have been organised despite the opposition of the GMWU Regional Secretary Harry Robertson. Seven strikers have been arrested on these pickets.

The strikers are calling for financial support and support for the mass pickets.

Money and messages of support should be sent to Mr Anwar, 271 Goodman Park, Slough.

CRITICAL SUPPORT—THINLY VEILED RACISM

An RCT member (members of the RCT were expelled from the Revolutionary Communist Group in 1976 for national chauvinism) was trying to sell their pamphlet on Ireland to three black comrades on the ZECC demonstration in support of the Patriotic Front. As part of the sales patter, the RCT member told them that the RCT gives unconditional support to those fighting imperialism in Ireland. On overhearing this a Revolutionary Communist Group member intervened to say this was not so! 'Yes it is' replied the RCT member indignantly. 'Do you support the IRA then?' she was asked.

'No!' replied the RCT member.

'Then you do not give unconditional support, do you?'

'Yes we do!' she replied, 'but we do not give them political support.'

On being asked by the Revolutionary Communist Group member how it was possible to give 'unconditional' but withold political support, the RCT member angrily replied:

'Don't act as though you have just come off a banana boat'.

Scratch these trotskyists and find racists!

BROAD LEFT IN CPSA SCABS ON BLACK PEOPLE

A move to commit the Broad Left coalition in the Civil and Public Services Association (CPSA) to end the involvement of CPSA members in the operation of immigration laws has been defeated by a combination of Labour Party and Communist Party members.

The CPSA represents clerical grades in the Civil Service. Some of its members in the Home Office, Department of Employment and Department of Health and Social Security carry out work associated with the various regulations of immigration control. For a union whose constitution explicitly declares its opposition to all forms of racial discrimination, it is sheer hypocrisy. Representing workers who staff the lower levels of the British imperialist state apparatus, it has to take a stand: either on the side of the oppressed, or on the side of the imperialist state against the oppressed.

The Broad Left within the CPSA is made up mainly of 'left' Labourites and members of the CPGB. Electorally, it dominates the union, holding 20 out of 26 National Executive Committee positions. However, the message that these 'socialists' have for the oppressed is simple: don't look to us to help you in your fight against the racist British state. At its policy making Conference they rejected a motion which called on the Broad Left NEC members to use their majority on the NEC to:

a) establish the nature and extent of the involvement of CPSA members in the operation of immigration laws.
b) to initiate a campaign of education amongst the membership about the immigration laws, exposing their racist character, through general circulars.
c) to use such a campaign as the basis for presenting a NEC motion to next CPSA Conference, which shall call for the blacking of all work in connection with the implementation of these immigration laws and any future Nationality Law

The motion was put by a supporter of **Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism!** The most vociferous opposition came from the Militant group. Steeped in the hypocrisy of Labour imperialism, they declared their total opposition to *all* immigration controls. They applauded the motion, and made earnest pleas that the whole issue of immigration controls be discussed throughout the CPSA. But they could not support part c). It was too specific, the timetable it proposed was too short, the members too reactionary to accept it. One Labour Party member, also a member of the National Executive Committee, George Lobo, added his voice to those who opposed state racism. But like Militant, his opposition to racism proved to be purely rhetorical in character. If the motion was passed, he declared, it would split the union down the middle, at a time when above all it had to be united. Immigration was too sensitive an issue; the 1980 union conference had to unite the members for the next couple of years to fight the cuts.

The unity that the likes of Lobo and the Militant called for was unity with the British imperialist state against black people. How they could unite with the imperialist state, yet fight it at the same time was a mystery known only to them. Other Broad Left NEC members who voted against the motion included Pat Byrne, Kevin Roddy and Frank Bonner, all prominent members of Militant. The final vote was 42 for, 46 against, the CPGB joining those who voted against and defeated the motion. Faced with the real practical fight against the racist British state, these fake anti-racists could not be seen for dust. This cowardice, this treachery towards black people is further confirmation of the CP and Labour 'lefts' support for British imperialism.

CPSA member

Remember Bloody Sunday!
Victory to the Irish People!

Public Meetings

BRISTOL
Tuesday 22 January. 7.30pm
Crown Tavern, Lawfords Gate, Old Market, Bristol.
Speakers: Provisional Sinn Fein, Patriotic Front – ZANU. Hands Off Ireland!

EDINBURGH
Monday 21 January. 7.30pm
Trades Council, Picardy Place, Edinburgh.
Speakers: Provisional Sinn Fein, Hands Off Ireland!

LEEDS
Wednesday 16 January
Harehills Primary School, Roundhay Road, Leeds 8.

SHEFFIELD
23 January. 7.30pm
Burngreave Vestry Hall, Burngreave Road, Sheffield.

Hands Off Ireland! will also be organising mobilising meetings in Manchester, Dundee, Glasgow, London, Coventry, Cardiff and Liverpool. For details contact Hands Off Ireland! at 49 Railton Road, London SE24 0LN, or ring 01-737 3922.

PUBLIC MEETING
Organised by Leicester Ireland Group.
22 January. 7.30pm
Leicester Polytechnic Arena.
Speakers: Provisional Sinn Fein, Hands Off Ireland!

Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism!

Fund Drive

£2,500 by 31 May

Every new issue of **Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism!** takes us nearer to our goal – a movement strong enough to defend the oppressed and challenge British imperialism here in its heartland.

The enthusiastic response to **Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism!** Number 1 proves the potential for such a newspaper – a campaigning paper which can be used as a political weapon in the anti-imperialist, anti-racist struggle.

That is why we are now producing **Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism!** as a newspaper. That is why we have increased the print order from 5,000 to 7,000.

But for **Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism!** to really do its job, building support for the fight against the racist British state, it must come out *at least* monthly. And for that we need money.

That is why we have launched this Fund Drive. We must raise £2,500 by 31 May.

No movement can be built without a newspaper. The anti-imperialist movement in Britain desperately needs a newspaper that exposes British imperialism and builds support for the fight against racism and imperialism.

That is the task ahead. It is up to you who see how urgent the need is for an anti-imperialist movement in Britain, to think seriously about what your contribution is going to be. If you understand the urgency then you will send us a regular donation even if it means making a sacrifice. You will also help to organise fund-raising events for **Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism!**.

Whether we can carry out our plans depends on you acting on these words. The progress of the Fund Drive will be reported on in every issue of **Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism!**

(All cheques should be made payable to RCG Publications Ltd, and sent to 49 Railton Road London SE24 OLN.)

Len Morrison

HANDS OFF IRELAND NEWS

HANDS OFF IRELAND SUPPORTER HELD IN PTA RAIDS

British imperialist policy in Ireland lies in ruins. In the war between the Irish people and the British state, it is the Irish national liberation movement which is winning. The Provisional Republican movement is inflicting defeat after defeat on British imperialism. In its desperation, unable to defeat the Republican struggle in Ireland, British imperialism turns on the Irish community in Britain.

In the early hours of Wednesday 12 December, hundreds of armed police, in raids in London, Manchester, Birmingham, Liverpool and Southampton, picked up at least 27 Irish men and women. The raids were carried out under the Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA) – an act which exists solely to give a legal cover to the systematic harassment of Irish people in Britain. Among those arrested in the raids was Valerie Greene – a supporter of Hands Off Ireland.

At 4.00 am ten police officers, complete with dogs, broke into Val Greene's flat by kicking the door in. Val and her friend – a relative of an Irish prisoner – were ordered to dress and told that they were under arrest. The police refused to give any reason for the arrest. The friend who was in the flat had taken a sleeping tablet and was in a very dazed state. This did not prevent the police from shouting orders at her, ripping the bedclothes off her and finally tipping her out of bed.

They were taken to Arbour Square police station in the East End of London. Val's clothes were taken away 'for forensic analysis'. She was held *naked* for more than 24 hours. She had only two filthy blankets to wear during the day and sleep in during the night. She was refused water to drink or washing facilities in an effort to force her to have finger swabs taken. This coercion was quickly to become open assault.

The police attempted to take Val's photograph by force. She resisted but with two policemen holding her head by the hair she was only able to distort her face in order to make the photograph useless. Following this 'warming up' she made a verbal statement. In her statement Val denounced the PTA as racist anti-Irish legislation. She explained that in order to defend her own democratic rights and those of other people she was refusing to help the police to implement the PTA. She said that she would regard any use of force as an assault and that she would defend herself to the best of her ability. After this statement four plain-clothes policemen descended on her in order to take her fingerprints by force.

Two policemen grabbed her by the arms whilst a third seized her by the feet. She was then thrown face down onto a table. One policeman forced her arm up behind her back whilst another leaned on her back and a third held her legs. In this manner were her fingerprints taken by the guardians of 'law and order'. For good measure she was then struck in the face by one of the police thugs. This beating, however, failed to force Val Greene to 'co-operate'. She was therefore given a repeat performance on the grounds that the first set of fingerprints had been 'unsatisfactory'.

These assaults left Val with extensive bruising across the shoulders, on the front and back of her trunk, her arms and the upper part of her legs. An independent medical examination has confirmed the extent of her injuries. She was still in pain three days after being released. At no time was any evidence presented against her. She was released without being charged with anything. The *only* explanation given to Val for her arrest was that she had given, in the words of the police, 'food and shelter' to the relative of an Irish prisoner. This basic act of solidarity being an offence in the eyes of British imperialism. Meanwhile the police were busy ransacking Val Greene's home. When she returned to her flat she found that the police, not content with the damage done during the arrest, had ripped furniture, eaten her food, drunk her tea and coffee, and left their own filth – cigarette ends and shredded plastic cups all over the floor. Pigs by name, pigs by nature!

As soon as Hands Off Ireland discovered where Val was being held pickets were organised outside the police station. The first picket, on the Friday night, resulted in Val being given an armed guard! There is no doubt that the pickets were instrumental in securing her release on the Saturday afternoon.

The Monday following her release, Hands Off Ireland organised a press conference in central London in order to ensure that the bourgeois press would have no excuse for failing to report the truth about police tyranny against the Irish community in Britain. Only two of the major British bourgeois daily papers published a report, *The Times* and *The Guardian*. Of the left papers, both the *Morning Star* and *Newsline* published fairly long reports of the case for which we would like to thank them. *Socialist Challenge* printed nothing. *Socialist Worker* contented itself with a few lines and censored the fact that Val Greene is a supporter of Hands Off Ireland. At the conference we made it clear that Hands Off Ireland gave unconditional support to the struggle of the Irish people for self-determination. We made it clear that we supported the right of the Irish people to fight for self-determination by whatever means necessary. We also pointed out that all the deaths, injuries and tragedies were the direct and inescapable responsibility of British imperialism.

Val Greene was one of 27 people known to have been picked up. All but nine have been released without charge.

The people rounded up originally included a woman in her sixties who vomitted continuously throughout her four days of detention, a man in his seventies and a man who had to be taken to the psychiatric wing of the Royal South Hants Hospital after being released. This man could not recognise his own family after a few days in the hands of the British police. He came out with bruises on his face and body.

The nine comrades who have been charged are subjected to all the paraphernalia of a show trial. The Lambeth Magistrates Court was surrounded by armed police and all the adjoining streets were blocked off. Armed marksmen were stationed on the roofs. The supposedly 'innocent until proven guilty' defendants were brought into court handcuffed and the men wearing only underwear and blankets. Indeed the conduct of this British court is identical to that of the apartheid regime in the case of the ANC Treason Trial (see report in this issue). The British working class is being conditioned to accept this treatment as the rule for Irish people under arrest.

It is in order to prevent this that Hands Off Ireland will fight the case of Val Greene by every means open to us. The arrest of Val Greene is the culmination of a series of police attacks on Hands Off Ireland. Val Greene is the fifth supporter of Hands Off Ireland to be arrested this year. Hands Off Ireland will not be intimidated. We shall fight this case and all the other cases in order to defend the basic right of the Irish community in Britain to live free from the kind of police tyranny which we saw on Wednesday 12 December and which nine comrades now face in the courts of British imperialism.

Free the prisoners!
Victory to the Irish people!
Hands Off Ireland!

Hands Off Ireland! is campaigning on Val Greene's case in order to expose the systematic harassment of Irish people in Britain. To do this we need money. Please make cheques payable to Tom Sheppard. All donations should be sent to 49 Railton Road, London SE24 0LN.

Stop Press

Manchester City Council has yet again refused permission for **Hands Off Ireland!** to hold a public meeting on Council premises. They have consistently harassed **Hands Off Ireland!** by cancelling room and hall bookings. They now inform Manchester **Hands Off Ireland!** that their Policy Committee is to discuss the question of public meetings on Council property. **Hands Off Ireland!** will be picketing that meeting and mounting a campaign in Manchester to stop the City Council from its attempts to suppress anti-imperialist work in support of the Irish liberation struggle.

PTA PICKETS

Daily pickets have been held to protest against the detention of at least 27 comrades held under the PTA in December. Altogether 4 police stations in London—Paddington Green, Leman Street, Rochester Row and Arbour Square—were picketed. The pickets on Arbour Square were organised by Hands Off Ireland and supported by Provisional Sinn Fein, UTOM, Women and Ireland, Socialist Charter, SWP and RCT. The other pickets were organised on an ad hoc basis and were supported by Provisional Sinn Fein, Irish Republican Socialist Party, Hands Off Ireland, Women and Ireland, UTOM, IMG and RCT.

Sponsored run organised by Manchester Hands Off Ireland in aid of the H-Block Appeal. It raised £130.00.

BLOODY SUNDAY COMMEMORATION MARCH

DEMONSTRATE
WITH PROVISIONAL SINN FEIN
IN BIRMINGHAM
ON BLOODY SUNDAY,
JANUARY 27th 1980

ASSEMBLE 2.0 pm at SPARKHILL PARK, STRATFIELD ROAD, BIRMINGHAM
March to VICTORIA SQUARE in the City Centre.

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