

# FIGHT RACISM!

# FIGHT IMPERIALISM!

ANTI-IMPERIALIST PAPER OF THE  
REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST GROUP

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## VICTORY!

We salute the landslide victory of ZANU and ZAPU in the Zimbabwean elections. It will give an enormous impetus to the struggle against the racist apartheid regime in South Africa. This overwhelming victory will be joyfully greeted by the Irish people fighting against the same ruthless British imperialism. A body blow to the British ruling class it is a great step forward for the British working class and the world-wide movement against imperialism.

Despite the enormous obstacles placed in its way by the British state and the racist Rhodesian regime the Patriotic Front has won 77 out of 80 seats. The imperialist puppet Muzorewa won 3 seats thus demonstrating conclusively that the Muzorewa regime existed solely by virtue of the backing it received from Britain and South Africa.

### British Imperialism Exposed

How thoroughly the Patriotic Front's overwhelming victory exposes British imperialism! The British had claimed that the Patriotic Front had no mass support, that it existed by intimidating the Zimbabwean masses, that the Patriotic Front forces were 'terrorists' and 'criminals'. The British state has made the exact same claim about every liberation movement it has confronted. It says the same about the Provisional Republican Movement in Ireland today. It attempts to justify its own terror, torture and repression of Irish republicans on these very same grounds.

And now the Patriotic Front victory reveals the truth – that the Zimbabwean masses have all along supported the Patriotic Front; that despite the enormous repression they have suffered at the hands of the Rhodesian racist regime the people's support for the Patriotic Front was unshakeable and steadfast; that the war against the Patriotic Front waged by imperialism and its racist allies in Rhodesia and South Africa was *in reality* designed to crush the masses and prevent them from exercising their right to self determination.

What a humiliating blow has been struck at British imperialism! The victory in Zimbabwe shouts its message round the world – the British state lied about the Patriotic Front just as it has lied about every liberation movement and just as today it lies about the Provisional Republican Movement. British imperialism stands revealed as a bloody handed liar!

### Britain Stacked the Odds

It was the military strength and mass support



Photograph – Associated Press, supplied by International Defence and Aid Fund

for the Patriotic Front which forced Britain to the negotiating table and forced Britain to hold elections. The British plan was to use the Lancaster House settlement to stack all the odds against the Patriotic Front and thus try to secure their defeat. During the run up to the election, as the Zimbabwean masses openly and defiantly proclaimed that the Patriotic Front was *their* movement, the British state resorted more and more to the same techniques of naked repression that it uses against the Irish people today.

Whilst the Patriotic Front military forces were in assembly camps the Rhodesian army and the hated auxiliaries were allowed to roam the country freely. At no time did Britain make any attempt to restrict the Rhodesian army to base, yet every ounce of British propaganda concerned the 'difficulty' of getting all the Patriotic Front forces to assembly camps and of the so-called 'intimidation' by the Patriotic Front. The reality was that the Rhodesian army, the notorious Selous scouts, the police and the auxiliaries were able *with British help* to conduct an intensified campaign of repression and intimidation against the masses.

● Robert Mugabe was the subject of repeated assassination attempts. His home was the target of a grenade attack (as were many ZANU officials' homes) and an expert attempt to blow up his car was made.

● Two Selous scouts blew themselves up whilst about to bomb a fourth church in Harare, their intention being to plant the blame for this on ZANU.

● On several occasions the Rhodesian army shot and killed groups of freedom fighters on their way to assembly camps. For example, a ZANLA commander leading 118 men to link up with the ceasefire monitoring force was arrested along with all his men. The authorities have only accounted for the whereabouts of 22 of them. These are in prison.

● By the time of the election the police under Soames' directions had detained no less than 10,000 ZANU and ZAPU supporters including leading officials and candidates.

● At Umvuma a busload of people were returning from a ZANU rally. They were all arrested and beaten up and forced to sign an admission of guilt. Events of that kind were *continued on page 3*

## FINE WORDS FOUL DEEDS FALSE FRIENDS

Black and immigrant workers in Britain suffer from a dual oppression both from racism and class exploitation. In resisting this oppression they have been forced into direct confrontation with the British state. This has placed black and immigrant workers in the vanguard of the struggle for the overthrow of the British imperialist state.

With the growing crisis of imperialism the 'open enemies' of the working class, the unashamed racists and pro-imperialists are increasingly being exposed. The challenge to imperialism will grow deeper as unemployment, poverty and repression become the only prospects for larger and larger sections of the working class. The continued existence of the imperialist system more and more rests on the influence of the *false friends* – opportunist currents within the labour movement which attempt to reconcile the working class to the capitalist system. These opportunist currents drawn from the relatively privileged layers of the working class argue that imperialism need not be violent; that the British state can act in a democratic fashion for the benefit of all classes; that the present crisis can be solved by 'alternative' economic plans in the interest of the working class. These opportunist layers are terrified by the revolutionary intransigence of the oppressed because such intransigence threatens to challenge the imperialist system and so undermine the basis of their secure and privileged existence.

In the last issue of this paper (Jan/Feb 1980) we showed how the newly emerging black vanguard in Britain had begun to undermine these opportunist currents in the working class movement. Sunday 25 November 1979, at a demonstration of over 20,000 people against

racism, saw Manjit Singh, chairman of the Asian Youth Movement Bradford and Suresh Grover speaking on behalf of the Southall Defence Committee attack Tony Benn for the racist policies of the Labour government. This won support from thousands of black people.

The petit bourgeois socialist left in Britain, faced with such a determined stand against the Labour Party, simply censored it away. Not one of the CP, SWP, IMG mentioned this important event in their newspaper reports. (see FRFI 2 Jan/Feb 1980)

Another political stand taken by this emerging black vanguard has been its consistent support for the Irish people's war against British imperialism. On the anniversary of Bloody Sunday this year we witnessed an uncompromising call by a speaker from AYMB for the 'victory of the IRA'. Again this was followed by an embarrassed silence from the petit bourgeois socialist left – the CP, SWP and the IMG, who are renowned for their attacks on the Provisional Republican Movement (and indeed all anti-imperialist movements).

The revolutionary voice of black people continues to be raised and is gathering strength. With the AYMB's organisation of a **Black Freedom March** in June and the call for the building of a national black organisation, the petit bourgeois left can no longer simply censor such important developments. It has been forced to respond.

The publication of the IMG's latest conference document *The Struggle for Black Liber-*

*ation* (Socialist Challenge 21 February 1980) is their response. It reveals the intentions of the petit bourgeois left in relation to the emerging revolutionary vanguard. They are trying as we shall see to *undermine it and drag it back* from the revolutionary road it has taken.

*The Struggle for Black Liberation* marks a change in the position of the IMG. Its new position is couched in extremely revolutionary language which tries to conceal its thorough *continued on page 3*

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# FIGHT IMPERIALISM

## ZECC AGAINST AN EMERGENCY CAMPAIGN

Given the desperate need of ZANU(PF) and ZAPU(PF) for solidarity in the period before the elections, the RCG representative at the Zimbabwe Emergency Campaign Committee meeting of 7 January 1980, called on ZECC to organise a national demonstration for the end of February – under the slogans Victory to the Patriotic Front! South African Troops Out of Zimbabwe! No Rigged Elections! The suggestion was put to the vote at a meeting of 18 January 1980 specifically called to discuss the question, and every organisation present (including AAM, CP, Big Flame, ZIG) voted against it, bar the RCG. The Communist Party (Jack Woddis) argued that if some 'dramatic' event happened, such as the bombing of an assembly point, or a mass invasion by South African troops, then 'of course' a mobilisation would be 'immediately necessary'.

The double-dealing hypocrisy of the Governor of Rhodesia has evidently rubbed off on his 'Communist' opponent Jack Woddis, who a mere three days before the first discussion wrote in the *Morning Star* (4 January 1980):-

'It is the responsibility of the British labour and progressive movement whose pressure on the British government was insufficient to enable the Front to achieve all that it wanted and had a right to extract from the negotiations, to throw its weight more decisively on the side of the Patriotic Front and the Zimbabwe people.'

When the RCG representative pointed this out and attacked the cynical excuse of waiting for a dramatic event – as if the situation were not dramatic enough, with the Patriotic Front being attacked every day militarily and politically by the unholy trinity of the British, the South Africans and the auxiliaries – the usual lame opportunist evasion was forthcoming: a demonstration would not be appropriate 'at the moment'.

When is the 'moment', Mr. Woddis? When the reactionary forces launch a total war against the Zimbabwean people? Now is the

moment – the moment when solidarity actions are needed more urgently than ever before. But it is this concrete action which the CP so resolutely opposed and which ZECC decided against. Some Emergency Campaign!

## BRISTOL RALLY

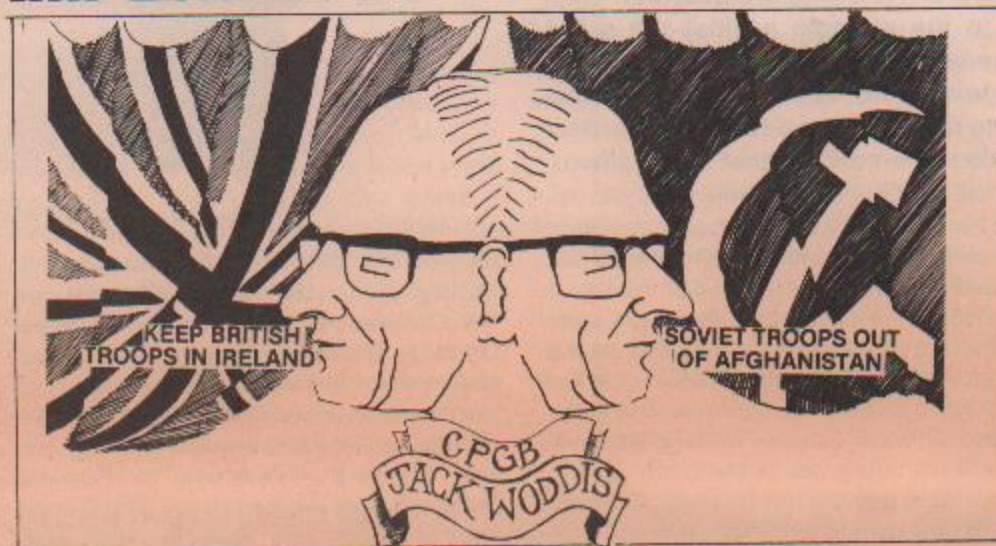
Over 60 people gave overwhelming support to ZANU(PF) and PF(ZAPU) at a rally in Bristol organised jointly by ZANU, ZAPU, and FRFI.

Speakers from ZANU and ZAPU exposed the lies of the British press, showed that the Zimbabwean masses overwhelmingly support the freedom struggle. The struggle would continue until Zimbabwe was free. Speakers from Provisional Sinn Fein and FRFI pledged unconditional solidarity with ZANU and ZAPU.

These speeches won enthusiastic support from the rally which was marred only by repeated chauvinistic attacks on the liberation movements by members of the New Communist Party and Sinn Fein the Workers Party in the audience.

Despite this disgusting behaviour the rally went on to give the resounding message: **Victory to ZANU and ZAPU**  
**For the Unity of all Oppressed Peoples**  
**Death to British imperialism!**

## IMPERIALIST HYPOCRISY



We reprint below Lenin's article *British Labour Party Policy*, a scathing attack on the opportunists who condemned the Soviet Union's intervention in Georgia while remaining silent about the presence of British imperialist troops in Ireland, India and elsewhere. Nothing has changed since Lenin's day, as today's opportunists hasten to support imperialism's attack on the Soviet Union for intervening in Afghanistan. The NEC of the Labour Party hypocritically proclaimed its belief in 'the right of nations to self-determination' and urged the Soviet Union to withdraw its troops. This from the party which sent troops into Ireland in 1969, and organised the systematic torture of Irish people for demanding this right.

The CP's master of hypocrisy, Jack Woddis, lent his support to the pro-imperialist hysteria by demanding the withdrawal of Soviet troops. Even by Woddis's own shabby standards, this was an outstanding display of double-dealing. His party has consistently refused to demand withdrawal of British troops from Ireland – instead it treacherously condemns the Republican Movement's struggle to defend the Irish people against those troops. This is the same Jack Woddis who argued against a demonstration opposing British intervention in Zimbabwe (see report on this page). Could anything show more clearly that those who stand in the camp of imperialism are inevitably forced to join in the imperialist campaign against the Soviet Union.

FRFI has decided to inaugurate an award **The Woddis award for national-chauvinist hypocrisy**. This month's award is obvious – Mr Woddis himself, for his servile support for British imperialism.

### Lenin on Imperialist Hypocrisy

The telegram about the British Labour Party shows how extraordinarily naïve Krasin is. As I see it, measures of two kinds should now be taken: 1) a series of articles signed by various people and ridiculing the views of so-called European democracy on the Georgian problem should be published in the press; 2) some caustic journalist should be immediately commissioned to draft for Chicherin a super-polite Note in reply to the British Labour Party. In this Note he should make it perfectly plain that the proposal that we withdraw our troops from Georgia and hold a referendum there would be quite reasonable and might be recognised as coming from people who have not gone out of their minds, and have not been bribed by the Entente, if it extended to all nations of the globe; specifically, in order to set the British Labour Party leaders thinking about the meaning of present-day imperialist relations in international politics, we suggest, in particular, that that party give favourable consideration to the following: first, that British troops be withdrawn from Ireland and that a referendum be held there; second, the same with regard to India; third, the same with regard to the withdrawal of Japanese troops from Korea; fourth, the same with regard to all countries in which there are troops of any of the big imperialist states. The Note should express, in superbly polite terms, the idea that people desirous of giving thought to these proposals of ours and to the system of imperialist relations in international politics may prove capable of understanding the "interesting" nature of the proposals made by us to the British Labour Party. On the whole, the draft Note, couched in super-polite and extremely popular terms (to suit the intelligence of ten-year-olds), should deride the idiotic leaders of the British Labour Party.

I propose that the Political Bureau consider whether it ought to send a copy of this letter to Krasin. I personally am in favour.

Lenin

December 27, 1921

## BECOME A FIGHT RACISM! FIGHT IMPERIALISM! SUPPORTER

**Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism!** is committed to the building of an anti-racist, anti-imperialist movement in Britain. It is a campaigning newspaper *actively* engaged in the support of the struggles of black people in Britain against racism, and in support of the struggles of liberation movements against British imperialism. **Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism!** supporters are centrally involved in the fightback like that of Anwar Ditta to bring her children home, and that of the Earlington family against police attacks.

### How can you aid our work?

We need many more people selling **Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism!** so that new people can read it and become involved in the fightback.

We need many more people writing for **Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism!** about their local struggles and campaigns.

We need many more people subscribing to **Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism!** to give us the regular income we need to support our work and to bring the paper out more frequently.

Become a **Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism!** supporter: for £2.00 you will not only get a year's supply of the paper, but also details of activities in your area, and the opportunity to join with us in anti-racist and anti-imperialist work.

Become a **Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism!** subscriber – for £1.00 you will get 5 issues, for £2.00 you will get 10 issues.

Become a **Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism!** seller – order 10, 20 or more copies and sell them.

Become a **Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism!** correspondent. Send us news of the issues and struggles in your area.

All cheques or postal orders should be made payable to RCG Publications Ltd, and sent to 49 Railton Road, London SE24 0LN.

## FUND DRIVE £2,500 by 31 May

The fund drive stands, on 1 March, at £694 – thanks to all those who have shown their political commitment by sending us their donations or by organising fund raising activities. It's a good start but not good enough. We need to raise *at least* £500 per month to reach our target by 31 May.

In this issue of the paper alone we show the importance of the work that **Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism!** is engaged in – the campaign to bring Anwar Ditta's children home, the campaign to defend the Earlington family from police harassment. Do you support our work in these campaigns? Do you support the struggles of black people against the racist British state? Do you support the struggles of the liberation movements in Ireland, Zimbabwe and Southern Africa against British imperialism? Then you must agree that a newspaper which exposes all the brutal deeds of British imperialism is an urgent necessity.

The first two issues of **Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism!** have stated clearly the tasks ahead: the building of an anti-racist, anti-imperialist movement in Britain. A newspaper committed to building that movement is therefore a vital weapon in the political struggle.

**Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism!** is already carrying out this role. But we need to produce it more regularly – once a month at least – for this we need your money. Can you make a regular donation? Can you organise or help to organise a fund raising event in your area. Show *your* commitment to the political fight by raising the money we need. We are depending on you.

The progress of the fund drive will be reported in our next issue of **Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism!**

All cheques should be made payable to RCG Publications Ltd, and sent to 49 Railton Road, London SE24 0LN

Len Morrison

## EDITORIAL STATEMENT

### BLACK FREEDOM MARCH

The Asian Youth Movement Bradford has taken a major initiative in calling the Black Freedom March from Bradford to London, in June and July this year. We print their statement in full in this issue.

**Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism!** pledges its full and unconditional support to this march. We urge all our readers and supporters to do likewise. This march is an extremely important step in the fight against racism in Britain.

This demonstration confirms once again the vanguard role which black people in Britain are playing in the struggle against racism and imperialism – summed up in the slogan of the Asian Youth Movement – **Here to stay, here to fight!**

The march is a demonstration against racist laws, racist police attacks, racist education and bussing, and the racist census planned for 1981. As the statement puts it, they are marching for 'freedom from immigration restrictions, freedom from police harassment, freedom from racism, freedom to organise ourselves and the freedom to live with dignity.'

The AYMB has a twofold aim in this march – against racism and for a National Black Organisation. Such an organisation will be a great step forward in the revolutionary fight against racism and imperialism.

**Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism!** will therefore be giving its full support to this demonstration and will work in the support committees established for the march.



# FIGHT IMPERIALISM

## VICTORY!

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going on daily throughout the election period.

The auxiliaries were out in force – 30,000 – and conducted widespread intimidation and harassment forcing people at gun point to go to UANC rallies and shooting and beating up ZANU and ZAPU supporters.

British Governor Soames extended the martial law regulations which allow detention without trial. In fact under British rule the number of political prisoners rose to 15,000; this is in addition to the thousands detained during election campaigning. Under these regulations even the Red Cross is not allowed to see the prisoners and torture by electric shock as well as beatings were commonplace.

Britain also prevented large numbers of Zimbabwean refugees from returning to the country. Of 150,000 in Mozambique only 34,000 were allowed to return in time to vote in the election. Backed by Soames the Salisbury authorities ruled that only 400 men of military age would be allowed to return to Zimbabwe each day. Refugees returning from Zambia were tortured at the Gwai river 'reception centre' and of 130 detained there, 91 were sent back to Zambia. By these means the British planned to prevent a sizeable section of the Zimbabwean people, who would have overwhelmingly supported ZANU and ZAPU, from voting.

Every obstacle was placed in the way of election campaigning by ZANU and ZAPU. While Muzorewa had millions of pounds of British and South African money and unlimited access to the media, ZANU and ZAPU were legalised only two months before the election; their election material was seized and confiscated; transport provided by the socialist countries to assist their campaign was held up at the border; no telephone was installed in the ZANU headquarters; their rallies were broken up by the police using teargas and dogs. Finally Soames decided to play his last card and banned several ZANU candidates from campaigning at all in the election.

Yet still, in the face of this intense campaign of repression the Patriotic Front was able to sweep to victory. That victory is a great and historic one. But it is not yet complete. British imperialism and its partner, the South African apartheid state, have suffered a grave setback to their plans but they remain the greatest threat to the Patriotic Front regime. Imperialism will continue to scheme and plot to frustrate the aspirations of the Zimbabwean masses for independence, peace and prosperity. The imperialists have the might and the means – from economic sabotage to military coup – to frustrate the progress of the Zimbabwean revolution.

## Defend the Victory

That is why the need remains to organise effective solidarity actions in Britain in defence of the Zimbabwean revolution. But throughout the period of the Lancaster House talks and the election period there has been pathetically little activity in Britain in solidarity with the struggle of the Patriotic Front. We have said before and we will repeat here that this failure is due entirely to the petit bourgeois socialists who, in a pale imitation of the imperialists' lies, have always maintained that the Patriotic Front was 'militarist' and 'unable to mobilise the masses'. These 'mass mobilisation' experts of the British petit bourgeois left themselves managed to mobilise less than 100 people on the one major solidarity action organised by ZECC over the election period.

In the months ahead, as the wounded imperialist hawks circle Zimbabwe, the need for solidarity action in Britain will be as urgent as it was during the Lancaster House talks and the elections. All anti-imperialists in Britain must rally both to *celebrate* and to *defend* the historic victory of the Patriotic Front!

Patrick Newman  
5 March 1980

## FALSE FRIENDS

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opportunism. For the first time the IMG has attempted to give a Marxist explanation of racism. Under the pressure of the revolutionary black vanguard the IMG has been forced to admit at long last: 1) Racism has its material roots in imperialism and the oppression of nations and 2) that on the basis of imperialist superprofits a labour aristocracy has been created within the British working class which identifies its interests with the continued existence of British imperialism.

But the IMG is only paying lip-service to the Marxist position on racism for they fail to draw the political conclusions from their 'Marxist' analysis.

What are the revolutionary conclusions?\*

1 That imperialism has created a split in the working class movement between a privileged opportunist current which is tied to imperialism and an anti-imperialist movement of the oppressed intent on **destroying** the imperialist system.

2 That the position of black people as an oppressed layer within the working class has led to the emergence of a black vanguard which is a **vanguard of the whole working class**.

3 This vanguard is **already leading** the struggle against imperialism and its allies, the opportunists.

That the IMG cannot and *dares not* draw these conclusions is not surprising. The IMG sees socialism being achieved through an alliance with left opportunists in the racist Labour Party. At all times its central concern has been to defend this alliance. In the past, as today, the IMG has regarded the struggles of the oppressed as a major threat to this alliance. Look at its record.

The finest example of this was the ANL.\*\* The ANL was an alliance of every major petit bourgeois socialist group with Labour Party and Trade Union leaders. Its function was to cover up for the Labour government which had launched a racist attack against black people, using immigration controls, the police and the courts.

Its role was shown when on 24 September 1978 the NF, under heavy police guard, marched through the East End whilst at the same time the ANL had a Carnival in Brixton, addressed by Tony Benn, minister in the racist Labour government. The week before this the IMG said:

'It needed... the united front with social democrats in order to get the ANL where it is at the moment. After all the fact that a Labour cabinet minister and a major trade union leader are speaking at Hyde Park this Sunday (at the ANL Carnival) is not an unimportant fact.' (Socialist Challenge 21 September 1978)

And after the police had attacked the black people of the East End whilst the ANL enjoyed social democratic high jinks in Brixton, what did the IMG say?

'Were we right to go to Brixton... Yes, yes, yes.' 'The question... was... whether the ANL was prepared to do battle with 5,000 police and the SPG on duty to guard the march.'

This would have, said the IMG:

'Actually impeded the building of a mass movement against racism in this country.' (Socialist Challenge 28 September 1978)

The IMG knew quite well that to have gone to Brick Lane would have destroyed their 'not unimportant alliance with Tony Benn and the

LP. That alliance was the altar on which the interests of black people were sacrificed.

The IMG's fear of the revolutionary struggle of the oppressed was again shown at Southall last year when a massive attack was launched against the black people of Southall. When they fought to defend themselves what did Tariq Ali of the IMG say?

'The fascist meeting did take place in Southall. This is an unpalatable but sad fact. It needn't have done if some of us had been more disciplined. *There are times when the brain is more useful than brawn.*' (our emphasis) (Socialist Challenge 26 April 1979)

What a disgusting betrayal of the black people of Southall! Whilst the black people of Southall were drawing the conclusion that next time they would need more than fists and stones to meet the onslaught, the oh so brainy Mr Tariq Ali wrote an article in the *Guardian* arguing that magistrates could be brought under control by having them elected. (*Guardian* 24 September 1979)

Finally, during the last election the IMG, along with every other petit bourgeois socialist grouping campaigned for the election of a Labour government, a vicious pro-imperialist government which had spent five years attacking black people in this country and prosecuting a ruthless war against the Provisional Republican Movement in the North of Ireland.

This is the record of the organisation which now proclaims itself the Marxist champion of the struggle for black liberation. Does its new position mean that the leopard has changed its spots? On the contrary. The position remains the same – only this time is covered up by terribly revolutionary phrases. Under the new guise of 'unconditional' support for black organisations the IMG has one aim and one aim alone – to *protect* its alliance with the Labour Party from the *challenge* of the emerging revolutionary vanguard.

The IMG has thought long and hard about how to do this. Its solution is to deny the role of the black vanguard as a vanguard of the whole working class and to invent two categories – 'the labour movement' and 'black people'. It says that 'black people' will only be convinced of the need for socialism when the 'labour movement' recognises their right to determine their own future. The 'labour movement' must say to black people:

'We wish to create a workers state with you so as to build a socialist society – but whether you wish to join with us in this must be your decision. We only ask that you judge us by how we act in the course of our alliance to defeat the common enemy.'

What racist and arrogant nonsense! The revolutionary leadership of Black people has *already* decided for socialism and against opportunism. Is that not why you censor every expression of this revolutionary movement? They have taken the revolutionary road and in doing so have already judged your alliance with the Labour Party and *rejected* it.

It is your racism and opportunism which prevents you from recognising the reality that this black vanguard will *lead* the struggle for socialism in Britain. By their example and agitation they will draw other sections of the working class onto the revolutionary road and in so doing purge the workers movement of its pro-imperialists, opportunists, and false friends.

What an appalling prospect this must be for the IMG which has always regarded *itself* as the most advanced embodiment of socialist thinking. A vanguard has emerged which *exposes* the IMG as a petit bourgeois rump in alliance with racist Labour politicians!

It is no wonder that the IMG wants to deny

the role of this black vanguard and to keep this vanguard *apart* from the 'labour movement'. The IMG's sudden 'support' for an independent black movement is not support at all. It is an attempt to separate the vanguard from the working class and thus to preserve the 'labour movement' as a bourgeois, pro-imperialist, labour movement.

This explains why the IMG's 'unconditional' support for an independent black movement turns out not to be unconditional at all. The IMG supports the right of black people to organise independently *as long as* this does not encroach on their alliance with the racist Labour Party.

What are the IMG's conditions?

First, says the IMG, the black movement must be independent of the British state. Also independent of all alliances with capitalist parties as these would be to 'make an alliance of the oppressed and the oppressor'.

But this black vanguard is already independent of the capitalist state and *all* capitalist parties including your precious Labour Party! It is you, the IMG, who have maintained the alliance with the oppressors!

Second, says the IMG, the movement must be a united black movement. It is for the black movement itself to decide what form that movement will take – not the IMG.

Third, says the IMG, the movement must:

'... challenge the strategy of the existing reformist black leaders.'

This is truly astounding! The black movement must challenge 'black reformism', it must *not* on any account challenge the reformist and pro-imperialist leadership of the working class. On the contrary. The IMG sets itself the task of showing black people:

'... how it is possible for the black peoples to fight for *united action with the labour leaders* while at the same time seeking to win their followers among the white workers to giving active support to the demands and objectives of the black movement.'

Leave the struggle to build a socialist working class movement to us, shout the IMG. Hands Off our 'Labour Movement'! We will take care of the struggle for a socialist movement and will win support for your struggle through our *alliance* with the racist Labour Party.

Then, the IMG reveals its stark terror at the prospect of an independent black movement. Might it not get out of hand, thinks the IMG to itself, might it not upset our social democratic applecart? Their solution is brilliant. The IMG will build the 'independent' black movement and will do so on... the IMG's reformist programme. It says:

'To say how a united black liberation movement can be built in this country we (!) must first know what sort of movement we (!) are trying to build.'

Oh 'we' must, must 'we'! Well, the black vanguard has news for the IMG – you are too late! The movement is born and it is a movement which heralds the dawn of a socialist working class movement in Britain and the unmasking of the 'false friends'. The Marxist phrases and the conditional 'unconditional' support represent only the IMG's recognition of the threat the movement poses to its alliance with the Labour Party. *That is why* the IMG does not dare to draw revolutionary conclusions from its phoney Marxist analysis and *that is why* its 'unconditional' support is conditional. The IMG's struggle for 'Black Liberation' is the same old opportunist song, only the tune has changed.

The RCG gives its unconditional support to the growing black movement. We believe that this movement will play the leading role in building a working class movement against imperialism and for socialism. We will not only defend that movement against its open enemies but against its 'false friends'.

Maxine Williams  
5 March 1980

\*See *Revolutionary Communist 9* and *FRFI 1* and 2.

\*\*See *The ANL and the struggle against Racism* RCG Pamphlet.



# BLACK FREEDOM MARCH

## STATEMENT BY THE ORGANISERS ASIAN YOUTH MOVEMENT BRADFORD

Black people in Britain are suffering one of the worst crises in their history in this country. On the Immigration front the Tory proposals have tightened the 1971 Immigration Act, an act which itself is a fundamental attack on the rights of black people nationally and internationally. A new Nationality Bill is being prepared. We can only speculate as to its contents at the moment however there is no doubt that whatever it contains will be detrimental to the position of black people.

On the economic front the position is equally as disastrous. Unemployment is rising rapidly, manufacturing industries, especially the older ones, are in decline (in Bradford for example the textile industry is in a virtual state of collapse). Black workers are the first in line for unemployment. As jobs become scarcer open and overt discrimination increases as the available jobs are given to white workers.

The state has made its intentions clear as to what it holds in store for black people if they dare to protest. The events of Southall and the subsequent show trials are a direct warning to the black community.

The present situation is bad but the future holds a massive increase in racism. Already the rate of black youth unemployment is running far higher than that for white youth. The prospect of black workers being unemployed and subject to increasing racist attacks and state harassment is by no means a far fetched idea.

The fightback by the black community has been and still is fragmented. A major political weakness of black people in this country is the lack of a national militant black organisation. Notwithstanding this the fightback has to be continued and escalated and a national black organisation has to be fought for.

The Asian Youth Movement Bradford is taking the initiative in organising a march from Bradford to London (The Black Freedom March) in June/July 1980.

### WHY BLACK FREEDOM

By black freedom we mean more than just black rights. Black freedom does incorporate these rights however it is more general than that. Black freedom to us refers to the general exploitation of black people and the whole concept of our dignity as black people. In general agitational terms it means freedom from immigration restrictions, freedom from police harassment, freedom from racist attacks, freedom from racism, freedom to organise ourselves and the freedom to live with dignity.

### WHY A MARCH

What is needed in the present situation is anti-racist activity on a national scale. Isolated demonstrations have not proved adequate weapons as means of fighting back. We feel it necessary that an action takes place which focuses the attentions of the black community nationally, an action which brings to the surface a national fight back against racism.

### ISSUES TO BE RAISED BY THE BLACK FREEDOM MARCH

The march itself is a march against racism in general. However that generalisation will be broken down to tackle specific areas of racism.

1 The primary objective of the march is opposition to the Immigration Laws. We feel that these laws are of overriding importance to us as they threaten the whole basis of our existence in this country. If we do not act with determination now we will probably be laying the basis for increased harassment and possible expulsion in the coming years. We hope to make it known through this march

that **We are Here To Stay, Here To Fight**. Our position in principle is quite clear on these laws and is summed up by the slogan **End Racist Immigration Laws, All Immigration Laws are Racist**. However from this general position we will be fighting for concrete demands:

**Stop detention without trial**

**No arrest without warrant**

**Release all the deportees**

**Stop all deportations**

**End sexist and racist laws**

From this primary and overriding issue there will be other issues to be taken up.

2 On the economic front we will take up the issue of **unemployment**, especially unemployment of black youth, which at this moment in time is far higher than for white equivalents. It is also an important issue because the present Tory Government policies are designed to increase unemployment and black workers will take the major brunt of this in proportional terms as the old manufacturing industries requiring unskilled labour decline.

3 **Southall**. Southall is an issue which cannot be left on one side and forgotten about. The Southall community was amazed by the police in a situation of virtual civil war in an attack unprecedented before in England. The facts of what happened in Southall will be brought up in all meetings that are attended during the march.

We say:

**Unite to defend Southall**

**Release the political prisoners of Southall**

**Barnett Trials are Show Trials**

**Disband the SPG**

**SPG murdered Blair Peach**

4 **Police Harassment & Sus Laws**: Police harassment of black people and especially black youth is increasing and bound to increase even more. The Sus Laws are one of the main weapons legitimising this harassment. The initial fightback against sus laws has receded but we hope to bring it back to prominence.

We call for:

**End the Sus Laws Now**

**No imprisonment under these laws**

5 **Bussing**: Bussing of black children from the areas they live in to schools in white areas continues. This practice is a racist practice, depriving them of hours of education, forcing them to travel long distances, and taking away their dignity as black children. The only justification for this is that they will learn English better from a school predominantly white. However it is an excuse not to put resources into black areas and build schools there. The question of resources is even more vital now under the present cuts.

We say:

**End Bussing of Black Children Now**

**More resources for Black Areas**

We demand that schools are built in black areas to cater for the needs of black children, needs which have been so badly neglected.

6 **The 1981 Census**: We are entirely opposed to the questions on race in the census and we call on black people to boycott them. We will not be catalogued like cattle.

### DETAILS OF THE MARCH

The march will leave Bradford on the 28th of June and culminate in London on the 19th of July with a demonstration and rally.

### The provisional route so far:

Day 1 Sat. 28th June—Bradford—Huddersfield

Day 2 Sun 29th June—Huddersfield—Rochdale

Day 3 Mon 30th June—Rochdale—Oldham-Manchester

\*It might be necessary for a group of marchers to come from Rochdale—Manchester—Sheffield instead of the main body of marchers crossing the Pennines.

Day 4 Tues 1st July—Manchester—Sheffield

Day 5 Wednesday 2nd July—Sheffield—Alfreton

Day 6 Thursday 3rd July—Alfreton—Derby—Burton-on-Trent

Day 7 Friday 4th July—Burton-on-Trent—Walsall

Day 8 Saturday 5th July—Walsall—Birmingham

Day 9 Sunday 6th July—Birmingham—Coventry

Day 10 Monday 7th July—Coventry—Leicester

Day 11 Tuesday 8th July—Rest Day

Day 12 & 13 Wed & Thursday 9th & 10th July—Leicester—Market  
Harborough—Northampton

Day 14 Saturday 12th July—Bedford—Luton

the rest of the route is being finalised

The March will take 22 days in all. Between 50-100 Marchers will take part passing through, where possible, major areas where black people live.

A demonstration and public meeting must be organised in every town with the possibility of marchers joining us in the towns we pass through.

### BLACK FREEDOM MARCH SUPPORT COMMITTEES

It will be necessary for the march to succeed to have these support committees organised in every town we pass through and even those we do not pass through.

Tasks of the Support Committees:

- 1 To collect finance
- 2 To arrange accommodation and food
- 3 To arrange a demonstration and public meeting or rally
- 4 To undertake propaganda work preceding the march against racism. One of the most important aspects of the march is that an opportunity will be given for anti-racists to have a major campaign against racism in their locality based on local issues and where appropriate based on the issues raised by the march.
- 5 To provide marchers.

### COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEES

These committees must be on a delegate basis and their sole purpose is to work for the march and to do anti-racist work. We do not expect these committees to become split because of any particular group trying to dominate and push its own 'line' to the detriment of the march by sowing discord. We hope that the committees will become living examples of Unity in Action.

### STRUCTURE OF THE COMMITTEES

The Committees will be linked to and registered under the central organising body the Asian Youth Movement Bradford. The Committees will be expected to be under the political discipline of the organising body whilst they endure.

### STRUCTURE & DISCIPLINE OF THE MARCH

The march will be organised on a tightly disciplined structure for reasons of security. People who wish to march must inform us as soon as possible. All marchers must accept the discipline of the organising body. Marchers wishing to join the main march en route must inform us well in advance. People who have not informed us will not be allowed to join the main march once it is in progress although when we are passing through towns people will be allowed to march with us.

### WHO CAN MARCH?

All black organisations who accept the aims and discipline of the march are welcome. White organisations who wish to send marchers as an act of solidarity will not only

have to accept the structure but also certain other conditions. They will not be allowed to distribute their literature, leaflets, sell their papers to the main body of the march. They will not be allowed to recruit or promote their organisations on the main body of the march.

### FINANCE

We estimate that it may take up to £15,000 to finance the march. We may have to financially compensate some marchers for severe financial hardship during the march. The Central Fund raising body will be the AYM. However, the funds must also be raised by every support committee as well as from sympathetic organisations and individuals. Organisations sending marchers must try to sponsor them fully or to some extent.

### INTERNATIONAL DIMENSION OF THE MARCH

It is hoped that when the march culminates in London there will be international pickets and demonstrations in various parts of the world outside British Embassies in support of the Black Freedom March.

*If you can help and wish to participate or want further information, contact:*

**ASIAN YOUTH MOVEMENT  
BRADFORD  
266 LUMB LANE  
BRADFORD 8**

**Telephone: Bradford 499310**

**N.B.** Send all cheques and P.O.s payable to *The Black Freedom March* account at the above address.

### PART 2 OF STATEMENT

#### What do we hope to achieve by the March?

It has already been stated that the March will become a national focus against racism in this country. The raising of the political consciousness of the Black Community is a central point of the March. Although the march itself will not harm the British State, the march will publicise racism in Britain abroad.

However, the most important net result of the March is expected to be the formation of a National Black Organisation in Britain. The basis for this will be laid down because of the unity in action that will be necessary from so many black organisations if this march is to succeed.

Secondly the Black Freedom March support committees it is hoped will remain as coordinators of black organisations involved in them and will become immediately the rudimentary framework of this National organisation albeit purely on the basis of their support for this one action.

After the march discussions will take place with those black organisations in order to call a conference to establish a National Black Organisations. The whole ideological basis of that organisation will be decided then.



## APARTHEID GOES TO WAR

South Africa is the bastion of imperial interests in Africa. Today it is attempting to create the military and economic means to dominate the whole of Southern Africa. The massive rise in the price of gold, boosting profits and replenishing the racists' war chest, is fuelling the expansionist aims of the South African apartheid state. A war is on – a war between imperialism and the oppressed black masses of Africa.

For the past five years South Africa's racist regime has been expanding its 'defence' budget at a rate of 30-40 per cent per year. Two months military service per annum is now compulsory for all able-bodied South African males. South Africa's desperation and ruthlessness has grown as the long march to victory of the liberation movements has gathered pace.

### Liberation movements gain ground

The first major blow was the victory of the liberation movements in Angola and Mozambique. The crushing of Portuguese imperialism not only removed one of apartheid's major allies in Southern Africa but also provided material aid to the liberation movements in Zimbabwe, Namibia and South Africa. In Zimbabwe in particular, ZANU (PF) and ZAPU (PF) are closer to final victory than ever before. South Africa has already made clear that it will do everything in its power to prevent the victory of the liberation movement in Zimbabwe. Inside South Africa the heroic struggle of the ANC(SA) gains ground daily. Threatened from inside and the outside South Africa is responding by intensified internal repression and open attacks on surrounding countries.

One statistic alone confirms the intensity of internal repression. Between 1976 and 1979 the numbers of hangings *per annum* carried out by the South African racist state rose from 61 to 133. In that period there was a total of 416 hangings.

### Attacks on neighbouring countries

The South African racist regime's attacks on neighbouring countries are also increasing. South Africa sponsors the reactionary UNITA movement which conducts attacks on schools, hospitals and Angolan civilians. Bombing, mining and other attacks on Angolan ports, roads, bridges and towns have been launched by South Africa. Thousands have died. In one raid alone on a SWAPO refugee camp in Cassinga 600 were killed, over 300 of these were primary school children.

In Mozambique South African planes have engaged in defoliation bombings laying bare agricultural areas. Shops, schools and hospitals have been attacked and bombed. South Africa sponsors the Mozambique Resistance Movement which is largely staffed by Portuguese mercenaries.

Zambia is repeatedly invaded by South African forces. Strategic bridges on the TAZARA railway, and in Mozambique, have been destroyed in order to force Zambia to rely on the trade routes through Zimbabwe.

In Namibia the South African war against SWAPO, and its armed wing the Peoples Liberation Army of Namibia (PLAN) goes on. Thousands of SWAPO supporters have been imprisoned without trial, tortured and murdered.

Throughout Southern Africa the apartheid regime is engaged in a vicious war to gain control and establish the rule of imperialism. As one spokesman for apartheid put it:

'Our economic and political objectives in Southern Africa are to harness all natural and human resources from Table Mountain to the border of the Congo river.'

The aim is to convert Southern Africa into one vast colony, policed by the apartheid regime and robbed and looted for the benefit of imperialism. South Africa's major ally in this campaign is British imperialism.

### British imperialism supplies the arms

British imperialism is deeply entrenched in the South African economy. British imperialism is also a major partner in South African expansion.

British imperialism has supplied the major part of South Africa's military hardware and the technological back-up. British Leyland supplied the Ferret armoured cars and the landrovers. ICI owns nearly half of the African Explosives and Chemicals Industries which makes arms and CS gas. The British Steel Corporation is involved in the South African companies which make the naval vessels and military vehicles. Rolls Royce supplies the engines for the aircraft. BP and Shell supply oil and technology to fuel the bombers, the tanks and armoured cars and to produce the napalm and the defoliants. International Computers supplies the computers for the border controls, pass laws administration and mass population dispersals. GEC-Marconi supplies the surveillance and communication equipment.

By 1977 British imperialism had supplied nearly half the armoured cars, three quarters of the tanks and all the armoured personnel carriers. Most of the companies involved are wholly or partly nationalised. They have carried on their collaboration under Tory and Labour governments alike.

### The death knell of capitalism

The battle for control – the war between imperialism and the oppressed black African masses is heading for a climax. At the centre of that war is the bloody and murderous apartheid state – backed to the hilt by British imperialism. Outside the borders of South Africa the liberation movements are advancing towards victory. Inside its borders the ANC(SA) is stepping up its war against the racist regime. On 18 February 1980 the South African regime reported the discovery of an arms dump sufficient 'to start a small war'. The arms dump also proved that the ANC(SA) has opened up a third front in its struggle. In its desperation the apartheid regime, armed with nuclear technology, is fighting on all fronts to defend and expand its ruthless domination and oppression. The stakes are very high indeed. As comrade Sean Mac Stiofain, former Chief of Staff of the Provisional IRA, points out in this issue:

'...the utter defeat of imperialism and capitalism in South Africa... [may] well be the death knell of capitalism...'

The working class in Britain has every interest in supporting the courageous and determined struggle of the black African masses. In their victory will be the final downfall of British imperialism. The comrades in the liberation movements in Southern Africa are in the front line of the struggle against British imperialism. Their fight is our fight!

### Victory to the ANC(SA)!



## ANC LEADS A VISIT TO A SOUTH AFRICAN JAIL

When I was 18 months old my father was sent to jail by the South African government charged with sabotage, furthering the aims of communism and joining the High Command of the military wing of the ANC. Shortly after being sentenced he wrote to my brother and I:

'I want you to know that I have always done and fought for what I believe to be right. If I am sent to jail, it will be because I am trying to make a better South Africa for you to live in.'

I have been to South Africa 3 times in order to visit my dad in gaol. The last occasion was over this Christmas period. Altogether I have seen him about 16 times – each visit was about ¼ of an hour including 4 contact visits, which, because I am now over 16, I am no longer allowed.

As on all previous visits, I had to stay with my white South African relatives who live in absolute luxury – huge houses, servants, cars, swimming pools, pedigree dogs and cats, convenient suburban shopping centres... They are a product of that decadent society – their luxury only possible from the sweat of the blacks.

Aside from the very small token black middle class, the vast majority of blacks live in appalling conditions comparable to those of the Middle Ages. They live in areas which are out of bounds to whites, over-crowded townships. Whereas whites eat huge slabs of steak, assorted vegetables and fruits most blacks live on a type of very cheap maize flour called 'meali pap' (this is white, refined stodge which fills you up but lacks nutrients). Pap is usually served with a thin tomato stew. The infant mortality rate is extremely high due to this appalling diet.

The terrible conditions of poverty coupled with the vicious racist repression of the blacks has not weakened, but on the contrary, has strengthened the revolutionary determination of the black people. Everywhere in the townships, where the imperialists have their slogans for Coca Cola and Wrigleys Spearmint the black people have left *their* mark, *their* slogan – ANC leads.

For my father the 2 visits and 3 letters of 500 words a month he is allowed are his only contact with the outside world (apart from new

prisoners). Pretoria Local Gaol where he is held is a heavily-guarded prison in the centre of the military stronghold of the racist apartheid state – Pretoria. To enter it you have to face huge, clanking iron bar doors which are electronically and mechanically locked, frothing alsatians, warders, bare rooms. In prison, as outside, the cleaners are black – black political prisoners awaiting trial in a separate section of the prison. The black prisoner I saw was extremely thin and scrubbed the floor closely watched by a warder.

I could not touch dad and had to speak to him through cardboard slats (which have little holes in them) on either side of the glass. We had to share our conversation with at least 2 warders – one behind him and one behind me.

I only had to face this spectacle as a visitor. What must it be like inside facing a 20 year gaol sentence with the knowledge that the South African state has never granted remission? Or what must it be like to be on Robben Island (the 'Devil's Island' for black political prisoners) where conditions are far worse than those for white political prisoners in Pretoria?

Nevertheless, my father's morale was high. His three comrades had just escaped from the prison with the aid of the ANC so that they can resume work for their organisation. These three men WALKED OUT OF THE FRONT DOOR OF THE MAXIMUM SECURITY PRISON. They escaped from Pretoria Gaol into a town which is effectively a military camp with huge defence buildings and people in khaki uniform everywhere. Yet still they escaped!

Their escape symbolises the future. They won a victory over the supposedly 'invincible' South African state. The South African apartheid state may arm itself to the teeth, may incarcerate people in fortified prisons but the people's will for liberty proves stronger!

The men in gaol are strong because their organisation is strong and they know that despite all the attempts to crush it by the barbaric regime, the ANC will be the only force to achieve freedom for the people of South Africa.

**AMANDLA!  
Victory to the ANC!**

### JAMES MANGE MUST NOT HANG

On Thursday 15 November 1979 James Mange was sentenced to death in the racist apartheid 'court' at Pietermaritzburg.

Following the sentence the international protests mounted in support of James Mange have forced the apartheid regime to grant James Mange the right of appeal. Now is the time for urgent action to defend James Mange.

The ANC Treason Trial Defence Committee have announced pickets on South Africa House, Trafalgar Square from 1pm to 2pm on 2 April and 7 May. Everyone should support these pickets to demonstrate their opposition to the murderous apartheid regime, and to show their solidarity with the heroic struggle of the ANC(SA).

The death of James Mange will be a blow to us all. Act now to save James Mange's life!

**Free all South African political prisoners  
Victory to the ANC**



## EARLINGTON FAMILY WINS THE FIRST ROUND

From the endless number of cases of police harassment and assault on black people the case of the Earlington family, a black family in Islington, stands out. It stands out not because police assaults like that carried out against the Earlington family are rare. Far from it. Such assaults are frequent occurrences in the lives of black people. No, it stands out because the Earlington family, backed by a strong defence campaign have fought back and have challenged the racist police force and courts which inflict so much suffering on black people in Britain. Every attack made on the Earlington family has been resisted by the Earlington Family Defence Committee. The result has been a struggle which has proved that organised resistance can begin to defend black people and win important victories against the racist apparatus of the British state.

The struggle began in April last year when about 20 police invaded the Earlington's home simply on the grounds that they had been having an argument with their next door neighbour. Having invaded their home the police manhandled members of the family, subjected them to racist abuse and violently assaulted them. They then arrested five members of the family.

- Trevor Earlington - was arrested after being chased upstairs by 3 policemen.
- Audrey - was arrested. Her two children aged 2 and 5 were left alone in the flat for several hours after the police had dragged away the rest of the family.
- Angela - 14 years old, came home from school to find this attack going on and then she was arrested having been violently punched in the jaw by the police.
- Mrs Earlington was arrested, handcuffed, dragged down stone steps and had her thumb very badly twisted.
- Mr Earlington was punched in the stomach and arrested.

All five members of the family faced numerous charges of assault. This is of course standard police practice. Having violently assaulted black people the police then charge their victims with assault!

The cases of Mrs Earlington and Trevor were heard at Inner London Crown Court where despite the weakness of the police case they were found guilty and fined £50. The solicitor handling their case at the time was one appointed under the legal aid scheme by the court. As is frequently the case with such solicitors he did not use important evidence which was available, let alone challenge the police for this racist attack.

The Earlington family could have let the matter rest there, submitting to this second stage of the assault which began in April. They did not. As Mrs Earlington said at the time, they wanted justice. Clearly they were not going to get justice from the British legal system which is built on and defends only injustice and oppression. So a Defence Committee was formed. The fight was on.

The campaign that has since been waged has at every stage challenged the racism of the police and the courts. It has had to fight every inch of the way and in doing so it has exposed ever more clearly the racism that lies at the heart of the British state.

The Defence Committee's priorities were to mobilise local people in defence of the Earlington family and to secure decent legal representation for the cases outstanding and the appeal against Mrs Earlington's and Trevor's conviction. This work, the leafletting and street meetings in the area, publicity in the press soon made the campaign well known.

The response of the police to this exposure of their racist practices by the Defence Committee came swiftly. On 9 January the police arrested Trevor on trumped up charges.

Trevor was held from 2.45 pm on Wednesday 2 January until 9 pm on Thursday 10 January. He was charged with breaking and entering and receiving stolen goods. The charges have no substance and are a police frame-up. Whilst inside the police station it became clear that this frame-up was being carried out to try and intimidate Trevor and the family into dropping their campaign. One policeman told Clay, Trevor's brother, that they were 'not amused' by the appeals lodged and that they were giving Trevor 'a good time' inside the police station.

This consisted of holding Trevor in complete isolation. Neither his family nor the Defence Committee members were allowed access to him and he was denied the right to phone a solicitor. When he asked to phone his family he met vile racist abuse like 'What's a wog like you doing with a phone?'. At 4 am a police officer came into his cell and said 'you're one of the Earlingtons, aren't you?' and calling him a black bastard turned a fire extinguisher on him.

The campaign had clearly unnerved the police to the extent that they wanted to frighten Trevor. But they knew that they dared not go so far as to beat him up. His two friends who were arrested at the same time were both beaten up and suffered degrading treatment inside the police station. They received what is obviously standard treatment at the hands of Hornsey police. But they could not beat Trevor up. They knew that if Trevor emerged from the police station bruised and battered then the defence campaign would expose them once and for all as a gang of racist thugs. As it was the Defence Committee immediately lodged an official complaint against the police for the abuse and attack which Trevor suffered inside the police station.

The incident showed that the defence campaign was having an important effect. The police certainly recognised the danger it posed. A successful defence of the Earlington family threatens to expose and break the racist chain that begins in Holloway police station where black people are beaten and framed, then extends to Highbury Corner Magistrates Court where they are first given a tame solicitor guaranteed not to say anything to upset the applecart and the chain ends with a sentence, a police record, a fine or imprisonment. Indeed, there is much at stake. The Defence Committee is determined to break that chain - the police and the courts are determined to protect it.

The second stage of the chain, the imposition by the court of a solicitor of their choosing has been broken by the Earlington Family Defence Committee. From the start they were determined to replace the first solicitor who had failed to present vital evidence to the court such as that of the family doctor who examined Mrs Earlington and



Demonstration through the streets of Holloway

found her injuries backed up her account of the police assault.

The Defence Committee chose another solicitor and an application for legal aid was made. The court refused it on the grounds that the solicitor came from outside London. So the Defence Committee applied for legal aid for another solicitor this time in London. The court refused that.

The court took so long to inform the family that their requests had been turned down that they faced the prospect of a court appearance one week away having been denied the legal representation that they wanted. The same occurred in the case of the new charges facing Trevor, his application for legal aid for a solicitor of his choosing was turned down. No reason was given.

Highbury Corner Magistrates Court is renowned for this practice. In 1978 its regular rate for refusal of legal aid for appeals was a staggering 54% compared to 7% in the rest of the country.

The Earlington Family Defence Committee took the only step left to them. In open court, while the proceedings were being wound up, an adjournment having been granted, Angela Earlington stood up and demanded the right to change their solicitor. The Defence Committee had ensured that the public gallery of the court was packed with supporters and also with members of the press. The clerk of the court was forced to concede that the court would review the matter.

Finally as a result of the pressure legal aid was granted for the solicitors of the family's choice. The defence campaign had forced the court to do the one thing they had been desperately trying to avoid - allow the Earlingtons a solicitor who would actually represent them in court. The first round was won - the first link in the racist chain was broken!

The trial is now due to take place on April 21/22 at Highbury Corner Magistrates Court. The work of the defence campaign will ensure that it will not be the Earlington family that is on trial but the police for their invasion of a black family's home, their racist abuse and assaults.

The nervousness of the police increases day by day. One incident showed this very clearly.

Trevor appeared in court on 18 February on the trumped up charges of breaking and entering and receiving. For a few minutes he was in the court cells alone having been brought down from the court. This was the one time when the police knew Trevor would be alone. Suddenly the police officer responsible for investigating Trevor's complaint against the police appeared. He assured Trevor that he would 'get to the bottom' of the complaint. The police had gone to all the trouble of bringing in this officer (from another police station) to the court to be in the one place where Trevor would be alone. Obviously they are worried. They want Trevor and the Earlington family and Defence Committee to relax and take the pressure off.

This will not work. The fight goes on. The Earlington family and the Defence Committee are not fighting for the Earlingtons alone. They are fighting for every victim of the injustice, racism and violence of the police and courts. It is a fight that if won will be of great importance in the local area. Not only will the police and the courts have to watch their step in future but all the people in the area will have seen that by organising resistance the monstrous racist edifice of the British state can be undermined.

The Earlington Family Defence Committee is asking for the support of all black organisations, local and labour movement organisations and left groups in building up this campaign. We are one hundred per cent determined not only that the Earlington family will be defended, but that a campaign will be built in the area to challenge the police and their courts.

**DEFEND THE EARLINGTON FAMILY!  
DROP THE CHARGES!  
THE EARLINGTONS ARE INNOCENT!  
END POLICE ATTACKS ON BLACK PEOPLE!**

Olivia Adamson  
Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism!  
representative on Earlington family  
Defence Committee

The Earling

Street meet

Street meet

Picket of F

Press conf



## EARLINGTON FAMILY DEFENCE COMMITTEE FIGHTS BACK



Earlington Family - Angela, Mrs Earlington and Trevor.



Meeting in Holloway



Meeting in Holloway



Picket in Holloway Police Station



Meeting called by the Defence Committee

■ **Street Meeting.** Every Saturday since early December, members of the Defence Committee and supporters of Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism! have held street meetings in the busy Seven Sisters Road, near MacDonalds. Hundreds of signatures and nearly £200 have been collected in the streets and estates of the area for the Defence Fund - most of it in 10ps. This is not an area where rich people live! Such support from the local community has strengthened the determination of the family and Defence Committee to fight on and to step up our campaign.

■ **Pickets of Holloway police station.** The Defence Committee has held 2 pickets on the police station. The first one followed the assault on Trevor in the police cells and the second was held prior to Trevor's appearance in court on 18 February. On the pickets, members of the family and the Defence Committee were joined by local people, representatives of black organisations - Grassroots and Newham Defence Committee - and supporters of **Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism!** The picketers shouted 'Hornsey police are racist police', 'Defend the Earlington family', 'End police attacks on black people'. On each occasion, many local people stopped to offer support. On the first picket, not one policeman dared show his face outside the police station. On the second occasion a policeman was sent out. Twice. First he tried to get us to turn down the megaphone. Secondly he tried to get us to end the picket. Each time he had to retire in defeat. No one on the picket would speak to him.

■ **Press Conference.** The Defence Committee organised a successful press conference on Monday following Trevor's arrest and assault in the police cells. Journalists from the *Times*, the *Guardian*, *Evening News*, *Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism!*, *Morning Star*, *Newsline*, *New Worker* came to ask questions of the Earlington family and Defence Committee members. The *Morning Star* and *Newsline* have reported events consistently. *Socialist Challenge* and *Socialist Worker* although invited did not attend. All journalists present are following the cases with interest and will be present at the trial. Trevor was interviewed on BBC Radio London and the local *Islington Gazette* has covered the story.

■ **Public meeting.** A meeting of 50 people took place on 31 January in Caxton House to hear the Earlington family and members of the Defence Committee outline the nature of the attack on the family and the fight back we are engaged in. The message of the meeting was clear: the attack on the Earlington family is part and parcel of racist attacks conducted by the British state on black people. A collection raised nearly £40 and local people came forward to offer their help in the campaign. Also at the meeting were representatives of the Black Prisoners Welfare Scheme who drew attention to the struggle that young blacks are waging inside prison against racism and assaults. The meeting drew support from both black and white people from the area. A local teacher, involved in the work of the Defence Committee, stressed the importance of white people actively supporting the campaign. The fight was one for all people in the area. She put it like this: 'I don't want my children growing up in a vicious racist

society!' A high point of the evening came with a telegram from the Southall Youth Movement which was applauded loudly:

'Southall Youth Movement pledges support to the Earlington family. We too have experienced police brutality and the injustice of the courts against blacks. Drop all charges. The Earlingtons are innocent. Southall Youth Movement.'

■ **Demonstration.** On Saturday 23 February a demonstration supported by Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism!, Newham Defence Committee, London RCG, and Islington SWP, marched through the streets of Holloway shouting loudly *The Earlingtons are innocent - Drop the charges now, End Police attacks on all black people - Defend the Earlington Family*. Outside the police station on Hornsey Road, demonstrators stopped to shout angrily *Hornsey police are racist police, Hornsey police out out out*. Attempts by police to make us move on were ignored until we were ready to do so. All along the way local people joined in or stopped to give us money. The march finished with speeches from Angela Earlington and Olivia Adamson from the Defence Committee, who announced a picket on Highbury Corner Magistrates Court on 21/22 April, when the Earlington family will be on trial.

**THE EARLINGTONS ARE INNOCENT!  
END POLICE ATTACKS ON BLACK PEOPLE!**

### HIGHBURY CORNER MAGISTRATES COURT: RAMPANT RACISM

In the heart of the large black community in Islington, Highbury Corner is notorious for its high refusal rate for legal aid. So notorious in fact that a Highbury Corner Action Committee was formed. A large picket of nearly 70 lawyers (not normally noted for their activity on this score) even picketed the court in January 1979.

The percentage of legal aid refusals for Highbury Corner Magistrates Court as compared with all other Inner London Courts is shown in Table 1.

|                  | 1975 | 1976 | 1977 | 1978 |
|------------------|------|------|------|------|
| Highbury Corner  | 32   | 40   | 42   | 29   |
| All Inner London | 9    | 11   | 11   | 10   |

(Table from *Legal Action Group Bulletin* January 1980)

The refusal rate at Highbury is therefore 18% higher than average in Inner London and 11% higher than any other. Further, Highbury Corner Magistrates Court does not like defendants to appeal against its decisions. In 1978, refusals for legal aid for appeal at Highbury Corner compared to the rest of the country were as shown in Table 2.

It is no surprise then that it was this same magistrates court which, in the case of the Islington 18, initially gave 16 out of the 18 cases to just one solicitor! Even when legal aid



### WHAT HAPPENED TO ME ON 9 APRIL 1979 ANGELA EARLINGTON

The police, they arrested my mother, my brother, my sister, my father. They arrested me. When I come on de scene, when me did just come up de stairs me see that de flats, me house, was covered with police. Everywhere you did look you would see a policeman. So I got as far as de front door and said 'whats going on?'. Then the policeman he grab me and me tell he fe let me go. De policeman just push me against de kitchen window and say 'We're going to get you black bastard'. As I started to wriggle then he lick me on me face. It make me heat up and then me started fe cry and then him put on de handcuffs.

Each of us have our own time for trouble. But the main trouble starts by police and the ones that brought the police into the world. We must stop the racism that they are giving many of us. Some white people don't really care because it only happens to black people. But you must remember that it's not only black people that have to fight racism. From this stage on, the Earlington family had to fight racism.

is granted it is done in such a way as to place every obstacle in the way of defendants.

So when the Earlington family applied to change the legal aid order because they were dissatisfied with their solicitor, it took over 6 weeks - until 10 days before the case was due to come up, for the court to inform them that a change of solicitors had been denied.

The case of the Earlington family is just one of the thousands of trumped up charges against black people that have passed through this racist court. The Earlington family have fought against the court and its use of the legal aid scheme. Highbury Magistrate Court has been challenged once successfully - next time it will be easier.

|                          | 1978  |
|--------------------------|-------|
| England and Wales        | 7.1%  |
| Metropolitan Police area | 10.0% |
| Highbury Corner          | 54.5% |

(Table from *Legal Action Group Bulletin* January 1980)



# BLACK PRISONERS

## WORMWOOD SCRUBS

The incident which took place in (C Wing) Wormwood Scrubs early last year was only given a small paragraph in some daily newspapers, and mentioned passingly on the News. What was said at the time was: Police were told to stand by, because a skirmish had broken out, between inmates on the exercise yard. But as to causes nothing was ever disclosed.

What people didn't know was prior to the event on the exercise yard, similar incidences had taken place weeks before within the C Wing compound. In C Wing anti-black feelings were high among white prisoners and prison officers. Fighting among blacks and whites wasn't infrequent. Blacks and whites were always segregated, (this is normal practice within the prison system) located in certain cells on the landings.

After a period things began to change. More and more anti-black slogans (much more than normal) were written on walls, and in certain cases blatantly spoken out by white inmates and officers alike. I might say here, that it was a miniature National Front movement growing in C Wing. I witnessed and became a part of, verbal attacks on my colour by officers and white inmates. There was a greater demand than was usual for books on Hitler and the World Wars. I myself was subjected to a near intolerable situation, when placed in a cell, where there were already 3 known (known by officers) NF supporters.

That day and night I spent in fear of my life. Things which were said in my presence, among my cell mates, whilst reading material concerning Hitler, were things like: 'Hitler was killing the wrong race, it should have been the blacks' and 'Up the NF' beside other things. These aspects led up to the near crisis on the exercise yard, where white and black prisoners clashed.

There was about 60 prisoners involved, many were white, and they were armed with an assortment of weapons, these included: PP9 batteries in socks and metal instruments to use as coshes. Many were hurt enough to receive medical attention. Officers I witnessed were unhastily arriving at the scene, and although they could see that it was the blacks taking the beating, and outnumbered some 3 to 1, only blacks were taken away and punished, later shifted to other prisons losing 2 weeks remission and more. These facts were presented to the Board of Visitors who took no notice or actions. This refusal to take any sort of action by the Board of Visitors, only, as I can see it, encouraged attacks on black inmates, by not only white prisoners, but officers as well. What I have written was never disclosed in the media, by the Board of Visitors or any other person.

This incident took place in late January 1979 on C Wing's exercise yard.

Ex-Prisoner

## LETTERS

Dear FRFI,

Something really obscene is happening in our community. Black guys dressed in soldiers uniforms - soldiers of the British Army have been sent into Chapeltown to recruit black guys for the army. I see this as blatant exploitation of black people once again. Due to the high rate of unemployment of black people they know that black people are short of work and desperate for the opportunity to earn some money. Why is it that the British Government always wants black people to do its dirty work for it when they are not respected citizens of this country. It is the same old story: when they wanted black people to build up their economy they recruited us from the West Indies telling us to come here and build up their economy and make their country strong. Now they have enjoyed the fruits of our labour and they throw us on the scrapheap. Then they have the cheek to come round wanting us to fight their wars for them. Black people are not at war with the Irish, the Russians, or anybody else the British Government chooses to fight. If they want us to fight for them - then we should have equal rights, equal opportunities - until such time we abstain from their wars. When you go and fight for them will you be respected as a British citizen? Millions of black people have died for them including in the 1st and 2nd World Wars. We are the second and third generation of these people and we are not respected. Black people should be fighting against them instead of under them. If black people want to fight they should join the oppressed peoples of the world - them being an oppressed race themselves - and fight against the British to free themselves from domination and exploitation.

Vasco Tate  
Chapeltown, Leeds  
9 February 1980

Dear FRFI,

On Saturday night we were at a blues in the Chapeltown area, it was packed and everyone was enjoying themselves. At about 4.30 a.m. a plain-clothes policeman came to the blues. He went downstairs and mixed with the crowd. He was sussing the place and the people out. He went back out and fifteen minutes later he came back again. The word went round that he was a police-man. Almost immediately the police smashed the door down with a big mallet. They smashed the whole door in. Then masses of them ran in. Some ran downstairs and some ran into top rooms. They blocked people from moving about. When they rushed in they pushed people out of their way and they had torches all over the floor looking for drugs. They came up and tried to force a plastic packet on one of us, trying to plant drugs.

After they had searched the place, they sent camera-men in to take photographs of the people there. People had to try and hide their faces. After that people were allowed to leave, but they had all the doors blocked and they said you needed a pass to get out. To get the pass you have to fill in forms they have. The questions you have to answer are your name, address, age, where you work, how you heard about the place, who let you in, and why you went there? Then you have to sign it. They then give you a slip of paper which you hand to the policeman at the door. They use these for fingerprints. As we were leaving a big, fat uniformed policeman was laughing about breaking the door down. When we got outside we saw that there were more than seven meat-vans and a dog patrol-car blocking the ends of the street. In the confusion one of us left our coat behind and when we went back to get it the police were even searching through it. The police arrested the person who owned the house and the people playing the sound.

Junior, Lester, Errol and Minton  
Chapeltown, Leeds.  
27 February 1980.

## PICKET OF RAMPTON HOSPITAL

On Saturday 26 January, the Steve Thompson Defence Committee held a picket of Rampton Mental Hospital, where Steve has been held for the past six months. There were about 40 people on the picket line - mainly Steve's friends and relatives from the Handsworth community and also representatives of PROPAP, Black Prisoners' Welfare Scheme, Nottingham University Students' Union and Revolutionary Communist Group.

There was a mixed response from the hospital staff and visitors passing the picket line, ranging from bewilderment to outright abuse. The number of police present (at one point about 18) was unwarranted and disturbing, but not surprising as whenever black people begin to organise and fight back against the state's ruthless racism, the police attempt to intimidate with sheer numbers or failing that, to smash with brute force.

Three members of Steve's family visited him during the visiting hours. Physically he appeared normal and his speech is no longer slurred. But, recently, he has been moved into

'Drake Ward' - solitary confinement - as punishment for refusing to hand over his collection of books: according to the hospital staff, he is only allowed one book - the Bible.

A petition, signed by people on the picket, which demands a full scale government enquiry into conditions and treatment of patients at Rampton, Steve's immediate release and compensation or an official apology to his family, was taken to the hospital, but as members of the defence committee approached the main entrance a nurse shouted to them that they were not answering any questions and were not allowing anyone through the door, she also refused to take the petition.

The defence committee are organising a demonstration which will take place in the near future and are still awaiting replies to letters written to the Home Office some months ago.

Birmingham Correspondent

## COMMUNIST PARTY EXPOSED

On 11th February the Morning Star carried an article entitled 'Police in need of dialogue' by Communist Party Executive member Jack Woddis. It is the Communist Party's response to Chief Constable John Anderson's book 'Policing Freedom'.

Jack Woddis and the Communist Party find this book both 'refreshing' and 'significant', he concludes that what is needed is:

'real, democratic control and supervision - in which the people, through their organisations and elected representatives, become the bodies to which the police are accountable'

and the introduction of:

'democratic changes within the police force'

Woddis ends the article by stating that Chief Constable Anderson's book is a:

'confirmation of the need for dialogue between the democratic movement and police personnel'.

So Jack Woddis wants to 'democratise', and have 'a dialogue' with, the police force of the British imperialist state, which, as black people know, is an organisation guilty of using SUS, raiding black people's homes, intimidating black families and even of murdering black people. This is the police force which last year attacked the black people of Southall leaving 1000 injured and one man dead. How absurd to suggest that the police force of the racist British state could be spoken to and per-

suaded to change its imperialist ways!

It is no accident that the Communist Party say this at a time when the repressive role of the police force is becoming increasingly exposed. After the murderous activities of the police at Southall, after the government's reluctant disclosure of the 245 deaths in police cells and the open use of police in breaking up picket lines, the Communist Party steps in to attempt to cover up the police forces' role in Britain by asking for a dialogue and suggesting it can be made more democratic.

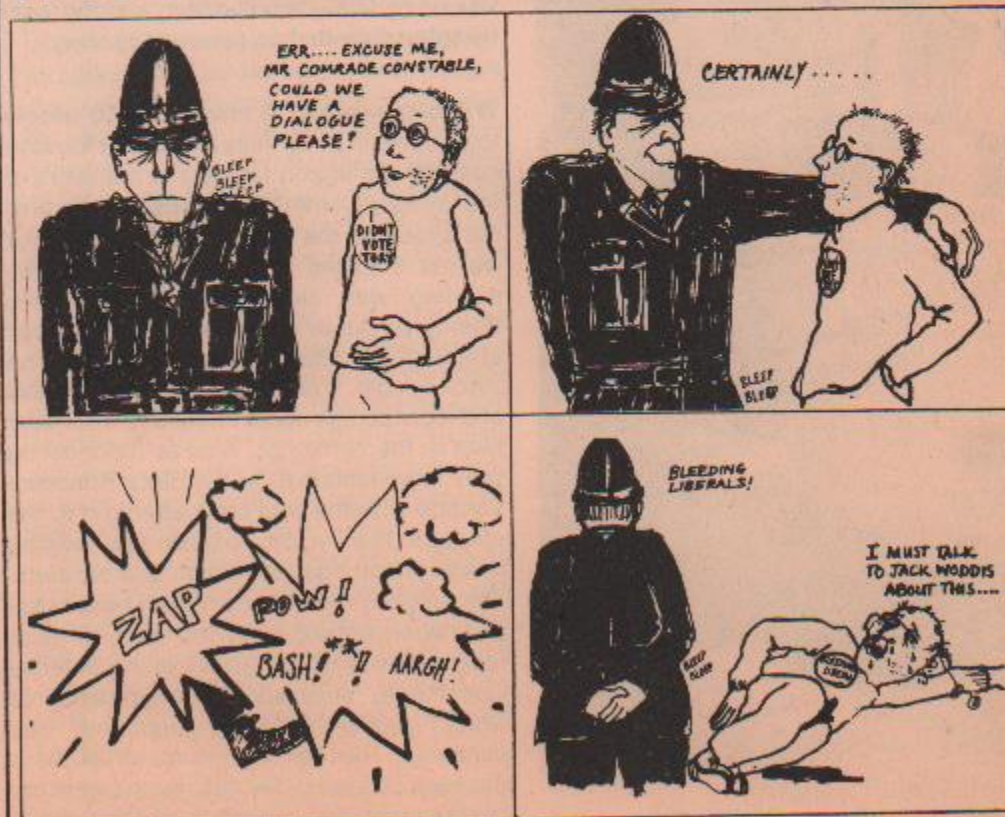
It came as no surprise that the CP, which wants to democratise the police force, also condemns the resistance of black people in the face of racist assaults. After Southall, the Communist Party wrote:

'Of course racism will never be defeated by throwing stones at policemen. Squalid little street fights with the police on the part of tiny groups are no answer to the problem.'

The fightback by the black people of Southall showed the only form of dialogue possible with an imperialist force. And Jack Woddis and the CPGB have shown what their role in this dialogue will be - with the police, against black people.

Peter Lloyd

## CPGB HAS A DIALOGUE WITH THE POLICE





# IMMIGRATION LAWS

## ANWAR DITTA CAMPAIGN GROWS

In FRFI No2 we reported on the case of Mrs Anwar Ditta. 25 year old Anwar Ditta was born in Birmingham and brought up in Rochdale. In 1968 she married Mr Shuja Ud Din in Pakistan. They had three children. In 1975 Mrs Ditta and her husband came to Britain to live. After settling in, getting a job and buying a house, they sent for their children to join them in Britain. But entry was refused to Mrs Ditta's children. Refused by the racist British immigration authorities. A Defence Campaign was set up in December 1979 involving Anwar Ditta, the Rochdale Asian Women's Group, supporters of FRFI and various individuals.

Week in, week out, the Defence Campaign has been out in the streets of Rochdale, leafletting, picketing, and gathering 3000 signatures for a petition demanding the immediate entry of Anwar's children. This has been done not only in the busy shopping centre but also door-to-door throughout the Asian areas in the town. The Campaign has been building up to a major march through Rochdale town centre on 1 March.

The 3000 signatures are testimony to the success that the campaign has had in publicising Anwar Ditta's case. Two very effective pickets have been held - one on the Rochdale Tory party offices and one outside Manchester Town Hall, where Timothy Raison, Under-Secretary of State for the Home Office, was addressing a meeting. It was here that Anwar Ditta handed in the petition.

The Defence Campaign is well aware that there is nothing exceptional about the Anwar Ditta case. Black families up and down the country are suffering the same racist cruelty as they struggle to re-unite their families; the same bland lies, the same casual indifference to their fate. They know that British imperialism will do everything in its power to prevent them from re-uniting their families in order to drive them out of the country. It must be sickening for them to hear the cant of ruling class politicians who declare their 'opposition' to repatriation! Gias Uddin, whose case was reported in FRFI No1, has since been booted out of 'democratic' Britain. Mohammed Ghalib committed suicide when he learnt he, his brother and his mother were not to be allowed to join his father, Mohammed Fazal in Rochdale. We found three different cases of families divided by the immigration laws in just five streets in Rochdale alone! How many are there throughout Britain?

Victory for Anwar Ditta will be victory for all black families suffering under the racist immigration controls throughout Britain.

### DEMONSTRATION

The angry 400 strong demonstration assembled in an Asian area of Rochdale on Saturday 1 March to demand that Anwar Ditta's children be brought home. The Asian Youth Movement (Bradford), Rochdale Asian Women's Group, Bolton Asian Youth Organisation, AWAS, Friends of Nasira Begum, Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism!, RCG Manchester, RCG Leeds, Rochdale LP Women's section, Rochdale LP, Heywood and Royton LP, and Rochdale SWP joined in the protest.

At a rally beforehand Anwar Ditta spoke angrily, leaving no doubt that her children were denied entry because she is black. Many other families face the same attacks. The AYM (Bradford) denounced Labour and Tories alike for attacks on black people. After speakers from Rochdale Asian Women's Group and Friends of Nasira Begum, and FRFI speaker pledged support for the struggles of black people in this country and the struggles of liberation movements against the common oppressor, British imperialism. The North of England Prisoners Committee stated that the struggle of black people in Britain is the same as that of the Provisional Republican Movement against British imperialism.

The demonstration, chanting *Bring Anwar's Children home - Smash immigration controls and Black people must unite - Anwar's children are her right*, drew an overwhelmingly enthusiastic response from the local Asian community, many joining in. At the end, Anwar denounced Labour and Tory governments for their racist treatment of her.

A series of street meetings starting Saturday 15 March, 11am King Street South, Rochdale, and a demonstration in Manchester on Saturday 26 April, 2 days prior to Anwar's appeal hearing are the next stage in the campaign.



## MURDERED BY IMMIGRATION LAWS

'Britain's immigration laws are used not only to keep out and deport black people, but also to break up black families.'

That's what we said in the last issue of Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism! about Anwar Ditta's case, and it applies not only to Anwar's family but to countless Asian families, separated by the immigration laws.

This was graphically illustrated when supporters of Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism! were going door to door in an Asian area of Rochdale, canvassing support for Anwar's campaign. In the space of about five small terraced streets, we came across three different cases of families being split up, with one parent in Rochdale with part of the family, and one parent in Pakistan looking after the rest of the family. These were cases as tragic and heart-rending as Anwar's, but one case stood out, even from these.

That was the case of Mohammed Fazal and his family. In 1971 Mr Fazal applied for his wife and two sons to enter Britain and join him in Rochdale. They applied for entry visas at the British embassy in Islamabad but were refused. The reason the embassy gave for refusing the applications was that they had received a letter stating they were not the wife and children of Mr Fazal. No attempt was made by the Immigration authorities to investigate the case, or even check up on obvious things like birth certificates, medical records or even the marriage certificate.

Mr Fazal immediately lodged an appeal against the decision and hired a solicitor at a cost of £525 to represent him at the appeal court. The appeal was held in late 1974 and

was lost, the judge stated that in his opinion the documents produced were false. Mr Fazal wrote to his eldest son, Mohammed Ghalib, telling him of the court's decision, and also telling him that because he had spent so much money on solicitors' fees, he couldn't afford to visit them in Pakistan.

On receipt of this letter Mohammed Ghalib took a gun and shot himself. Not only had Britain's immigration laws tragically divided Mr Fazal's family, but they had murdered his eldest son.

Even after this the immigration authorities weren't satisfied, once again they refused entry to Mr Fazal's wife and remaining son. This time the reason given was that the immigration officer was not satisfied that they were his wife and son. Not content with killing one of Mr Fazal's sons, the British state is determined that the only way Mr Fazal will be reunited with his family is by him returning to Pakistan.

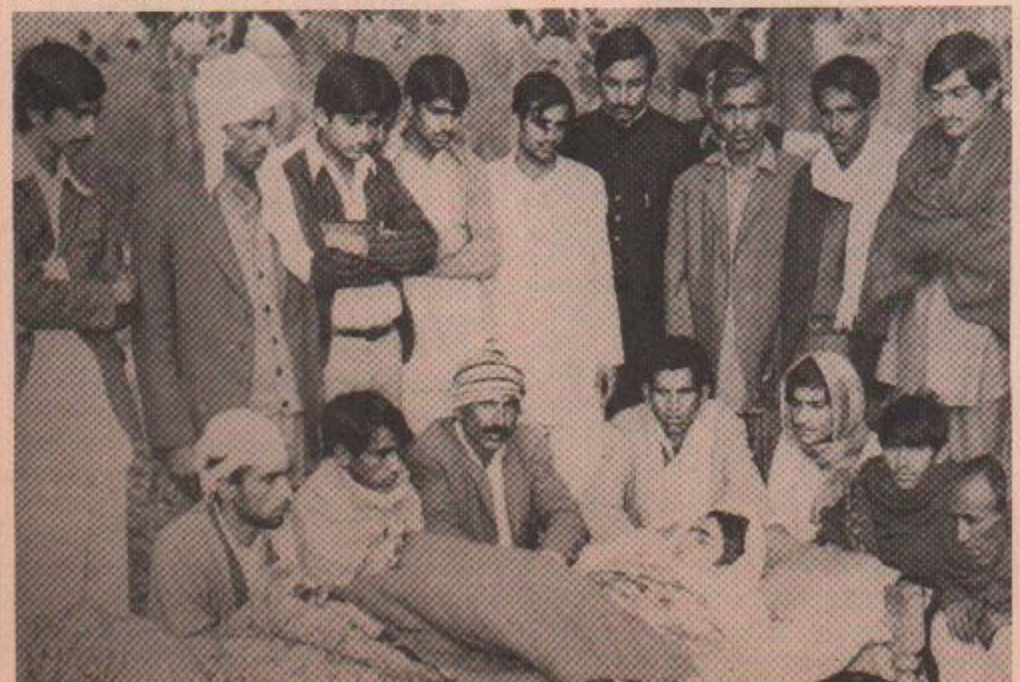
The case of Mr Fazal and others like him show the importance of the campaign to reunite Anwar Ditta's family. That campaign is strengthening the basis for fighting and winning Mr Fazal's case and the countless others like it throughout Britain.

## CYRIL TRIES TO CASH IN

Anwar Ditta lives in the constituency of Cyril Smith, Liberal MP. Mr Smith has declared his 'support' for Anwar Ditta's case. So far this 'support' has taken the form of refusing to support the Defence Committee, refusing to support the march in Rochdale on 1 March and refusing to ask a question in the House of Commons about Anwar Ditta's case. His sole contribution so far has been to write letters to the Home Office and attempt to claim the credit for the Home Office's promise to 'prioritise' the case. This promise was forced out of the Home Office by the Defence Committee, not Cyril Smith. He has been far too busy tabling motions in praise of James Anderton, Chief Constable of Greater Manchester Police, to bother with the

suffering of Asian families in Rochdale. James Anderton is the man who, on 8 October 1977, sent thousands of police into Hyde town centre in order to protect the racist NF thug Martin Webster on his 'free speech' march. The same James Anderton, on the same day, made secret arrangements with the NF in order to allow them to parade through Levenshulme protected by rows of police and helicopters circling overhead.

Mr Smith's only real concern is to cash in on the suffering of Asian families. Nothing more. It is only this that explains his very peculiar idea of 'support'. If he ever did throw his 'weight' into the campaign it would be in order to suffocate all those involved in it.



Funeral of Mohammed Ghalib



# FIGHTBACK

## HORNSEY POLICE ATTACK AGAIN

The racist thugs of Holloway Police Station have beaten up yet another black youth. Their latest victim, Junior Archer, like the Earlington family, has decided to fight the case. He has asked the Earlington Family Defence Committee to take it up.

Junior Archer is 18, he lives in Hornsey. On Thursday evening (6 March) he went out to a club. On his way home in the early hours of Friday morning he was stopped on Tollington Way by four police. There were two other people with Junior but he was caught first, and surrounded. He stood there, he didn't move, he didn't push to get free, he didn't say anything. Immediately, seven other police arrived in a van. The brutality started right away when the police tried to get information out of Junior about the people with him.

Junior was struck on the forehead with a truncheon. The photograph shows the gash it left. He was punched on his left side - his ribs remained badly bruised for days. A second truncheon blow struck the right side of his face which is very badly swollen. (See photograph). He was kicked and when he doubled up he was kneed in the face by a policewoman. He was thrown into a van and taken to Holloway police station - the punches continued.

His face was covered in blood. It took half an hour before a police surgeon was brought to check the injuries to his head.

Junior refused to give a statement, so he was punched. He refused a second time and was punched again. He was taken to the police cells and his head was repeatedly banged against the wall. Junior was finally forced to make a statement as a result of this brutal treatment.



Junior appeared at Highbury Corner Magistrates Court on Friday morning (7 March). The date given for the next hearing is 28 March. Junior then went to hospital for an X-ray and to see his family doctor who noted all his injuries, agreeing that they were compatible with all that Junior had reported.

The legal aid office at Highbury Corner Magistrates Court directed Junior to a local solicitor. During Junior's first interview with him, the solicitor did not ask Junior about X-rays or a doctor's report, nor did he advise him to keep his bloodstained clothing as evidence. The experience of the Earlington Family Defence Committee is that this failure to gather and use defence evidence concerning police brutality and frame-ups is normal for solicitors appointed by Highbury Corner Magistrates Court.

The Defence Committee has always argued that the Earlington case is only part of the consistent level of police harassment of black people in the area. We intend to take up the case of Junior Archer. We are determined, along with Junior, that this latest example of the racist thuggery of the police will be fought.

## LETTER

It is obvious reading your paper that you are, to my knowledge, the only political group in Britain who truly supports the struggle of my people in Southern Africa; who really support the ANC (SA) and the Patriotic Front and who are also aware of the real nature of the problems of race and imperialism in Britain; and being aware, are actually acting upon principles which are crucial to the building of a really revolutionary movement in this country.

Please accept this donation in the name of Comrade David Kitson, serving his sixteenth year in prison in Pretoria, South Africa, and for all the political prisoners there who are committed to the same struggle.

ex Political Detainee  
The Fort  
Johannesburg

### BECOME A FIGHT RACISM! FIGHT IMPERIALISM! SUPPORTER

Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism! is committed to the building of an anti-racist, anti-imperialist movement in Britain. Our newspaper is devoted to this end. If you support our aims why don't you become a supporter? Fill in your name and address, enclose £2.00 (cheques and postal orders payable to RCG Publications Ltd) and send to 49, Railton Road London SE24 0LN. You will receive a supporters card, a year's subscription to FRFI, and details of all our activities in your area and nationally.

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### SOUTHALL YOUTH MOVEMENT

#### DAY OF ACTION 23 APRIL 1980

Culminating in a Concert at the Dominion Theatre, Southall

for details contact  
SYM tel 574 3843

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## SEAN MAC STIOFAIN

In a recent interview with *Hands Off Ireland!*, Comrade Sean Mac Stiofain (former Chief-of-Staff of the Provisional IRA) made certain political points which will be of enormous interest to readers of *Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism!*. During the interview, Comrade Mac Stiofain said:

'I only recognise one struggle, that's the revolutionary struggle against capitalism, imperialism and against racialism.'

He went on to show the connection between the struggle against imperialism in Ireland, in Southern Africa and against racism in Britain. We reprint extracts from this interview below, but readers of *Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism!* are strongly urged to read the full interview in *Hands Off Ireland!* 10.

*Hands Off Ireland!*: Can we ask you about the connection between racism and the Irish anti-imperialist struggle. I remember in AP/RN there was an interview with a representative of the Army Council and one of the points he made in answering a question about the movement in Britain, was that the Republican movement expected support from Irish people living in England and also from black people who experience the same type of repression as Irish people.

*Sean Mac Stiofain!*: The struggle against British imperialism and the struggle against racism, which is a feature of imperialism, is one and the same. A revolutionary Irish Republican would naturally stand with the oppressed against the oppressor. It's just as basic as that.

*HOI!*: The Republican movement condemned the police action in Southall. And there was a Provisional Sinn Fein contingent on the commemoration for Blair Peach when he was killed.

*SMS!*: That would be only the right and proper thing for Irish revolutionaries in Britain. They should be sympathetic. And they should, whenever possible, take part in anti-racist demonstrations.

*HOI!*: What was your impression of *Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism!*?

*SMS!*: I'm very impressed indeed. I think it was a brilliant idea to produce a magazine which expresses support for the revolutionary struggle in Ireland, support for the revolutionary struggle in Southern Africa and organises opposition to racism within Britain itself. I found the magazine most informative, most educational and I agree entirely with the analysis of the situation in Zimbabwe.

I regard Comrade Mugabe as one of the greatest political leaders to come out of the struggle in Southern Africa. I'm quite sure he knows what he's doing and that he has his plans ready to deal with any eventuality. But nevertheless as a revolutionary I cannot help but be concerned for the people who are in the assembly camps. I see the situation in Southern Africa as one of vital importance to revolutionaries all over the world. Sooner or later the struggle within South Africa itself will be intensified. And I'm absolutely sure that the Americans, the British and the other Western European powers will back up the South African racist regime to the hilt to protect their own investments there. And I believe we will see another Vietnam type situation arising in South Africa. I go so far as to say that I predict the utter defeat of imperialism and capitalism in South Africa. It might well be the death knell of capitalism from the struggle in South Africa.

*HOI!*: Does the Republican movement have any official position on the struggle in Zimbabwe?

*SMS!*: You would get that from *An Phoblacht* which fully supports the revolutionary struggle there. A revolutionary movement, if it is a revolutionary movement, will support revolutionary movements all over the world. I refer you to my prison experiences in England during the fifties. When we received word in May 1954 that Dien Bien Phu had fallen we realised that it was a great revolutionary victory and it meant the end of at least that phase of the war. We were very pleased. We were in sympathy with the Algerian struggle, with the revolutionary struggle in Cuba. We were in complete solidarity with the anti-colonial struggles in Angola and Mozambique, Guinea-Bissau, Aden. Anywhere in the world. One revolutionary, if he is a genuine revolutionary, must support the struggle in any part of the world. And if the opportunity arises, give them any assistance, advice, moral support that he or she is capable of giving.

*HOI!*: So it would be quite correct for HOI! to denounce anyone who said that the Republican movement was not internationalist.

*SMS!*: Absolutely! Anyone who could say that the Republican movement is not internationalist does not know what they're talking about. I for one, regard the revolution in all these countries as one revolutionary struggle - the struggle against capitalism and its offspring - imperialism and racism. And the revolutionary in Ireland - his first duty is to promote the revolution in Ireland and by so doing he is helping the revolution all over the world. If only by good example! Revolutionary success in any part of the world is a success for all because it is going to encourage revolutionaries elsewhere to take action. So I regard our struggle in Ireland, the struggle of the Basque people, the struggle in Zimbabwe, in Southern Africa, in Southern America - anywhere in the world - as one struggle. Our victory will be their victory. Any defeat that any revolutionary movement suffers is a defeat for us all. And I'm quite sure that we will see more and more co-operation between revolutionary movements.

### National SMASH H-BLOCK MARCH in London

Organised by Provisional Sinn Fein (Britain)

Sunday 6 April 1980

Assemble: Hyde Park, Speakers Corner  
2.30pm, to march to Kilburn Square

Hands Off Ireland urges all readers and supporters to support this demonstration.

Victory to the blanketmen!  
Smash H-Block!  
Political status now!  
Victory to the Irish people!  
Hands Off Ireland!

### HANDS OFF IRELAND! No 10

This issue contains a major interview with Sean Mac Stiofain - former Chief of Staff of the Provisional IRA. In outlining the revolutionary character of the Republican struggle he shows the essential connection between the struggle for national liberation in Ireland, the worldwide movement against imperialism, and the struggle against racism in Britain.

Other articles include: British Terror inside and outside H-Block, in the words of the people themselves; reports on the campaign in Britain; and The Easter Rising - first in a series of articles on the history of the Irish people's struggle.

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# HANDS OFF IRELAND

## ONE MORE BODY

### THE MURDER OF GUISEPPE CONLON

Up to Wednesday 23 January 1980 four Irish prisoners had been murdered in English jails – Michael Gaughan June 1974, Frank Stagg February 1976, Noel Jenkinson October 1976 and Sean O'Connell October 1977. On 23 January 1980 Guiseppe Conlon became the fifth Irish prisoner to be murdered.

He died in Hammersmith Hospital as a result of the chronic lung disease which he had suffered from throughout his five years imprisonment. His death certificate will not record 'Murdered by British imperialism' but he was murdered just as surely as if he had been hung, shot, electrocuted or beaten to death. His arrest, conviction, imprisonment and treatment in jail was one long slow act of murder.

He was arrested at the end of 1975 whilst visiting his son Gerry who is serving at least 30 years also on a trumped up charge. Guiseppe Conlon was charged with possession of explosives. The sole evidence produced against him consisted of the 'discovery' of a 1000th part of a grain of 'nitroglycerine' under his fingernails. He denied the charge from that day right up to the day of his death. This 'evidence' however was sufficient for him to be sentenced to twelve years in prison. At no time, either during or after his trial, was his home in Cyprus Street Belfast searched! Yet this man was supposed to be part of a bombing team!

Guiseppe Conlon entered prison seriously ill and never received proper medical treatment for his illness. Throughout his imprisonment he fought to establish his innocence. He went on a five week hunger strike in 1979. He was refused parole in November 1979. Then he contracted pneumonia and was rushed, in a coma, to Hammersmith Hospital on 31 December 1979 to die. But even this was not the end of the story.

In a perverse display of imperialist brutality – Guiseppe Conlon was actually taken back to Wormwood Scrubs prison on 11 January. He was in an oxygen tent being fed on drips when he was snatched from his bed, wrapped in a single sheet, bundled into a taxi and taken back to Wormwood Scrubs. After a week of agony he was returned to Hammersmith Hospital at 10pm on 18 January. He finally died on Wednesday 23 January.

After his death, as the news of his murder began to spread, William Whitelaw had the hypocrisy to claim that Conlon was just about to be released! As O'Donovan Rossa wrote over 100 years ago:

'The lies of our English oppressors exceed one's wildest imagination'

#### Who Killed Conlon?

The police who deliberately framed him.

Lord Donaldson who sentenced him to twelve years so that he could die in the squalid damp

Victorian slum known as Wormwood Scrubs prison.

The prison authorities who watched him slowly dying.

The Home Office who refused his appeals, his application for parole and engineered the brutal transfer of a dying man from hospital to prison and back to hospital.

British imperialism which created the conspiracy to murder designed to crush the Irish people's struggle for freedom.

Guiseppe Conlon was 'innocent' in all respects save one – he was Irish. His murder demonstrates beyond all possible doubt that the British ruling class will take and crush any Irish man or woman if it suits its purposes and if it is allowed to get away with it.

Our sympathy alone will do nothing to avenge the murder of Guiseppe Conlon. The only way we can respond is to fight to build an anti-imperialist movement in Britain. To fight to rid the Irish people and the British working class of British imperialism once and for all. Then and only then will the murder of Guiseppe Conlon be avenged.

Terry Marlowe.

## CELTIC FANS DEFEND HANDS OFF IRELAND

Hands Off Ireland carries out regular sales at Glasgow Celtic Football ground. These sales get an enthusiastic response from the fans.

On 15 December we were selling **Hands Off Ireland!** as usual. After a few minutes two uniformed police arrived and tried to stop us selling. A crowd of Celtic fans quickly gathered round the police. Discretion being the better part of valour the police withdrew. Hands Off Ireland 1, Glasgow Police 0.

About ten minutes after this incident one of our comrades was suddenly jumped on by a 'fan' – a man aged about 30, wearing jeans, jumper and, of course, a Celtic scarf. This man dragged our comrade behind a hamburger stand. He then stated that he was in the CID and did not like Hands Off Ireland sellers at Celtic matches. This undercover fooling around did not prevent the sale of 150 copies of **Hands Off Ireland!** It is interesting to discover how the 'eternally-vigilant-guardians-of-law-and-order' while away their Saturday afternoons.



M. Davison

## ARRESTED BY THE MOST LIBERAL POLICEMAN IN BRISTOL

The arrests in Cardiff were followed in October by the arrest of a Hands Off Ireland supporter in Glasgow and in December by the arrest of Val Greene under the Prevention of Terrorism Act in London (see **Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism!** No 2). The new year got off to a fine start with the arrest of three supporters of **Hands Off Ireland!** in Bristol on 5 January.

The three comrades were held for seven hours in Bristol Central police station then charged with 'obstruction' under the Highways Act. They were subjected to the usual 'insulting and abusive' behaviour from the police. A female comrade was forced to undergo a humiliating and degrading strip-search. All this, we were told, was routine for such a charge! This only leaves us to imagine what the Bristol police 'routine' is for more serious charges!

The three were in fact arrested for selling **Hands Off Ireland!** They were arrested whilst selling in a very large open-air underpass. Even if they wanted to it would have been impossible for them to obstruct such a large

area. The arresting officer – the inappropriately named PC Brain – let the cat out of the bag in any case. As our comrades were being bundled into the police car, one of PC Brain's colleagues asked him 'What are these lot in for?' PC Brain leant over, lowered his voice and whispered 'Oh they're IRA supporters'. Obviously a Brain in name alone!

This has rather spoilt the Bristol police's efforts to argue that the arrests were not political. The police have stated that the arrests could not possibly have been political because PC Brain is the most liberal policeman in Bristol and has even been to university! Far be it from Hands Off Ireland to suggest that a university educated 'liberal' policeman might nonetheless be a racist anti-Irish tool of the British ruling class!

Again a defence campaign has gone into action to defend our comrades. The date for this trial has been set for 3 March. Our comrades organised a rally on the same site a week after the arrest and are now organising further protest.

## POLICE CONSPIRACY IN CARDIFF

On 15 September 1979 two Hands Off Ireland supporters and a member of Provisional Sinn Fein were arrested during a street meeting in Cardiff city centre. The three were charged with displaying or distributing insulting or abusive writing – the writing in question being **Hands Off Ireland!** No 8 and a Provisional Sinn Fein leaflet on H-Block.

The three have been leading a defence campaign against this attack. The week after the arrest a very successful rally was held on the same spot. On the 10 November this was followed up by a march through Cardiff city centre which attracted a great deal of interest from the Saturday shoppers. This march was planned as part of the run up to the trial itself which was originally set for 13 November. But even before the march it was clear that the defence campaign was having an effect on the police.

On the day before the march we learnt, by accident, that the police had changed the charges. The police had decided to go for less obviously political charges. So two months after the event, the police 'discovered' that it was the behaviour of the comrades which was reprehensible – not their literature. The charges were changed to 'insulting and abusive' behaviour and 'wilful obstruction'. This chopping and changing of charges is an age-old police tactic. Such is British 'justice', a weapon fashioned by the ruling class and deployed by the police in whatever way is necessary to attack the working class. The defence campaign will fight these new charges just as vigorously as it fought the old ones. The new date for the trial is 17 March and there will be another demonstration in Cardiff before the hearing.

## NORTH OF ENGLAND IRISH PRISONERS COMMITTEE

In this issue of **Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism!** we print a special feature on British imperialism's attacks on Irish prisoners of war. A major part of Hands Off Ireland's campaign has been activity in defence of the prisoners.

Throughout Britain Hands Off Ireland has organised support for pickets called by Birmingham Provisional Sinn Fein and the North of England Irish Prisoners Committee. From Wormwood Scrubs to Durham regular pickets have been held. But it is in the work of the North of England Committee that the most important development has taken place.

The Committee was formed by Provisional Sinn Fein and calls for *Political Status for all Irish Prisoners of War*, *Smash H-Block*, and *Support for the Provisional Republican Movement*. Hands Off Ireland has, of course, given full support to the Committee as has Woman Against Imperialism. Tyneside Irish Solidarity Committee, TOM, IMG, SWP and RCT have also supported its activities. But the most significant support, politically, has been the active participation of the Asian Youth Movement Bradford in the Committee.

Support has been reciprocated by the Committee which has adopted the demand *Smash the PTA: End all Immigration Controls*. The Committee has agreed to support the demonstration on 1 March called by the Anwar Ditta Defence Committee (see report in this issue). The growing trend of unity between the struggle against British imperialism in Ireland and the struggle against racism in Britain bodes ill for the British ruling class. Black workers defending Irish prisoners of war and Irish workers defending black people is a great step forward in the fight against British imperialism today.



# HANDS OFF IRELAND

# H BLOCK THE STRUGGLE GOES ON

370 men are enduring the barbarity of British imperialism in the H-Blocks of Long Kesh concentration camp. Throughout the history of British oppression in Ireland, the struggle in the prisons has been a central part of the fight for Irish freedom. Today, once again, Irish prisoners of war are fighting the British imperialist prison system.

On 1 March 1976 the right of special category status was withdrawn for all those convicted of offences after that date. Special category status was a covert recognition that Irish freedom fighters were political prisoners. It had been won by a Republican hunger strike. In March 1976 the British state began its long struggle to criminalise the Irish war of national liberation. This effort to brand Irish Republicans as criminals is a major part of British imperialism's war effort.

In September 1976 Kieran Nugent became the first man to be imprisoned under the new regulations. He refused to wear criminal uniform or do criminal work. He demanded recognition as a prisoner of war. He was given a blanket to wear. And so the struggle of the blanketmen began.

The British criminalisation campaign had gone into action – backed up by the specially constructed H-Blocks, the non-jury Diplock courts and systematic torture in the interrogation centres of Castlereagh and Gough barracks. This vast and ruthless engine of oppression has completely failed. Today 370 men are continuing the struggle for prisoner of war status backed by the 48 women on protest in Armagh jail. The conditions in the H-blocks are graphically described in the letter from the H-Block prisoners.

These prisoners stand in a long tradition of prison struggle in Ireland. Indeed the history of Ireland under British rule could be written as a history of prisons. The letter from O'Donovan Rossa confirms this. Between 1866 and 1870 (when Rossa's letter was written) twenty Fenian prisoners died or went mad in British prisons. To the infamous list of Mountjoy, Kilmainham, Chatham, Millbank, Frongoch, Portlaoise, can be added Long Kesh, Armagh, Hull, Winson Green, Wormwood Scrubs – the list is endless. Whilst on the banks of the Thames MPs may chatter about the 'Mother of Parliaments', the Irish people see the reality. British imperialism as the mother of prisons, concentration camps, 'protected' villages, famine, torture, terror and war. As Marx, who worked tirelessly on behalf of Irish prisoners in the 1860s and 70s, pointed out in 1869:

'In fact England never has and never can... rule Ireland otherwise than by the most abominable reign of terror and the most reprehensible corruption'

'I repeat that political prisoners are not treated anywhere so bad as in England'

The struggle in the H-Blocks is part and parcel of the struggle for national liberation. As long as British imperialism exists, the prisons will exist and the barbarity and brutality will continue. As Joe O'Connell said at the Balcombe Street Siege trial in 1977:

'We admit to no 'crimes' and to no 'guilt' for the real crimes and guilt are those of British imperialism committed against our people. The war against imperialism is a just war and it will go on, for true peace can only come about when a nation is free from oppression and injustice. Whether we are imprisoned or not is irrelevant for our whole nation is the prisoner of British imperialism.'

## IN 1870 O'DONOVAN ROSSA WROTE OF HIS TREATMENT IN PRISON BY BRITISH IMPERIALISM: NOTHING CHANGES

I have already told you about the hypocrisy of these English masters who, after placing me in a position which forced me to get down on my knees and elbows to eat, are now depriving me of food and light and giving me chains and a Bible. I am not complaining of the penalties which my masters inflict on me – it is my job to suffer – but I insist that I have the right to inform the world of the treatment to which I am subjected, and that it is illegal to hold back my letters describing this treatment. The minute precautions taken by the prison authorities to prevent me writing letters are as disgusting as they are absurd. The most insulting method was to strip me once a day for several months and then examine my arms, legs and all other parts of my body. This took place at Millbank daily from February to May 1867. One day I refused, whereupon five prison officers arrived, beat me mercilessly and tore off my clothes.

Once I succeeded in getting a letter to the outside, for which I was rewarded by a visit from Messrs. Knox and Pollock, two police magistrates.

How ironical to send two government employees to find out the truth about the English prisons. These gentlemen refused to take note of anything important which I had to tell them. When I touched upon a subject which was not to their liking, they stopped me by saying that prison discipline was not their concern. Isn't that so, Messrs. Pollock and Knox? When I told you that I had been forced to wash in water which had already been used by half a dozen English prisoners, did you not refuse to note my complaint?

### Edward Duffy and John Lynch murdered

One day I caught sight of my friend Edward Duffy. He was extremely pale. A little later I heard that Duffy was seriously ill and that he

had expressed the wish to see me (we had been very close in Ireland). I begged the governor to give me permission to visit him. He refused point-blank. This was round about Christmas '67 – and a few weeks later a prisoner whispered to me through the bars of my cell: 'Duffy is dead.'

How movingly this would have been described by the English if it had happened in Russia!

If Mr Gladstone had been present on such a sad occasion in Naples, what a touching picture he would have painted! Ah! Sweet Pharisees, trading in hypocrisy, with the Bible on their lips and the devil in their bellies.

I must say a word in memory of John Lynch. In March 1866 I found myself together with him in the exercise yard. We were being watched so closely that he only managed to say to me, 'The cold is killing me.' But then what did the English do to us? They took us to London on Christmas Eve. When we arrived at the prison they took away our flannels and left us shivering in our cells for several

months. Yes, they cannot deny that it was they who killed John Lynch. But nevertheless they managed to produce officials at the enquiry who were ready to prove that Lynch and Duffy had been given very gentle treatment.

### Lies

The lies of our English oppressors exceed one's wildest imagination.

If I am to die in prison I entreat my family and my friends not to believe a word of what these people say. Let me not be suspected of personal rancour against those who persecuted me with their lies. I accuse only tyranny which makes the use of such methods necessary.

Many a time the circumstances have reminded me of Machiavelli's words: 'that tyrants have a special interest in circulating the Bible so that the people understand its precepts and offer no resistance to being robbed by brigands'.

So long as an enslaved people follows the sermons on morality and obedience preached to them by the priests, the tyrants have nothing to fear.

If this letter reaches my fellow countrymen I have the right to demand that they raise their voices to insist that justice be done for their suffering brothers. Let these words whip up the blood that is moving sluggishly in their veins!

### O'Donovan Rossa

Political prisoner sentenced to hard labour

## TODAY IT IS THE H-BLOCK MEN AND THE WOMEN IN JAIL WHO ARE BEING TORTURED BY BRITISH IMPERIALISM

This letter comes to you from the H-Blocks of Long Kesh Concentration Camp on behalf of the P.O.W's from this area, in a further attempt to inform you of our deteriorating situation. At present, 360 men – 17 from this area – are involved in the protest against the removal of our status as political prisoners. As a result of this protest we have been reduced to live in conditions unimaginable to anyone who has not seen them.

Cardinal Ó Fiaich after his visit said that the closest comparison which could be made to these blocks was 'The Sewer Pipes of Calcutta.'

We live two to an empty cell, the walls of which are covered with human excreta. Maggots and other disease carrying insects breed in the pile of rotting food which lies in the corner of our cells, causing a nauseating smell and also a very serious health hazard.

We have no furniture as it has been taken from us. The only thing we have is a filthy piece of damp foam which serves as a bed, chair and table, upon which to eat food. It is usually damp due to the regular hosing down of the cell by the screws. We have no defence against this, and as the heating system has been turned off, we cannot fully dry them.

The Governor has recently deemed it necessary to cut down on our air supply. This was done by the placing of a covering on the outside of the windows and a grill on the inside which causes severe strain on our eyesight.

We are unable to wash, shave or have our hair cut, and now our long greasy hair hangs down filthily over our thin rash infected bodies, which have been reduced almost to skeleton-like figures due to the special diet of cold, sometimes uncooked food, which we receive.

Exercise is non-existent and we are locked up in this slime for 24 hours every day, seven days a week.

Contact with our families is limited to one visit per month. While this is in progress,

several screws listen in, and at the first mention of conditions the visit is ended. This means that even for this brief half-hour visit, we have no privacy with our mothers, wives or children.

On going to and from visits, we are put through the 'Mirror Search' (this is being forcibly bent over a mirror while naked) whilst screws mock us in a further attempt to humiliate us. The risk of being assaulted is ever present. This rigorous, vicious search has led many men to stop taking these visits – Can you blame them?

Can you imagine how we feel while undergoing this? What would you do? Would you be prepared to have your buttocks searched or have fingers probe inside you? This is what we must do to see our families.

You can look around you and see your family and friends. When we look around, all we see is dirt, filth, slime and squalor. The only people we come in contact with are the sectarian uniformed bigots. The proper name for these is 'Prison Officers', or so we are informed.

These bigots take sadistic delight in beating us daily for no reason at all. As a direct result of these beatings many of us have spent lengthy periods in hospital.

Books, newspapers, radios, T.V., cigarettes, clothes, letters, association with other prisoners and medical treatment are all denied us. They are what the Brit Government class as 'Privileges'. Our health is steadily deteriorating and already several have suffered from malnutrition. How long will it be before one of us dies? It could be me, it could be the fella in the next cell, it could be any one of us, but no doubt if this keeps up one of us will die!

Ask our families to bear out the truth of what we say. Ask them of the suffering they themselves go through, and the daily anxiety they endure while they wait and worry not knowing what will come next.

What we the POWs of Lenadoon want to know is – Do You Care? You know us all as individuals, so it is as individuals that we ask for your support. We ask for your help in ending this hell in which we live. That help may be little or large, it might just be going to the local marches or putting a 'Smash H-Block' notice in your window, but every bit will count. Act now before it is too late, if you do, you could be saving our lives. Through your support behind us, we promise we will not fail to secure our victory, for the words of Terence McSweeney ring clear in our ears, as he said: *They may break us in body, but never in spirit*

|                       |                        |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| GERRY McCONVILLE, H.5 | BENNY LYNCH, H.5       |
| BRIAN GILLEN H.5      | JIM McCANN H.5         |
| JOE McDONALD H.5      | SEAN LAVERY H.5        |
| JIMMY BURNS H.5       | PAT LIVINGSTONE H.5    |
| EAMONN COCHRANE H.5   | AIDRIAN McKEE H.5      |
| SEAMY FINUCANE H.4    | MARTIN LIVINGSTONE H.4 |
| SEAMY KEARNEY H.4     | MICKY FITZIMMONS H.4   |
| TOMMY GORMAN H.4      | PAT LAVERY H.3         |
| PETER KAVANAGH H.3    | U.T.P.                 |