

FIGHT RACISM! FIGHT IMPERIALISM!

Anti-imperialist paper of the Revolutionary Communist Group

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Election



APARTHEID TERROR SOUTH AFRICANS MURDER MOROKA 3

'The struggle of all oppressed peoples throughout the world should continue until the world is a peaceful place to live in.'

Defiant to the last, the Moroka 3 made this statement before being hanged by the racist South African regime on 9 June. They were hanged because they fought for freedom in South Africa, because they were members of Umkhonto we Sizwe, military wing of the African National Congress (ANC). The racists refused to listen to protest and reason from countries throughout the world, because they are the real terrorists, not the ANC. Thus the ANC has pledged to escalate the armed struggle in order to overthrow the regime.

Simon Mogoerane, Jerry Mosololi and Marcus Motaung were charged with daring attacks on the Moroka police station, other police stations, an electricity power station and a railway line between 1979 and 1981. After their capture they were severely tortured and subsequently sentenced to death in August 1982. Marcus Motaung brought a claim for damages against the police who had shot him in the base of his penis at the time of his arrest. The three had asked for a stay of execution whilst this claim was pursued. This was refused. Three other ANC freedom fighters, Anthony Tsotsobe, Johannes Shabangu and David Moise, who had also been under death sentence had their sentences commuted to life imprisonment.

The Moroka 3 have left a revolutionary legacy to the people. During their trial they explained why they had taken up the armed struggle.

The South African regime has shown that it will stop at nothing in its effort to halt the struggle against apartheid: it

The South Africans only understand political and military force. Last year the death sentences against the Pretoria 3 - Lubisi, Manana and Mashigo - were commuted to life because the Seychelles threatened to kill a group of captured

Marcus Thabo Motaung:

'The police came and they started shooting the children... to see children, very young babies of two weeks old being choked by the fumes of teargas entering the houses through the windows. These things made me decide that I just had to fight for the liberation of the black person... I was so hardened that I decided that all whites should be killed. But I was taught that the whites and the blacks in South Africa have got to live together. That was the greatest thing that I received in the African National Congress teachings.'

South African mercenaries. This time the South Africans chose the time of the executions carefully. They wished to break a growing campaign to save the ANC 6. They believed mistakenly that, following the bombing in Pretoria on 20

Durban, South Africa, behind the (illegal) ANC flag; the police used teargas in an effort to break it up. In Soweto hundreds sang freedom songs and ANC chants at a memorial service for the 3. All night vigils were held in Soweto and ANC flags flown. In London, the great backer of the racist South African regime, hundreds picketed South Africa House and protests were held in other cities (see p4).

The ANC for its part has pledged that 'We shall strike back by intensifying the armed struggle', and the South Africans must know that the ANC are well able to

do so. We must ensure that an effective campaign is built in this country in support of South Africa's prisoners of war, because now the regime has no qualms about murdering them - it is confident of the acquiescence of the imperialist nations, upon whose support it depends.



Protest outside South Africa House, London see page 4

Jerry Semano Mosololi:

'I decided to receive military training so as to enable myself to fight in South Africa for the liberation of the black people. I regarded myself as a soldier, a freedom fighter.'

cares nothing for United Nations resolutions or Geneva Conventions on the executions of prisoners of war. It is a barbaric regime; it has the facilities in Pretoria for hanging 6 people at the same time, ie for mass executions. On average 100 people are hung in South Africa each year, 99% of those hanged are black.

May, there was a climate of opinion against the ANC - this climate only exists in the white community. But equally important, the South Africans chose the date of a British General Election to hang the Moroka 3, just as they did when they hung Solomon Kalushi Mahlangu in 1979. They knew that the execution of the Moroka 3 would be

Thelle Simon Mogoerane:

'We decided that it would be pointless taking paper and making placards, because one would be shot whilst doing so. I decided to go out of the country and get myself a gun to fight.'

Whilst black people are judicially murdered, the regime allows white racists to murder black people with impunity. Thus one racist who 'celebrated' his birthday by beating a black man to death got a sentence of 1,200 hours detention, to be served at weekends only, that is about 50 days.

ignored by British politicians and press during an election campaign and banked on the fact that the Tories were due to be elected and thus little protest would be made from this country.

Yet throughout the world people expressed their solidarity with the ANC heroes. Hundreds marched through

Labour's last gasp

The Conservative government has won a massive victory in the 1983 General Election. This result will increase the confidence of the most reactionary forces in imperialist Britain. The bankers, the directors and managers of Britain's financial institutions and multinational companies have been given the go ahead to amass even greater wealth at the expense of the oppressed both at home and abroad. The police and army chiefs, judges and magistrates, prison officers - the state's forces of repression - will see this victory as the green light for even more severe attacks on the democratic rights of those fighting back against the onslaught of the capitalist class. Tory Britain over the next five years will tear off the veil of capitalist 'civilisation' in Britain itself exposing the barbaric system of exploitation and poverty which is already clear in the oppressed nations.

This election saw the beginning of the disintegration of the imperialist Labour Party. Its traditional support was further eroded as skilled and better-paid workers swung to the SDP and the Tories. Nor were these lost votes compensated for by an increase in votes from the poorer and more oppressed sections of the working class. Quite rightly they rejected the Labour Party - a party which has never fought for their interests. On the contrary, whenever in power the Labour Party has faithfully

served imperialism and attacked the oppressed. There can be little doubt that once again a majority of black workers and a significant minority of Irish workers, faced with three equally imperialist parties, refused to vote at all. A pre-election survey showed that only 33% of black people intended to vote; this compares with a national turnout of 72% of all voters. This time those abstaining were joined by other sections of the dispossessed, especially unemployed

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Sinn Fein Election Victory

On Thursday 9 June Sinn Fein Vice-President Gerry Adams destroyed the arch-traitor Gerry Fitt and the SDLP candidate to win the West Belfast seat by a majority of 5445 votes. The nationalist people, 16,379 of them, who voted for Gerry Adams showed their firm support for the military and political struggle of the Republican movement against British imperialist rule. The victory prompted Fitt, in a surprise move, to tell the truth. He declared that the people had made a 'conscious decision' and were 'fully aware' of what their votes meant. Quite right!

The Sinn Fein triumph was not confined to West Belfast. Both Mid-Ulster (where Danny Morrison lost by only 78 votes) and Fermanagh/South Tyrone (where Owen Carron lost by 7,676) would now have Sinn Fein MPs if the SDLP, loyal as ever to the needs of their imperialist masters, had not split the nationalist vote. The total Sinn Fein vote of 100,414 was a decisive rebuff both to the British imperialist ruling class and its SDLP collaborators. In fact Sinn Fein gained over 40% of the nationalist votes - a significant increase from the Assembly elections. The days of the SDLP posturing as the voice of the nationalist people are clearly numbered. The real voice of the nationalist people is, without a doubt, the Republican movement.

The high level of military activity by the IRA during the campaign dashed the dreams of those who hoped that electoral campaigns might indicate turning away from the revolutionary national struggle towards reformist constitutional politics. Day after day IRA Volunteers took action, proving that the

charade of British 'democracy' does not fool the nationalist people.

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Labour's last gasp

'To decide once every few years which member of the ruling class is to repress and crush the people through Parliament - this is the real essence of parliamentarianism'. (Lenin 1917)

**FIGHT RACISM!
FIGHT IMPERIALISM!**

**says
X NO VOTE FOR
IMPERIALISTS!**

Every four or five years the British people have the right to vote for a member of Parliament. This is the high point of 'democracy' under capitalism. No matter how murderous, barbaric and repressive a government may be, the imperialists and their apologists measure its 'democratic' credentials by this empty ritual of the ballot box.

The rich get richer . . .

What does this 'democracy' mean in imperialist Britain? No matter what government, Labour or Tory, is in power in Britain, growing unemployment, poverty and increased repression face more and more people. The rich get richer and the poor and oppressed face mounting exploitation and increasing attacks on democratic rights. Black people in Britain face a racist onslaught and are now increasingly denied the right to walk the streets, free of police harassment and brutality. In Ireland the Irish people are denied the right to self-determination, and those fighting for freedom are harassed, murdered, tortured and imprisoned. In South Africa 24 million black people are denied all rights and are murdered and imprisoned by a regime which would not survive without the backing of the British government, British banks and British industry. British imperialism is a major force of reaction throughout the world. It will defend its profits and interests by any means at its disposal including war. All the existing major political parties have always defended the interests of British imperialism. **DO NOT VOTE FOR ANY OF THEM.**

youth. Turnout figures in poor working class areas show that in some cases less than 60% voted. In London, Hackney and Stoke Newington, only 54% voted; in Vauxhall (includes the Brixton area) 60%; and in Newham South 54%. Outside London, in Liverpool Riverside (includes Liverpool 8) 62% voted and in Manchester Central 60%.

Despite ruling class talk of a landslide victory, the Tory vote actually went down and only 31% of those eligible to vote voted for Thatcher's government. But then bourgeois elections have nothing to do with democracy.

The support the Labour Party gave to the mood of national chauvinism and jingoism at the time of the Malvinas/Falklands war destroyed its election chances. They helped to create that tide of imperialist bloodlust which has swept Thatcher back to power. In such a period those supporting imperialism will turn to the more resolute imperialists like Thatcher, rather than the equally reac-

tionary but shamefaced Labour ones. Healey and Kinnock's belated attempt to shed crocodile tears over the sinking of the Belgrano deceived nobody. This further exposed the moral and political dishonesty which is the hallmark of these Labour politicians.

The same opportunist cant was present in the Labour Party's attempt to court the peace vote. The Manifesto commitment to unilateral disarmament was a fraud; most senior Labour politicians were against it and said so. And even this fraudulent commitment was argued for on the basis that imperialist Britain's interests were better defended by non-nuclear weapons. As the Godfather of the Falklands Task Force, Michael Foot, said during the election campaign:

'Labour believes in a strong defence for Britain and Britain's allies . . . we shall defend Britain the way Britain has always been defended, with our fighting soldiers, sailors and airmen.'

That is by imperialist and colonialist wars!

FRFI has consistently argued that the Labour Party speaks for the forces of the past. The organised labour movement in Britain has, time and again, proved totally unable to defend the working class. Its ties with imperialism are too strong. It will never oppose the ruling class and its state. It will, therefore, never defend the interests of the most oppressed sections of the working class. Nothing better illustrates the bankruptcy of the British labour movement than this year's 'People's March for Jobs'. In organising the march the Labour and trade union leaders had only two concerns. The first not to involve 'the people' by imposing stringent restrictions outlawing any political activity around the march. The second concern was an overwhelming determination not to antagonise any sections of the ruling class and its forces of repression - the British police. So, what could have been a major attack on Tory Britain just before an election became a pathetic expression of impotence. The size of the final rally - half that in 1981 - showed this only too clearly.

The disintegration of the Labour Party has carried in its wake the virtual disappearance of the major organisations to the left of the Labour Party. Some have dissolved themselves into the Labour Party. The others, while remaining outside the Labour Party, nevertheless

less called for a Labour vote and have ceased any independent political activity which would expose the Labour Party. The 'Communist' Party manifesto is almost indistinguishable from that of the Labour Party. The SWP engaged in incredible distortion to justify a Labour vote:

'You've a chance to show how you feel about Margaret Thatcher's policies on 9 June.'

Are you sick to death of rising unemployment? Are you bitter about the continual toll of factory closures? Are you opposed to the deployment of Cruise, Trident and other weapons of mass destruction?

Did you think Thatcher's South Atlantic war was a futile and bloody venture? Do you want to resist anti-union laws?

If so you will vote Labour.'

Labour, they argued had at least made a 'half-hearted protest' about these things. Yet the last Labour government more than doubled unemployment to 1,400,000. Factory closures massively increased when Labour was in power. Labour has always supported NATO and British imperialist war. The Labour Party fully supported the Malvinas war. These distortions are necessary for these organisations which look to the organised labour movement for socialist advance. Needless to say, the SWP leaflet on the election does not mention Britain's imperialist war in Ireland and the British state's daily racist assault on black people in Britain. In this they share the Labour Party's contempt for the oppressed.

During the election FRFI argued for a 'no vote for imperialists' position. Our intervention proved that there was little interest in this election in working class areas where we leafleted and held street meetings. Election meetings were very infrequent and were mainly attended by middle class people and better-off workers. These reacted with fury to the anti-imperialist position we tried to put from the floor of these meetings. Racism and Ireland, we were often told, were irrelevant. Democratic discussion and debate was non-existent as Labour Party stewards attacked and assaulted anyone who attempted to question leading politicians. At a meeting in Hampstead addressed by Michael Foot, FRFI held an outdoor meeting on the steps of the Town Hall drawing a crowd of several hundred. Nobody was more opposed to our anti-imperialist speeches than the so-called 'critical' supporters of the Labour Party - SWP and Socialist League (IMG). They refused our frequent invitations to come and speak to the crowd. The Labour Party and the left has learned its 'democracy' from imperialism.

FRFI confidently looks to the future. The disintegration of the Labour Party is only an expression of the polarisation of class forces in Britain. On the one side is imperialism and its backers. On the other side are the newly emerging forces of revolution in Britain - the oppressed sections of the working class. Thatcher's government was confronted by the anger of the oppressed on the streets during the 1981 uprisings. It is these forces which will soon take to the streets again. It is these forces which will shake the confidence of the ruling class now rejoicing in a Thatcher victory. It is these forces which, in an organised political movement, will start the process of destroying the capitalist system once and for all.

THESE DEMANDS. VOTE ONLY FOR THOSE WHO DO.

If there are no anti-imperialist candidates write **FIGHT RACISM! FIGHT IMPERIALISM!** on your ballot paper.

British left supports Labour imperialists

Without exception all the major left organisations are calling for a vote for the Labour Party. In so doing they expose their own all-too-obvious

LABOUR'S IMPERIALIST RECORD

IRELAND

The Labour Party's treacherous record on Ireland is second to none. The flag of the Labour Party is red only because it is stained with the blood of the Irish people and of oppressed peoples who have had to fight British imperialism to obtain their freedom in many parts of the world. However, the Labour Party's record on Ireland says it all:

1913-14 Betrayed the Dublin workers during the Dublin strikes and lock-out

1916 Was party to the murder of James Connolly and applauded the suppression of the Easter Rising

1921-22 Supported the partition of Ireland and the creation of the reactionary neo-colonial 26 Counties 'Free State'

1939 Supported the anti-Irish Prevention of Violence Act

1949 Legitimised the loyalist police state in the Six Counties by introducing a new Government of Ireland Act

1969 Sent British troops into the Six Counties of Ireland

1974 Introduced the racist, anti-Irish Prevention of Terrorism Act

1974-6 Laid the basis for a regime of terror through British imperialism's 'Ulsterisation' policy

1976-9 Administered a regime of terror. Withdrew Special Category Status from Irish political prisoners. Built and opened the H-Blocks. Institutionalised torture of Irish political prisoners first in police cells and then in the H-Blocks

1978-9 Agreed to give extra seats to the Loyalists to keep the Labour government in power

RACISM

Labour spokesmen are opportunistically mouthing anti-racist phrases in order to win the black vote. Not a word they say can be believed as their record shows.

1965 Roy Hattersley, currently Labour's Shadow Home Secretary justified Labour

support for immigration controls saying 'Without integration, immigration is inexcusable; without limitation integration is impossible.'

1968 Labour Government introduced Immigration Act which removed the right of British passport holders to enter Britain unless they had a grandparent born in Britain, i.e. unless they were white.

1969 Labour Government removed the right of admission to Britain from the husbands and fiancées of immigrants.

1974-79 Labour Government, having mouthed opposition to the 1971 Immigration Act, implemented it. This Act designated black Commonwealth citizens 'non-patrials' and denied entry to them except on work permits. The 1971 Act also extended powers of deportation. Under a Labour Government the number of immigrant workers in gaol awaiting deportation averaged 220 per day. Disgusting 'virginity' tests were carried out on Asian women immigrants at Heathrow Airport.

1975, 76, 77 Labour used hundreds of police in blanket raids on factories and restaurants in searches for 'illegal immigrants'.

1976 Labour used 1/4 of the Metropolitan police to smash the Grunwick strike, a strike by Asian women workers.

1976 Police launched massive attack on black people at Notting Hill Carnival.

1979 5000 police used to protect NF meeting in Southall. Police, including SPG units, launched a massive attack arresting 800 people, injuring 1000 more, and killing Blair Peach.

election. Yet their record when in power from 1974-1979 shows how they are able, without turning a hair, to betray the black people of South Africa and carry on all the dirty tricks you expect from a Tory Government. These are just a few of the lies they told:

● In 1973 Labour promised to terminate the atomic energy contract with Rio Tinto Zinc for uranium from Namibia. This contract was negotiated in 1968 by Tony Benn in the Wilson Government. Despite the United Nations Decree banning the mining and removal of Namibia's natural resources, Labour did not end the contract.

● When South Africa applied for an IMF loan in Jan 1976, the Executive Board, led by Britain and the USA, approved the loan. The British representative said 'We are pleased that South Africa has requested a stand-by arrangement which would give the (South African) authorities some additional room for manoeuvre and some feeling of international support which they deserve.' By the end of 1977 South Africa had borrowed \$464 million.

● Three weeks after the 1976 Labour Party Conference which called for a strict application of the arms embargo to South Africa, the Labour Government vetoed the mandatory arms embargo at the United Nations and approved a deal for Marconi to export a multi million pound communications system to the South African Armaments Board.

● Despite their pledges to discourage investment in South Africa and to encourage the recognition of black trade unions, the Labour Government refused to do this with any of the industries where they owned substantial shares - British Leyland, British Steel, ITC. They said that the responsibility should be left with the managements and 'their commercial judgement should prevail.'

SOUTH AFRICA

The Labour Party has frequently issued radical sounding statements on South Africa. When in power they have always failed to carry out any of their promises.

The 1973 Labour Party programme differs very little from their manifesto for this

refusal to break with British imperialism. The Labour Party, throughout its history, in government or out, has been a mainstay of British imperialism. It has backed every colonial war in Palestine, Vietnam, Malaysia, Kenya, Aden, Oman, Cyprus and Ireland. Under Michael Foot's bellicose leadership, the Labour Party fully backed British imperialism's reactionary war in the Falklands/Malvinas.

When last in government, Labour set up and administered a regime of terror and torture in the six counties of Ireland. It has supported racist Immigration Acts and used the police to harass and attack black people.

Under Labour and Tory governments alike the oppressed sections of the working class have always suffered. However the more privileged sections of the organised working class who have held on to their well-paid jobs, have so far avoided the brunt of the crisis. They call for a vote for the Labour Party because they believe it is more likely to defend their status and jobs. The British left, ignoring the plight of the oppressed workers, has allied itself

with these privileged sections of the working class. That is why they have called for a vote for the Labour Party.

The British left believes that you have no choice in this election but to vote for the 'lesser evil' - the Labour Party. FRFI says you do have a choice. You can side with oppressed workers and join the fightback.

Act now! Join the fightback

FRFI stands with the oppressed against racism and imperialism. The Labour Party represents the past, the backwardness of the British labour movement. The forces of the future lie with those prepared to fight imperialism - with the black and white youth who took to the streets in the Uprisings of 1981, with the Irish people fighting for freedom and the black masses fighting the racist apartheid regime in South Africa. A new movement is being built. FRFI is part of that movement. **JOIN US**

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Letter to the ANC

To The Chief Representative
African National Congress
31 May 1983

Dear Comrade,
Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism! sends its solidarity to the African National Congress following the successful attack on a military target in Pretoria, South Africa. We know that now, more than ever, the forces of imperialism and its allies throughout the world will hypocritically use the Pretoria bombing to attack the liberation movement in South Africa. The more successful your fight against apartheid becomes, the more viciously they will try to undermine your success. In particular the British government has condemned equally both the South African fascist regime's raid into Mozambique and the ANC's bombing in Pretoria. This, as you know, is the utmost hypocrisy when the British state has sustained apartheid for decades, has conspired with South Africa to illegally occupy Namibia with force, and supplied arms which are used to wage war on the Frontline States and the ANC.

Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism! utterly condemns the apartheid regime's raid into Mozambique, and all those forces who support the continuation of apartheid. We support unconditionally all actions by the ANC to bring an end to apartheid and imperialism.
Victory is Certain
Carol Brown
for Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism!

ANC STRIKES BACK

'They hit them! It was out of this world! The cops, the whites didn't expect a black man to strike so hard!'

So spoke a 19 year old black South African youth following the successful bombing of the South African Air Force (SAAF) Headquarters and the Department of Military Intelligence in Pretoria on 20 May. The attack was carried out by Umkhonto we Sizwe, armed wing of the African National Congress (ANC). The power shown by the ANC in attacking the very heart of the fascist regime increased their support, giving courage to the oppressed black majority. The South African and British press and politicians on the other hand cried outrage at the bombing. What hypocrisy: for it is they who keep silent whilst people starve in the bantustans. It is they who are silent at South Africa's illegal occupation of Angola and Namibia, they who are responsible for all death and suffering arising from the revolutionary struggle to liberate South Africa. The apartheid regime has responded with terror against the ANC and its supporters – the people of southern Africa – including its murderous attack into Mozambique on 23 May.

The car bombing on 20 May caused considerable damage to the SAAF headquarters and killed 18 people, at least 12 of them South African military personnel. The ANC demonstrated its ability to attack wherever it chooses and it marked a significant escalation of the armed struggle. Oliver Tambo, President of the ANC, commented:

'The policy of the ANC is to intensify the struggle, avoiding civilians where possible...intensification involves not just sabotage but attacking the enemy forces.'

The ANC is no longer prepared to accept a policy of sabotage only. This generation has seen hundreds of its brothers



and sisters murdered in Soweto, in Angola and Lesotho and Mozambique, the starvation of children in the bantustans, the forced removal of millions of people, and the torture and hanging of prisoners of war. It is clear that the escalation of the armed struggle will speed the overthrow of apartheid and the establishment of peace. This is recognised by the people of South Africa: one person interviewed in South Africa after the bombing said:

'the black fatalities are just part of the larger sacrifices we as a nation have to face and accept'.

Another said 'People are jubilant. They long ago gave up any hope for peaceful change. What they are saying is that the African National Congress is finally hitting real targets.'

In common with all states threatened by an anti-imperialist movement South Africa's only response is terror. Security checks are established in the major South African cities; more patrols on the borders with frontline states; all workers travelling to and from Lesotho are stopped and searched (many have lost their jobs as a result of delay at the border), and South Africa carries out more raids on the frontline states.

On 23 May South Africa invaded Mozambique using 8 Impala Fighter-Bombers and 6 Mirage jets. They attacked the Maputo suburb of Matola in Mozambique attacking a factory, an oil refinery and 2 residential areas. 6 people are known to have died, 5 of them Mozambiquans. Furthermore, South Africa is almost certainly plan-

ning more, having sent reconnaissance planes over Mozambique in recent weeks (one of which was shot down on 30 May). In doing this, South Africa, with the largest army and air force in Africa is saying to Mozambique that if you continue to support the ANC we will crush you: you will no longer only have to contend with counter-revolutionaries equipped by us infiltrating your country but with open warfare. Mozambique, however, has reaffirmed its support for the ANC in the fight against apartheid. The ANC, in its press statement claiming responsibility for the bombing in Pretoria recognised that the racist regime was likely to intensify its aggression against the frontline states and pointed to the urgent necessity to:

'escalate our offensive to bring an early end to the criminal apartheid regime, the sole source of oppression in justice, war and instability in southern Africa. These events also point to the urgent necessity for the international community to take decisive action to totally isolate this regime of terror and to increase its support for the forces fighting for a democratic South Africa.'

The escalation of the struggle against apartheid and against imperialism in southern Africa demands, in Britain, increasing solidarity with the ANC and the front-line states.

**Hands off the Frontline States!
Victory to the ANC!**

Chris Fraser

Starvation in the bantustans

The worst drought in Southern Africa this century is barely affecting South Africa's whites, yet it is leading to mass starvation for the black majority, especially in the bantustans – the so-called independent states which are in reality mass concentration camps for black people. In some areas 1 in 2 black children are dying. The drought is not the cause of the starvation and disease: apartheid is the cause and those who profit from this racist system are responsible. For South Africa's bantustan policy is designed for the benefit of South African capitalists and the British and US imperialists who reap their profits from a pool of cheap labour.

Black people in South Africa, who make up over 80% of the population, are entitled to only 14% of the land. They are forced into the bantustans: areas of barren land separated from the rich farming land, from the towns and the mines. There is no work. Men must travel hundreds of miles for contract work (with no security) on the mines, factories and farms and send what little they can afford to their starving families. A survey of the Transkei showed that 50% of the households had an income of less than £7 per month. Those whose labour is not needed – women, old people, the sick, the children – are treated as 'superfluous appendages' by apartheid. Whilst the Infant Mortality Rate for South African whites is 12 deaths per thousand births (better than Britain) for South African blacks in rural areas it is between 240 and 378 deaths per thousand births. With the present drought it is estimated that in some areas 1 in every 2 black children born will die before the age of 5, particularly from malnutrition associated diseases (eg Kwashiorkor and Marasmus). There are virtually no medical services to deal with this: in QwaQwa bantustan in 1980 there were only 2 doctors for a population of 250,000 people!

All farming in South Africa is affected by the drought: it is estimated that corn production this year may be only 1/3 of the yield of 1981. Yet it is the black people who suffer for corn is the basis of their diet. The British press has given wide publicity to the generosity of the South African regime in giving aid to rural black areas. Yet this aid amounts to £12m for 8m people: ie approximately £1.50 per person. The regime has given

more money to 25,000 white farmers! And their armed forces which number 500,000 and which have all the vehicles and other equipment necessary to prevent the effects of the drought have not taken 1 drop of water to the bantustans for their purpose is only murder. A journalist for the New York Times, Joseph Lelyveld, described a recent trip in South Africa. In the northern Transvaal he travelled through Gazankulu bantustan. There was no grass left and no water. 3/4 of the cattle had been killed – the local people's only source of protein. Yet literally on the other side of a range of hills was a white farming area around a town called Tzaneen. Overhead sprayers worked all day on the fruit orchard and even on the rugby field of the local Afrikaans High School!

South Africa will use any means to force black people into the bantustans. For years they have tried to force black squatters from the Cape to move. Some of the people have been forcibly transported to the Transkei 2 or 3 times only to return hundreds of miles to their squatters camp. On 4 May South African police moved into the squatters camp with rubber bullets and a teargas mixed with a powder which sticks to the skin and demolished the people's shacks. The youth and the women fought back screaming out 'You can rather shoot us – we are not moving. We have nowhere to stay'.

The fact that the people would sooner die than go to the bantustans, the fact of mass starvation in one of the world's wealthiest countries has gone barely reported in the British media. When it has been reported, as on the TV news, more time has been given to the suffer-

ings of the animals in the game reserves. The British press has left the impression that South Africa is attempting to alleviate the problems: a gruesome lie. And no-one points out that despite the drought in South Africa, whole villages without water, British greengrocers are still stocked full with South Africa Cape fruit! *Boycott it!*

British imperialism is responsible for the murder of the black children. For the system of bantustans has been established to ensure maximum profit for those who run the factories, the mines and the farms – many of which are British owned. A system where families are divided, where workers do not even have the right to stay where they work, where the regime disclaims all responsibility for the families of the workers by saying that citizens of the bantustans are not citizens of South Africa. Political opposition faces incredible laws: inhabitants of the Transkei bantustan who put forward the view held by all the people that they are South African citizens, are 'guilty' of treason which carries a possible death sentence. A handful of hated black chiefs police the bantustans on direct orders from the regime.

The South African people look to the revolutionary movement led by the ANC for the means of overthrowing their oppressors. They look to the Freedom Charter adopted at the Congress of the People in 1955 for their future. The Charter states that 'South Africa belongs to all who live in it, black and white' and that 'Restrictions of land ownership on a racial basis shall be ended, and all the land divided amongst those who work it, to banish famine and land hunger': it concludes by saying that 'These freedoms we will fight for, side by side, throughout our lives, until we have won our liberty'. The South African people know that the cause of the malnutrition is not the drought but apartheid, and only a revolutionary struggle will achieve its overthrow and win democratic rights. British people have a duty to build solidarity with that struggle.

Chris Fraser

MANDELA AND 5 OTHER LEADERS ENTOMBED ALIVE!

News has reached us in Britain, from Winnie Mandela, that since their removal from Robben Island to Pollsmoor, ANC leader Nelson Mandela and five other prisoners are being kept isolated, confined together in one damp cell and they have not been allowed out of doors for over a year. If these political leaders continue to be held in the present conditions they will not survive. They have had to break prison regulations in order to get this news to the outside world.



Nelson Mandela has been held in apartheid hell jails since 1964 when he and other ANC leaders were sentenced to life imprisonment. Since then they have been joined in prison by many captured freedom fighters and African National Congress supporters as the struggle against apartheid has escalated. During Mandela's imprisonment support for him as the people's leader has grown alongside the support for the ANC. He is considered the true leader by the vast majority of black people in South Africa.

Last October the African National Congress launched an international campaign for the release of Nelson Mandela and all political prisoners.

It is now vital that this campaign is given every support. Past experience has proved that campaigns help to prevent the murder of ANC leaders and freedom fighters in prison.

See page 15 for information on 24 hour pickets calling for the release of South African political prisoners.
Victory to the ANC!
Victory to SWAPO!

POLICE DEFEND MURDER EMBASSY

On Wednesday 8 June the police viciously attacked the mass picket of South Africa House in Trafalgar Square, arresting 9 people. The 24 hour picket was called by South Africa the Imprisoned Society (SATIS) to protest against the impending judicial murder by hanging of Marcus Motaung, Jerry Mosololi, and Simon Mogoerane – the Moroka 3 (see page 1).

From the beginning of the picket it was clear that the police were out to stop mass pickets of South Africa House. Over the past year the police and the South African Embassy have seen increasingly large and militant pickets drawing sections of black and white youth. They decided that on this picket they would attempt to break the growing solidarity of youth in Britain for liberation movements in South Africa.

As soon as the picket began, the police insisted, threatening arrests, that the picket split into two sections. It was Chief Superintendent Marsh of Cannon Row Police Station, in collaboration with the wishes of the racist embassy who ordered this. The reason the police gave was that the 'peace and dignity' of the embassy had to be protected. On the eve of the racist regime's murder of the Moroka 3, the British police dared to defend 'the peace and dignity' of the fascists!

Marsh was out for confrontation. First he split the picket. Then he ordered that no picketers could sit on a chair, even elderly, pregnant and disabled picketers. Next he ordered that the symbolic gallows had to be removed, and this was just the beginning. The police were extra confident knowing that with the Tories about to be re-elected they could systematically attack every democratic right.

This police provocation made the picket more determined, and the chanting grew louder. The police then surrounded it and shortly after grabbed Steven Kitson, the son of a South African political prisoner, who had been one of the leaders of the chanting. Swiftly four others were grabbed and arrested including Amandla Kitson.

To increase our strength, the two sections of the picket joined up. A large contingent of FRFI supporters had arrived from an FRFI election meeting, cancelled in solidarity with

the emergency picket. The police surrounded the picket and brought more vans, clearly in preparation for more arrests. The police then decided that there should be only 2 people leafletting and selling papers. They arrested an FRFI supporter who was selling and petitioning.

The picket was now noisy and militant with a large group of supporters from Stoke Newington and Hackney Defence Campaign. The racist police suddenly pushed into the picket to make further arrests. They seized two black youth and a white youth who was holding a large placard. The police had obviously recognised Mark Hunte, arrested on a previous picket, and were heard to say 'Get that one in the black hat'.

The determination of the police to use arrests to break the picket was

shown when they insisted on holding the 9 arrested picketers overnight, telling them that this was to prevent them returning to the picket. The 9 were also illegally photographed against their will and the 3 women were strip searched. One woman had her asthma inhaler confiscated, and was later violently sick.

All day the police had ignored protests on their conduct from public figures, including Richard Balfe MEP, and Harriet Harman MP. The picket continued overnight and at the time of the execution in South Africa observed 30 minutes silence, followed by speeches from the ANC and AAM.

The 9 arrested, all supporters of City Group AAM, Stoke Newington and Hackney Defence Campaign or FRFI, appeared at Bow Street, the next morning. A 40-strong picket was held and the packed public gallery broke into applause when the 9 entered the court singing freedom songs. The police attempted to impose a bail restriction, banning them from Trafalgar Square but were defeated. Most of the picketers and the 9 then attended the Memorial Service for the Moroka 3.

The fascist, murdering South African regime is allowed to have its gross Embassy in the very centre of London, protected by hundreds of police. They are allowed to use it as a nest of spies, to burgle the offices of the liberation movements and AAM, to bomb the ANC offices, all with impunity, while we the people are denied our right to picket it. But we will fight for the right to demonstrate our hatred of apartheid and its British collaborators. As we say on our Friday pickets 'We are black, We are white – We want democratic rights!'

A Defence Campaign is being set up and will fight to:

Drop the charges against the Trafalgar Square 9!
Close the South African Embassy

Amandla Kitson and Chris Fraser

ACTION IN OTHER CITIES

BRADFORD

When news of the impending executions was received Bradford Anti-Apartheid Group moved swiftly to organise protest actions. A message of condemnation was telephoned to the South African Embassy, who promptly cut off the caller. The Foreign Office was contacted and urged to intervene immediately. Pat Wall, a local Labour Candidate also agreed to send telegrams.

On Wednesday 8 June, a picket was mounted outside the City Hall. Placards and banners were displayed and slogans were shouted for over an hour. Many passers-by signed a petition calling for the death sentences to be commuted.

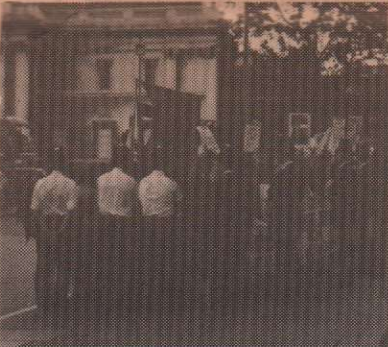
Bradford Anti-Apartheid was proud to add its voice to the international anger at this cowardly act of murder by the South African racists.

EDINBURGH

At very short notice Edinburgh Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism! supporters organised a street protest on Wednesday 8 June from 5-6.30pm outside Register House on Princes Street. 15 people gathered to hand out 1,000 leaflets – '9 June Emergency! Stop the Apartheid Hangings!' Supporters of the protest included Young Communist League members, Scottish nationalists and Irish Solidarity Committee members. 3 Central Edinburgh parliamentary candidates also attended: Richard Kirley for the Labour Party, David Carson for the Communist Party and Ron Halliday for the Scottish National Party. Our first stock of leaflets ran out quickly and more were prepared by CND supporters at the nearby SCRAM office.

Other work done by FRFI supporters was to approach nearly all of the parliamentary candidates in Edinburgh over the 24 hour period to ask them to make public protests and to ask their party leaders to condemn the South African government and demand a halt to the executions.

Maggie Lindsay



STATEMENT OF THE ARRESTED 9

We were arrested while protesting in a disciplined manner against the hanging of three of South Africa's finest young men – Simon Mogoerane, Jerry Mosololi and Marcus Motaung – the Moroka 3. It is fitting that the British state which is the biggest supporter of South African apartheid should choose to imprison us on the same day. We were arrested for taking a stand against racism because the British police racists collaborate with the South African murderers.

We were treated illegally. At Rochester Row police station we were photographed without our permission. While being held in sweltering conditions we were not allowed to drink water – one prisoner protested for four hours before being given a drink of water, another prisoner was refused. We were not allowed to wash. They told us that we were being held overnight to prevent us from returning to the demonstration – indeed that is why we were arrested on these pathetic trumped-up charges in

the first place.

The Moroka 3 were heroic freedom fighters of the African National Congress of South Africa. On this election day we call for votes only for candidates who are for the victory of the ANC and the isolation of apartheid. Their liberation is our liberation.

When people are murdered by the South African regime the South African people have a tradition: DO NOT MOURN, MOBILISE! We call for support from the British people to join with us in protest against the continued imprisonment of Nelson Mandela and all South African political prisoners.

The 24-hour-picket to Free Nelson Mandela begins 5.30pm Friday 24 June. It will be a disciplined protest and we urge the public to come. It is time to act.

SMASH POLICE COLLABORATION WITH APARTHEID!
VICTORY TO THE ANC!
VICTORY TO SWAPO!

we demand our rights

Police harassment towards black people is widespread in Leeds, as in other cities. We had to set up a campaign ourselves to protest against the dishonest treatment black and anti-racist youth receive from the police. We cannot sit back any longer and accept the dirt dished out to us by the fascists and the aggravation and harassment of the police.

The public may ask why we bothered to set up this campaign; we are sure that when you read on you will see the things we want to open your eyes to. We feel the police are pouring fuel onto the fire of racism. They are making a separate law for the fascists so that they can go around throwing out abusive language, selling their propaganda and chasing black youth. Do the police put a stop to the fascists? NO! They do nothing. But as soon as the black youth try to defend themselves by using slogans the police come down very heavily on them and arrest them.

On 14 May Bobby Blackman was arrested and thrown into a meat-wagon for, the police claimed, 'breaching the peace'. Bobby tried to shirk off the abusive slogans from a group of fascists. Several more black youth have been arrested since Bobby and there has been house-to-house harassment. Michael Stewart has been taken from his school on Thursday 19 May to Milgarth police station without any explanation given to him – a youth of 15. This was with the permission of his headmaster. This headmaster collaborated with the police. Michael's mother was denied her legal right to be with her son while he was held at Milgarth for almost a day. The headmaster had a telephone number to contact the mother but he did not make any attempt to do so. Michael was fingerprinted, photographed and charged with 'wounding' – a crime he did not do.

Two other black youth, Nicholas Manners and Paul Liburd were arrested and charged with the same alleged crime. These three youth were told while in police custody that if they could name the person or persons who committed the stabbing of a National Front member they would go easy on them. One of the youth was offered £5 to name who did the stabbing. Michael Stewart appeared in Juvenile Court on Friday 20 May and was banned from entering Leeds city centre.

The Black and Anti-Racist Youth Defence Campaign was set up to defend Bobby and Michael and all of those who suffer police harassment. On 4 June quite a few of the campaign members were in the Precinct selling Fight Racism!, handing out leaflets and using our petition. There was a good gathering of black and anti-racist white youth sitting on the fountain. When two policemen could not stand to see how well-behaved the youth were, they went over and started to harass one of the black youth and stated that he should move on or else he would be arrested. This youth did not do anything wrong. When the youth did not give the police the satisfaction of arresting him they got two other youths, one a Rastafarian, and started harassing them by saying they must move on because they were causing an obstruction.

These are some of the questions we would like to ask you the public. 1. How

can two youths cause an obstruction by walking until stopped by the police? 2. Why should a mother have her legal rights denied to her when her 15 year old son was arrested? 3. Why should the police stop anti-racist white youth and search them and ask them why they associate with blacks? 4. Why do the police want to pour fuel onto the fire of racism with the fascists? 5. Why don't the police want a public inquiry into the death of Colin Roach in Stoke Newington police station? Why and how did he die? 6. Why did James Davey have to be put on a life support machine and then die? 7. Why are the police given the right to use force to break down the doors of innocent people, enter their homes and terrorise even old people when they say that they are looking for their relatives who have been dead for years?

Emily

Help the Black and Anti-Racist Youth Defence Campaign

Donations urgently required to help fight for our rights. Help us to help you. Send your donations to Black and Anti-Racist Youth Defence Campaign, c/o LAP, 59 Cookridge Street, Leeds 2.

● Brondesbury and Kilburn

3 black school students face an Old Bailey trial for defending themselves against racist attack. On 9 March a group of older white racist youths attacked pupils as they left Brondesbury and Kilburn High School. The police soon arrived to arrest the black youths. Within minutes 130 school students marched on Kilburn police station to protest. Only then were the white racists also arrested. When the school students came to picket the remand hearing their own headmaster, who is a magistrate, ordered them back to school! Meanwhile the police had escalated the original charges of threatening behaviour to affray and grievous bodily harm. The trial is likely to be committed to the Old Bailey at the next court hearing which is at 9.30am on 16 June at Willesden Magistrates Court, St Mary's Road, Harlesden, London NW10. Andy Goddard

FIGHT RACISM



The Stoke Newington and Hackney Defence Campaign has taken the defence of democratic rights onto the streets of Hackney. Our first street meeting at Ridley Road market received a glowing response from shoppers who donated £33 to the campaign. Alongside the black and anti-racist youth, Ernie Roberts MP and leader of Hackney Council, Anthony Kendal, spoke pledging their support. Two representatives of the NCCL also attended to observe the event which involved 25 people speaking and petitioning. Ten police stood around completely unsuccessful in deterring us with their intimidation.

The Campaign now holds these street meetings regularly. Other campaign activities have included pickets of the courts and Pentonville Prison, a press conference and a public meeting attended by over 100 people. Support is growing and every week new people join and letters of support are received from as far away as Leeds and Birmingham.

FASCISTS OUT

On Tuesday 3 May the National Front held an election meeting at High Cross Lower School, Park View Road, Tottenham. Local people, organisations and the youth organised a picket to protest against the racism of a so-called political party.

In the ensuing battle with the police 35 people were arrested, among them an Indian Councillor. The charges so far include assault, obstruction, insulting words and threatening behaviour.

Despite the fact that the Labour Council knew of the NF's application for a school hall, the local community were not alerted. The NF would be bringing their message of race hatred and fascist lies by courtesy of the Council. The finger can only be pointed at the 14 Labour Councillors who are committed by their manifesto to oppose racism but still allowed High Cross to be a meeting point for fascist scum.

At about 5pm hundreds of local people gathered to prevent the NF marching through our streets, many people were beaten by the police and their Instant Response Units (IRUs). The police armed with offensive weapons protected the fascists and allowed only 30 people into this so-called public meeting. Inside the building the NF abused the Councillors as they peddled their evil propaganda. Outside the police went over the top as usual, at a time when they could have cooled things down - riot clad police were called in and the over-reaction was felt half a mile away, down to Tottenham High Road.

Politicians demand democratic rights for the fascists to organise their message of race hatred. Local councillors provide them with facilities to meet and organise their terror gangs, to carry out firebombings, stabbings and murder of black people. The police always run out to protect them from the rightful anger of the people. The only conclusion we can come to is that the politicians and the police want them to do their dirty work while they keep their hands clean. The police will not crush the scum so don't you think we have every right to organise ourselves - self-defence is no offence!

The NF say they will be back; they must have forgotten the beating they took in Wood Green in 1977. We say we'll promise an unceasing campaign against them and whosoever wishes to protect them. We will crush them.

The NF have no place in this Borough. We demand the Labour Group takes all actions necessary to oppose any fascist activity and resolves never again to let any land or building under its control to racist organisations.

They say it must never happen again, but how many times has that been said and how many times has it happened? And always the racists get away with no mark except a mark on their board saying another 'nigger' bites the dust. If it is not to happen our message is **organise ourselves now!**

We have now set up the May 3rd Defence Campaign. It calls for the dropping of all those charges and the call to keep the fascists off our streets. It intends to hold regular meetings and defend all those arrested in the continuing fight against police or National Front Harassment. We need your money and your support. Send donations and messages to Diane Anderson on behalf of May 3rd Defence Campaign c/o No 5 Annex B, Tottenham Town Hall, Approach Road, London N15.

Broadwater four

The court case of the Broadwater Four (see FRFI 29) has been put back to 31 October and 1 November. This is one year after the attack on a peaceful picket. The police and courts are undoubtedly hoping that the youth and community will not show their support any longer. However this is untrue because it only strengthens our resolve. It is their weakness that has forced the trial date to be postponed, not ours. We picketed the court on 3 May and will be there on 31 October, 1 November and any other day until justice is done.

We don't fight no losing battle!

Messages of support and donations to: Broadwater 4 Defence Campaign Unit 1 Tangmere Broadwater Farm Tottenham N17

Diane Anderson

RACIST LAW POLITICAL COURTS

Since last month's report 40 more of those arrested during the Colin Roach campaign have experienced British 'justice'. Seven have been gaoled for a total of 250 days and in all 31 others have been given fines adding up to £1,395, conditional discharges or probation. Of the 63 cases now heard, 36 have been convicted, 8 have accepted being bound over and only 17 have been completely dismissed. The behaviour of one Highbury magistrate in particular - Michael Johnstone - has been so appalling that the SNHDC has made an official complaint to the Lord Chancellor and demanded his removal from these cases. Although he has heard only 11 cases, he has sent 4 black youths to prison and fined others £580 in all. One example of Johnstone at work concerns a young Asian man, arrested when the 12 March demonstration was attacked by the police. He had not been on the march but had been out shopping at the time. Photographs produced showed him pinned against a shop-front by police, still clutching a paper bag with the batteries he had just bought. Witness Ace Kelly testified that the youth had not been on the march, but was just grabbed by police, and when he approached was too shocked and scared even to give his name, much less assault anyone. At his first time in court he was given 30 days for assault, 14 days for threatening behaviour and £25 fine for obstruction. The police, usually through their own stupidity, don't get it all their own way. James Roach, Colin Roach's father, was cleared of police obstruction on 12 March after 4 hours in court. James Roach testified about his arrest and assault - he was punched in the face so that blood ran down - when he went to see what the police were doing to two women. His testimony was supported by Pauline Roach and an independent witness.

Other victories include that of Ace Kelly - chair of the SNHDC - cleared of police obstruction at Old Street Court on 28 March. The story of the arresting officer, Sgt Young, was contradicted when Inspector Anderson gave his version. Sgt Young's racism came out when he described the noise outside the courtroom - the cries of four black women being arrested and dragged to the cells - as 'disgusting, like animals'.

Another 28 cases are still to be heard in June and July, with two going to Snaresbrook Crown Court in August. Charles Bolton

COLIN ROACH INQUEST

police shaken

The Inquest into Colin Roach's death opened on 6 June at Clerkenwell Court. Already after 3 days major contradictions are appearing in the police story.

Not that the press, from the liberal *Guardian* to the openly racist *Sun*, are reporting these contradictions. As the Stoke Newington and Hackney Defence Campaign Bulletin says:

'The disgusting level the press sinks to was shown by the headlines on the morning June 7. "Roach puts gun in his mouth... was hearing voices before his death" - *The Times*; "Drugs clue to shooting" - *Daily Mirror*; and of course lurking somewhere at the bottom of the gutter we find *The Sun* with "Voodoo Voices Riddle". With press like this Coroner Douglas Chambers will have little problem bringing the inquest to the conclusion that the racist British state would like to see.'

James Roach, Colin's father, described how he had gone to Stoke Newington police station to find out Colin's whereabouts. Instead of giving him any information the police questioned him until 2.45am. They said he would get no information until he made a statement. Finally at 3am they said Colin had shot himself inside the police station. A crying and shocked Mr Roach was then forced to make and sign a statement. At the Inquest he strongly denied making parts of this statement, particularly a section saying that Colin was hearing voices and scared of 'voodoo'. Of course the press seized on exactly these points.

Mr Roach described Colin as a happy man but a bit depressed and suffering from an ear infection and insomnia since a short spell in prison. The family had sought medical help for him and a doctor had given him Largactyl. (This doctor saw Colin only once but was happy to prescribe this strong drug commonly used to zombify prisoners). Even so, on the day of his death he was cheerful, visited his sister and her newly-born child and watched a video with the family.

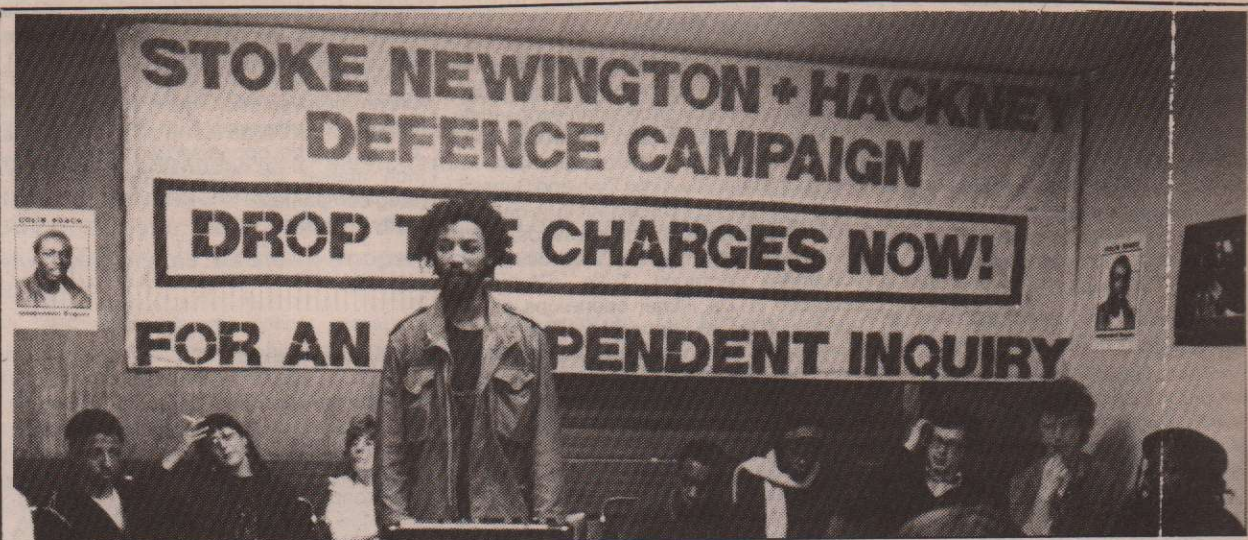
Even greater contradictions are

appearing in police evidence despite their usual back-up team of medical and scientific yes-men. First, the police pathologist Dr Venezis is supposed to have found 2 cartridge shells in Colin's jacket pocket. He managed to note them down as 12 bore without even examining them. Dr Venezis got the colour of the jacket wrong but then said this was just his 'colour-blindness'. Second, if Colin had shot himself next to the wall, as police claim, then his head would have hit the wall - but there are no injuries to the back of his head. Third, the police say the shotgun was in Colin's holdall. Keith Scully, the friend who drove Colin to the police station, contradicts this. He saw no shotgun. Nor does the shotgun fit into the holdall - it had to be dismantled in court to make it fit, and even then totally distorted the holdall. Keith saw no such distortion and says anyway that the holdall was partly open when he dropped Colin. Then, in court, it took several minutes to put the gun back together. So the police are asking us to believe they did not notice Colin spending several minutes putting a shotgun together in the police station foyer.

The police have given no proof at all that Colin killed himself or even that he met his death in the foyer of the police station. Neither Mr Roach nor Colin's friends, Keith Scully and Joseph, were shown the scene of the incident, the body, the holdall or the gun that night. So the whole story of suicide rests merely on the word of the police and as the family's barrister asked 'Is there a connection between the police and Colin Roach? Did they know he was coming?'

We have seen the lengths of brutality and mass arrests the police have gone to to prevent people demonstrating for the truth about Colin's death. The Inquest makes us ask even more strongly - what are Stoke Newington police covering up?

Maxine Williams



Well over 100 people packed into the first public meeting of the Stoke Newington and Hackney Defence Campaign. Ace Kelly opened the meeting saying 'We will go forward in unity' and the meeting fully demonstrated this. 14 speakers shared the platform - youth arrested on the marches, the mother of an arrested youth, 2 sisters of an imprisoned youth, Beverley Jones (solicitor), Diane from the Broadwater 4 Defence Campaign, Brynley Heaven (Chairman of Hackney Police Committee), FRFI, Hackney Community Action, Hackney Legal Defence Committee, City Group AAM, Socialist Action. Nor did the audience keep quiet - they frequently broke into militant chanting and loud applause.

The message of the meeting was that we must fight for our rights against racist police brutality and repression.

Mrs Hunte spoke of how her son had been harassed and she had been assaulted whilst trying to protect him from the police, how court cases were held 'in camera' with friends and family excluded from the public gallery. Finally Gillian Whitelock, herself arrested on a picket of South Africa House told the audience how the Stoke Newington and Hackney Defence Campaign was organising the struggle:

'I'm a member of the campaign and I'm proud of it. It's helping the youths - making people aware... I've lived in this area all my life and I haven't seen it. I've experienced and my brothers have experienced police brutality. But now my eyes are opened and your eyes are opened too.'

STOKE NEWINGTON AND HACKNEY DEFENCE CAMPAIGN

Campaign meetings:
7.30 pm every Tuesday evening at Oxford House, Derbyshire Street, London E2
Street meetings:
DEFEND THE RIGHT TO DEMONSTRATE!
DROP THE CHARGES NOW!
1.45pm Saturday 18 June
Ridley Road Market, Hackney E8
Public meeting
OPPOSE POLICE RACISM!
UNITED WE ARE STRONG!
Venue and date to be announced
Court Pickets
10am Friday 17 June, Highbury Corner Magistrates Court
10am Monday 20 June, Highbury Corner Magistrates Court
10am Monday 27 June, Bow Street Magistrates Court



● Police IQ shock

West Midlands police met their match in an inanimate lump of metal in May. Informed by a caller that a safe had been abandoned on a grass verge at Halesowen, police rushed to the scene. Uniformed constables stood guard over their proud discovery until the CID arrived to dust it for fingerprints. When none of the brave boys in blue could move the object, however, the uniformed branch had to send in more men to push, and the traffic division supplied a Land Rover complete with towing gear – but still there was not a millimeter of movement! 'It was then', confessed an officer, scratching his head, 'that we realised it was an electricity junction box concreted into the ground.'

● Met beats RUC but loses match

The Metropolitan police have finally revealed one quality beneficial to the working class: they have a liking for beating up the RUC. At the police soccer cup final held in Belfast, five of the Met team were booked for foul play. After the RUC scored the first goal, PC McIntosh of the Yard knocked an opponent to the ground and (summoning up all he remembered of riot training) turned and kicked the prostrate RUC player in full view of the referee and a stand full of amazed spectators. To McIntosh's shock and despair, the referee proved less gullible than the average London magistrate and, preferring to believe the evidence of his own eyes, promptly sent the London bobby to an early bath.

● Detectives drunken rampage 1

Kissing each other on the lips, pouring beer over themselves, squirting soda syphons, using foul language, thrown out of pubs and restaurants – yes, its the Brixton CID again.

The detectives were on an 'orgy' which began in Streatham at lunchtime and lasted for several hours. They disrupted two pubs, a fish bar and a restaurant, driving away customers. The detectives, described by witnesses as 'very drunk', were ejected from one pub by uniformed police.

Scotland Yard later admitted that 'allegations of rowdy behaviour by people alleged to be police officers' were being investigated by CID officers – allegedly, that is.

● Detectives drunken rampage 2

Another alleged police officer, or should we say alleged ex-police officer (dammit, let's not beat about the bush, he was a police officer) has been locked away for six months after making a drunken, unprovoked and vicious attack on a stranded motorist, Mr David Campbell. PC Smallwood, 21, was off-duty with a colleague from Birmingham police, PC Edwards, when he decided to have some 'drunken fun' as he called it, and leapt from his car, chased Campbell 300 yards down the road, kicked and punched him and tried to ram his head up against a pillar. The prosecution alleged that Edwards also took part in the attack, but Edwards denied this, saying he had drunk 16 pints of beer, was asleep, and only woke up when Smallwood jumped out to chase somebody 'he thought was a criminal'. Edwards was acquitted, and Smallwood given a light sentence because his actions were 'out of character'. On the other hand, we could allege, it might have been because he was 'a policeman'.

NOTES & COMMENTS

■ British Parliament – sham democracy

For the last few weeks, the wretched imperialist media has been cackling on about the glories of British parliamentary democracy like a chorus of trained parrots. The liars from the Fleet Street swamp are trying to hide the simple fact that this 'democracy' is a total and utter sham.

Take the elections: all the political parties support British imperialism – what sort of choice is that? Nor is the government representative – not one government in the last fifty years has had the support of more than 1/3 of the electors, and only the 1945 Labour government had a majority of votes cast. A minority decides what the majority will do! And this farce is called democracy! Because the system is so unrepresentative, a quarter of the electorate do not vote at all.

And just look at who gets elected! A majority of people in Britain are women – yet the last Parliament had only 19 women MPs (3% of the total). There was not a single black MP. There were only 32 workers (5% of the total) – most of them skilled workers. There were just 10 MPs under the age of 30 (1.6%). However, while the poor and oppressed hardly got a look in, things were different for the middle class. More than 1/3 of all MPs had been educated at a public school (that's British for private school) and more than 2/3 were university graduates. There were 87 managers, 85 company directors, 76 barristers, 74 teachers, 52 journalists (no wonder the media are so fond of Parliament!), 30 farmers and landowners, 28 trade union officials, and 27 solicitors. In short Parliament is stuffed to the rafters with the exploiters and their assistants.

Yet even the existing electoral system is far too democratic for the British ruling class, who change the rules at the slightest whiff of democracy. Remember what happened when Bobby Sands was elected – a law was rushed through to stop political prisoners becoming MPs. The last Tory party conference discussed taking the vote away from Irish people in Britain. And there is now talk of increasing the £150 election deposit to £1500 to dissuade 'lunatic' candidates from standing – such as anyone who will represent the poor and the oppressed.

Lenin summed up the whole charade: 'To decide once every few years which member of the ruling class is to repress and crush the people through Parliament – this is the real essence of parliamentarism'

Steve Palmer

■ Rio Tinto Stinks!

Rio Tinto Zinc is the world's largest multinational mining company. At this year's AGM the company once again exposed its thieving activities around the world. Sixty dissenting shareholders (supporters of People Against Rio Tinto Zinc and Subsidiaries) maintained a three hour long barrage of heckles, questions and demands which forced the issues right out into the open.

Namibia Anthony Tuke (Chairman) defended RTZ's illegal operations at the Rossing Mine by stating that the British government did not accept UN resolutions on the matter and that anyway these resolutions did not apply to companies. His answer to calls for RTZ to pull out of Namibia was a flat 'No'.

Australia The company admitted that it had not even discussed its operations with the indigenous peoples and accepted no responsibility for stealing aboriginal lands and desecrating sacred sites. One director in particular found the whole subject highly amusing.

Chile When asked to withdraw investments in copper mining, Anthony Tuke said there was no reason to as it was a 'matter of opinion whether Chile's regime was bad or not'. Obviously for the likes of him Chile's fascist torturers have created ideal conditions for reaping massive profits. RTZ's operations all over the globe were probed and exposed throughout the entire meeting but the three examples above are enough to prove that in order to amass profits for the rich, British imperialism is up to its neck in the blood and misery of oppressed and working class people.

Anyone wanting further information or offering to help in the campaign should contact: PARTIZANS, 218 Liverpool Road, London N1

Liz Cherry

■ Imperialist drug companies

The recent scandal over the anti-arthritis drug, *Opren*, came as a deadly reminder of the dangerous and unscrupulous practices of the drug industry. At least 74 mainly elderly people died from the drug. Thousands of others seriously suffered from side effects. After such tragedies as the *Thalidomide* victims – 452 babies in Britain were born with terrible deformities such as no arms after the tranquilliser *Thalidomide* had been prescribed during pregnancy – after such a disaster, drug reps are still pushing dangerous drugs like *Opren*, bribing doctors with free rides on the Orient Express and Concorde. It took well over 10 years for the *Thalidomide* company to compensate the families.

However the widest abuse takes place in the oppressed world. There the drug companies peddle their dangerous wares using lies for adverts, and threats for persuasion. They also charge many times the price of the same drug in Britain or the USA. In Bangladesh the cost of 100 aspirin under the name *Genaspirin* is 2.5% of a poor family's annual income. In Mexico, Roche (the drug company infamous for its profits from the tranquillisers *Valium* and *Librium*) sold an antibiotic *Bactrim* at 138.60 pesos in 1978 – enough to buy basic food for two weeks for a family of four.

The longlasting injectable contraceptive *DepoProvera* is barred from general use in Britain and USA because of serious side effects suffered by women users. It is used widely in the oppressed world, often without informing the women; it is licensed in 80 countries for general use. The oral contraceptive pill was first tested on Puerto Rican women to make it safe for use by the imperialist nations. These women suffered both from massive doses and from unwanted pregnancies – the result of using dud pills on some women to see what effect they would have.

Dangerous steroids, for use only under strict medical supervision in Britain, are promoted by drug reps in Bangladesh as a tonic and appetite stimulant for young children suffering malnutrition – 'growth in every drop!' No warnings are given of the possible side effects which include liver cancer and stunted growth. The drugs bill in Bangladesh was £30 million in 1981, three quarters going to the mainly British multi-national companies from imperialist countries. Faced with these facts the government of Bangladesh, one of the poorest countries in the world, set up a committee in 1982. It banned 1707 drugs out of 4140 preparations, for being useless or dangerous. It attacked the practice of the companies who charge their own local branch 5 or 6 times the cost of the raw materials in the parent country. This is a way of bleeding money out of Bangladesh and making exorbitant profits from the starving masses. Despite pressure from Western governments and threats of withdrawal of investment, Bangladesh has attempted to persevere with this life-saving policy. But the oppressed world remains a rich market for bloodthirsty imperialist drug companies.

Tony Sheridan

■ YOP Deaths

YOP slave labour, the capitalists 'answer' to youth unemployment, has been revealed for the death sentence it is. For not only are unemployed youth forced to work in appalling conditions at menial jobs for insultingly low wages, they are being maimed, mutilated and killed in that process. In the period February 1982 to February 1983 there were 3,211 injuries to youth on YOP schemes, 43 young people had limbs amputated and there were six deaths. Six deaths caused by appalling conditions, widespread contravention of even the most elementary safety standards and all at the hands of the state as it attempts to deflate unemployment figures and provide cheap labour for the capitalists at whatever the cost to life.

Derek Cain, 17 years old, was one casualty. He was killed last December at a Sheffield factory where he had worked for three weeks on a YOP scheme. He was operating a paper shredding machine alone, was hit by the blades, and died from head injuries. His father is bringing High Court action against the Employment Secretary, Norman Tebbit, the Manpower Services Commission, and local officials who placed Derek in that factory. Proceedings are also being brought against the firm involved

under the Factories Act.

The Youth Opportunities Programme is misnamed, who wants the 'opportunity' to be maimed, mutilated or killed in slave labour? It should have been called the Youth Oppression Programme.

Pauline Sellars

■ Aire Valley Yarns Ltd – Asian workers strike continues

The militant strike launched by 21 Asian textile workers at Aire Valley Yarns, near Bradford, is now entering its third month. The strike was begun to demand the democratic right to join a union and to fight against barbaric working conditions and slave labour wages of £1.02 per hour.

The strikers are calling for mass support for a demonstration and rally on 18 June. All supporters are asked to assemble at 3pm in Coal Hill Lane, Farsley. All messages of support and urgently needed donations to be sent to L Ali, 34 Durkhill Street, Bradford 7.

Bill Hughes

■ Another march to nowhere

The first Peoples' March for Jobs, in 1981, was an abject display of TUC servility to its monied masters. That march was passive and stagnant. Along every step of the road the organisers sought to snuff out the militancy of the youth, prohibit political slogans, ban any support for the hunger strikers in Long Kesh, and to expel those who would not kowtow to a policy of pleading, not fighting, for their right to a job. Instead an alliance was made with middle class charlatans: bishops, Tory mayors, liberals, vile Labour politicians. The Peoples' March achieved precisely nothing, and FRFI rightly branded it as a march to nowhere. Yet today, in 1983, the beer-bellied aristocrats of the TUC and 'Communist' Party have again set about bullying unemployed youth down this road to oblivion.

The Peoples' March for Jobs 1983 was if anything a more degenerate affair than its predecessor. Having learnt their lesson in '81, the TUC stewards carefully hand picked and screened the marchers to exclude all 'disruptive' elements. Nevertheless, when the 'non-political' Peoples' March stumbled into a General Election campaign, the stewards found it impossible, except by threats, false promises, thuggery and expulsions, to prevent the marchers from shouting anti-Tory slogans. On the South Western leg, the TUC wheeled out the local Tory candidate, the town mayor and his chauffeur driven limousine, and John Alderson, police chief turned Liberal, to tell the marchers that their fate was one ordained by god, to be suffered like true Christians. To the shame of the stewards they were booed off the platform. In Bristol, a Labour Party member was expelled from the march for making an anti-Tory speech. In Bath the stewards set police onto a Labour Party election van which had come to greet the march and political banners were ripped down. On the Northern leg, physical threats were made against marchers who persisted in shouting slogans. Those on the Yorkshire leg were quietened when promised a meeting to discuss the question of slogans. The meeting never took place and in Luton the marchers refused to move on to London in protest. Eventually they were cajoled by stewards into resuming the wake.

In London the march was greeted by a mass demonstration half the size of that in 1981. Stewards toured the assembly point ordering that no political banners be taken into Hyde Park on the orders of the police. When an FRFI supporter questioned the right of the police to give such an order, he was told by a steward, 'I was in the Parks Constabulary for years and I know the law'. There can be no finer illustration of the way in which the TUC and their Labour and 'Communist' Party allies police the struggle of unemployed youth on behalf of the British ruling class. They are attempting to harness the youth, rearing them in the traditional methods of British Labour politics – toady to the boss and he may give you a crumb.

One month after the first Peoples' March, black and white unemployed youth gave their answer to the TUC when they rose up in the centres of British cities and fought the police on the streets. They know that nothing can be got from the British ruling class while on bended knees. A militant

struggle against unemployment will find no allies in the establishment's political parties (including Labour), the church, the scabbing unions, or especially the police! It will take its strength from the dispossessed youth, organised to fight all the weapons of repression ranged against them, and united alongside all those fighting imperialism throughout the world. Imperialism denies the oppressed work. What is a 'March for Jobs' which does not take on imperialism? Nothing!

William Gray

■ Yankee racism in Puerto Rico

The US occupation of Puerto Rico has brought in its wake not only exploitation, oppression and impoverishment, but also gross distortions in sexual development. Doctor Carmen Saenz has encountered more than 3000 cases of the premature onset of sexuality – six month old babies have grown breasts, girls of four have begun to menstruate. The problem is not confined to women. Last year 77 Haitian refugees held at a US army base grew breasts – as did seven of their local male guards.

The cause of this is oestrogen contamination in locally produced chicken and milk. Oestrogen is a female hormone, a key constituent of birth control pills. The chemical is illegally injected into animals by farmers to speed their development. Since chicken is a staple part of the impoverished Puerto Ricans' diet, high concentrations of the hormone are passed into the human food chain.

The imperialists at first tried to cover up the complaints. Then Dr Jose Cordero of the US Centre for Disease Control claimed that the onset of premature sexuality was a genetic characteristic of Puerto Ricans. This typically racist explanation does not explain why one million Puerto Ricans living in New York are unaffected.

A Greene

■ 752 arrested for demanding peace



The peace movement has suffered its highest number of arrests since the 1960s – totalling 752 at the end of the four day blockade of the USAF base at Upper Heyford, Oxfordshire. Thousands of people throughout the country came to protest at the presence of F1-11 bombers with a nuclear capability in the base. At least 1,000 police were deployed per day and every time the demonstrators tried to block the main entrance into the base large numbers of police moved in and arrested them in groups. There was much anger that the police not only filmed all the demonstrators but also photographed all those who had been arrested. One man who resisted had his photo forcibly taken by being held by his hair. The police feebly attempted to convince those who rightly felt that their civil liberties had been violated that the non-negative polaroid prints would not go into police files or be used for future operations!!! They then proceeded to take those arrested away in metal sheep pens.

One man broke his bail conditions to stay at least five miles from the base. Many others were arrested more than once. All those arrested, most charged with obstruction, have been bailed to appear before Banbury Magistrates Court on dates starting from 5 June, running through to the end of July. It is likely that many will refuse to pay their fines and will therefore serve prison terms.

Ruby Khan

PHILIPPINES fights imperialism

World attention is increasingly being focused on the Philippines, an island grouping of 49 million people in South East Asia, as a broad revolutionary movement directed against the puppet Marcos regime and US imperialism, advances undaunted in the teeth of repression. Already some observers see the country as posing the next major challenge to US imperialism, following on from the revolutionary storms sweeping Central America.

Although the United States 'granted' independence to the Philippines in 1946, the country has never enjoyed genuine independence and remains a neo-colony mainly of US imperialism, but of other imperialist powers as well. The Philippines is dotted with American military bases, including two of the largest in Asia, Clark Air Force Base and Subic Naval Base. On 1 June a new agreement was signed by the US and Filipino governments concerning their use. This forms part of a drift to all-out US military intervention in the Philippines. The basis for this was already laid by the US-Philippine Treaty of January 1979 which provides a legal justification for, 'participation in security activities' off of the bases, and for the US to, 'contribute security forces'. Many thousands of US troops are already in the Philippines and as many of their bases are near operational areas of the communist-led New People's Army, US combat troops have already on occasions become directly involved in attempting to suppress the national liberation war of the Filipino people.

The importance to US imperialism of its bases in the Philippines can be seen from the testimony to the US House Foreign Affairs Sub Committee on November 18 1981 by Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, Daniel O'Donohue,

'Our Philippine facilities have a unique strategic advantage, because of their location, in being able to facilitate military operations in two major areas of the world (East and South East Asia and the Indian Ocean/Persian Gulf Region) of particular importance to us. Because of the strategically advantageous location of Clark and Subic, no alternative site or group of sites could adequately replace them.'

BRITISH IMPERIALISM

By a complex web of agreements British imperialism also plays a military role in the Philippines. The *Five Power Defence Arrangement* groups Malaysia, Singapore, Australia, New Zealand and Britain; the *Manila Pact* groups Thailand, the United States and the Philippines; *ANZUS* groups Australia, New Zealand and the USA. Together they more than adequately compensate for the defunct SEATO Alliance. The Philippine Armed Forces are equipped with British Scorpion tanks and missile equipped boats. Filipino military personnel are trained in Britain and some half dozen RAF officers are attached to USAF Base at Clark where they assist in Filipino pilot training and make use of the military facilities. Britain's military involvement in the Philippines is paralleled by its economic interests. Britain is the third largest foreign investor in the Philippines after the US and Japan. At least 50 British companies have large investments in the Philippines. They include: Kimberly Clark, Shell, Barclays, Lloyds, Chartered Bank, Phoenix Assurance, Sun Insurance, Beechams, Commercial Union Assurance, Davy Corporation Ltd, BP, Unilever, Tootal and Dunlop. In addition to this direct investment, Britain is a major contributor to the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, EEC development funds and various United Nations agencies that are all involved in assisting the Marcos regime. All the 'development aid'

received by Marcos allows him to plough more money into military repression. The major such contributor in the Philippines is the World Bank. Britain has the second largest voting share in the World Bank, 9.75%. The United States has 25%, and if West Germany is added, three countries hold over 40% of the voting power.

British imperialism profits from the host of incentives available to foreign investors (free remittance of profits, abundant cheap land, etc.) and from the terror and repression. Wages are amongst the lowest in Asia and the real value falls each year. 80% of the population live on or below the poverty line and unemployment stands at 40%. In 1980 the minimum wage for industrial workers was 85p a day, for agricultural workers, 53p. There is no statutory minimum wage for workers on the sugar plantations.

Two recent struggles have targeted the involvement of British imperialism. In January, women textile workers waged a strike in the Bataan Export Processing Zone against a British company: Intercontinental Garments Manufacturing Co (IGMC). The workers were paid £1.50 for an 8-hour day, their main grievance was that they were not being paid the full amount of this pittance. IGMC is an 80% owned subsidiary of Baird Textile Holdings Ltd. Almost all its garments are exported to Britain. Amongst the labels that the women sew in the completed garments are those of Littlewoods, C&A, John Collier and Hepworths. The biggest customers are Debenhams. In September 1979 the *Glasgow Herald* put Philippines production as the 'real secret of Baird's success' in riding out the effects of the recession in the textile industry. Baird's profits for the last financial year are expected to be well over £4 million after tax.

WARLORDS AND LABOUR ARISTOCRATS

The other struggle concerns the plan by the Commonwealth Development Corporation (CDC, a government financed aid agency) to invest £6,400,000 in a palm oil plantation owned by Guthries in Mindanao. This is particularly controversial because the plantation is in an area where the Lost Command, a private army of warlord Lieutenant-Colonel Carlos Lademora terrorises the people who work for £1.10 a day, with no sick pay and no rights. In November 1982, the CDC was questioned by the *Sunday Times* about the workers' catalogue of murder, rape and other abuses. Here is their cynical reply, 'These are the sort of grievances you get in most places, including Bradford, no more than the ordinary beefs of dissatisfied workers. They cannot be all that intimidated if they voice them.' Since that statement was made at least two more workers have been murdered in the course of their struggle to tell the world the truth about the Lost Command. It is worth noting that amongst those on the governing body of CDC are Prince Charles and David Warburton, a national officer of the General and Municipal Workers' Union.

PEOPLE'S ARMY

The Filipino people are not suffering in silence, they are fighting back and organising their revolution. At the centre of this is the Communist Party of

the Philippines which was re-established on the basis of revolutionary communism on 26 December 1968. On 29 March 1969, the Party founded the New People's Army (NPA), consisting of 60 people and 35 old rifles. On 27 July 1981, *Newsweek* estimated that the NPA numbered 10,000 fighters and enjoyed the support of millions. Today, the NPA has opened fronts in 50 of the country's 73 provinces.

The NPA has continued to advance this year. They staged at least 28 attacks in January. On 12 January, 200 Red Fighters disarmed the army, police and private security guards in the town of Matini, Davao del Norte. They held political lectures and made off with arms, typewriters and medicine. The barrio of Baco Benguet in Luzon province was held by the NPA for three days in which time they gave political lectures. In October 1982, General Ver ordered military commanders not to publicise NPA activities for fear of driving away foreign investors.



NPA success is due in no small part to the fact that it is a genuine people's army that not only fights but carries out agrarian reform, health and nutrition programmes and administers revolutionary justice. As the *Irish Times* reported on June 2,

'Unlike the government troops, the NPA always seem to be busy, helping villagers with their problems, training, studying and above all building up human relationships. Every village I entered it seemed like the NPA was greeted like long-lost relatives.'

The Party and the NPA attach a great deal of importance to building revolutionary alliances and were instrumental in launching the National Democratic Front (NDF) in April 1973. The NDF's ten-point programme seeks to unite all progressive forces to overthrow the Marcos regime and US imperialism and establish a people's coalition government. Fundamental reliance is placed on the workers and peasants with the strategy of a broad-based people's war supported by a united front. The NDF wants the Philippines to become an independent and non-aligned country with a revolutionary foreign policy.

Not forming part of the NDF, but in an effective alliance with the Party and the NPA is the organisation of the Muslim people in the south: the Moro National Liberation Front and the Bangsa Moro Army. During Spanish colonial rule in the Philippines, the Sulu Sultanate was never conquered and in the Bates Treaty of 1899, the US recognised the sovereignty of the Sultanate. The US reneged on this Treaty and included Bangsa Moro in the Philippine Republic in 1946. The Philippine communists recognise the right to self-determination of the Moro people. The Communist Party of the Philippines and the New People's Army are part of the new forces of the most oppressed, the forces of the future.

Keith Anderson

THE SUBVERSIVE TOMBSTONE

It is often said that revolutionaries continue to haunt their oppressors even in death. In Singapore, the British-backed regime is providing a graphic illustration of the point.

In a case to be tried in July, Tan Chu Boon will be charged under the Internal Security Act for possession of a subversive document. The 'document' in question is a black marble tombstone in commemoration of Mr Tan's brother, Tan Chay Wa. Tan Chay Wa, a member of the Malayan National Liberation Front, was hanged at Pudu Prison, Malaysia last January for possession of a semi-automatic pistol and seven rounds of ammunition under the Internal Security Act and the Essential (Security Cases) Amendment Regulations. The Chinese language inscription relates how Tan Chay Wa, a factory worker, lived on wild vegetables so that he could contribute all he saved to the revolutionary movement and continues, 'For the sake of the motherland's liberation cause, he was hanged... and died a heroic death... His glorious image will forever live in the minds of the people. Martyr Tan Chay Wa's spirit will live forever.'

Tan Chu Boon, a fish breeder, is charged with possessing a subversive document, 'which tended to advocate acts prejudicial to the security of Singapore.' The charge carries up to five years imprisonment or a fine of nearly £2,000. The Internal Security Act bears a marked resemblance to the Emergency Powers Act in occupied Ireland and provides for juryless courts with confessions or the word of a member of the security forces admissible as evidence.

Keith Anderson

ONE YEAR LATER IN PALESTINE

June 1983 marks the first anniversary of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon. Codenamed 'Peace in Galilee' Israeli forces attempted to deliver a crushing blow to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and the Lebanese revolutionary forces. In the remorseless bombardment by Israeli tanks, artillery, jets and naval forces Sidon, Tyre, West Beirut and countless other villages and refugee camps were devastated. 12,000 Lebanese and Palestinians were calculatingly slaughtered by a military machine provided by US imperialism. At the time Israeli Prime Minister Begin said 'We do not want one centimetre of Lebanese territory' as his storm-troopers marched up through south Lebanon.

A year later, Israeli forces remain entrenched in South Lebanon. They have fortified military positions, built a new network of roads and communication facilities and bolstered the armed forces of their prime Lebanese stooge Major Haddad. Together they administer a regime of terror and suppression in occupied Lebanon. Concentration camps like Al Ansar still hold thousands of prisoners. The few released have their names and villages passed on to Lebanese death squads and are later found dead in side roads or rubbish heaps. Military occupation is accompanied by economic subjugation and Zionist banks, businessmen and merchants move in for new markets and profits.

The Zionists and imperialists hoped that the invasion would destroy the PLO in Lebanon and demoralise the Palestinian masses in the occupied territories of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. They were jubilant as PLO forces evacuated Beirut in August 1982. Considering the PLO militarily finished, imperialists and their reactionary Arab allies hoped to finally extinguish it by offering prospects for imperialist organised 'diplomatic' and 'political' solutions to the

Palestinian question. The Reagan Plan and Fez Plan - neither of which recognise the Palestinian peoples right to self-determination - were trumpeted forth more loudly in the hope of enticing sections of the PLO to abandon the armed struggle and the anti-imperialist savagery and put their faith in imperialist diplomacy and negotiation. Yet one year later it is clear that Zionist and imperialist savagery and subterfuge have failed. The Palestinian and Lebanese masses living under the heel of Israeli tyranny will never place any faith or reliance on imperialism.

In a very significant development during May and June, a broad and powerful movement has developed within Al Fatah (the largest organisation in the PLO) denouncing imperialist trickery and calling for the intensification of the armed struggle against Zionism. Based in Lebanon's Beka'a Valley and led by Abu Musa, this movement is opposing a number of senior military commanders in Al Fatah and is trying to force Arafat to dismiss them. They have denounced these commanders as cowards and fear that they represent a trend within the Al Fatah leadership ready to compromise

with imperialism and abandon the armed struggle. They have declared their intention to transform the Beka'a Valley 'into a bridgehead for a confrontation with Israel' and have substantial support both among civilian and military sectors of Al Fatah.

The outcome of the current struggle within Al Fatah will have profound consequences on the PLO's struggle against Zionism. Meanwhile the Palestinian masses on the West Bank and Gaza Strip and in occupied south Lebanon remain dedicated to the armed struggle and continue their fight against Zionism. The Israeli government's own statistics for the past year show a 69% increase in guerrilla attacks on Zionist forces in the West Bank and a 79% increase in 'street disturbances' to almost 4,500. Within the occupied south Lebanon, Israeli troops face regular and systematic attacks from guerrilla forces of the PLO and Lebanese revolutionary forces. Since last August, the Israeli army has lost over 170 soldiers and the Israeli Defence Force confesses that for every guerrilla killed, they have had to pay with the lives of 8 Zionist troops. Even in the Zionist concentration camps resistance continues. From 5 June for 4 days, Palestinian and Lebanese prisoners in Al Ansar mounted an uprising in commemoration of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon.

Faced with relentless imperialist and Zionist terror and repression, the revolutionary forces of the PLO will cast aside imperialist trickery about diplomatic and political solutions. The Palestinian people will fight arms-in-hand until victory!

Roy Spring

THE LABOUR PARTY AND SOUTH AFRICA

Foul words! Foul deeds!

'I was in the East End of London yesterday and attended a meeting of the unemployed. I listened to the wild speeches, which were just a cry for 'bread', 'bread', 'bread', and on my way home I pondered over the scene and I became more than ever convinced of the importance of imperialism... My cherished idea is a solution for the social problem, ie in order to save the 40,000,000 inhabitants of the United Kingdom from a bloody civil war, we, colonial statesmen, must acquire new lands to settle the surplus population, to provide new markets for the goods produced by them in the factories and mines. The Empire, as I have always said, is a bread and butter question. If you want to avoid civil war, you must become imperialists.' (Cecil Rhodes 1895)

True to his word, Cecil Rhodes played a leading role in acquiring 'new lands', in his case Southern Africa, in order to secure the future of capitalist Britain. To do this the imperialists knew that they would have to ensure fresh supplies of raw materials, create a market for more investment and profit-making, and most important of all, by buying off a section of the British working class and creating a labour aristocracy, prevent social revolution. Imperialism is not a choice it is a necessity if capitalism is to survive.

Of course Cecil Rhodes' 'new lands' were only 'new' to the British. They were the homelands of many peoples with their own civilisations and cultures. To provide material wealth and social stability in Britain, these peoples had to be crushed into subservience, into slave labour, their cultures and civilisations destroyed. This is the bloody history of imperialism in Southern Africa and oppressed nations throughout the world.

Southern Africa has played an important role as a source of profits for British imperialism - it is a land rich in minerals, gold and, because of apartheid, cheap labour. Britain is the biggest overseas investor in South Africa, accounting for more than half of all overseas investments there. Capitalist Britain cannot exist without apartheid South Africa - and this is why the history of the British Labour Party and South Africa shows that Labour cannot ever carry out its election promises to withdraw investment from South Africa because it is committed to a capitalist Britain.

RACISM AND IMPERIALISM

The Labour Party's origins

The 1982 Labour Party Programme quotes from their first major statement on Africa in 1921:

'At home Labour is attempting to substitute a system of equal economic opportunity and industrial democracy for a system based upon the economic exploitation of the worker by the capitalist. In Africa the policy of Labour must follow the same lines; it must aim at substituting a system based on common economic interests of the inhabitants for the existing system based on economic exploitation of the native by the white man.'

All well and good. But it was not their first statement on Africa, and this quotation reveals only Labour's broad intentions which differed a great deal from their practice.

The forces which were, in 1900, to form the Labour Party were divided on support for Britain in the Boer War in South Africa. The war was long and bloody, and Britain established the first

concentration camps where 26,000 Afrikaner women and children died. Some like the Fabians, including Bernard Shaw and Sidney Webb, supported Britain's conquest of the Transvaal and argued that 'states with a higher civilisation have a right to take over backward states'. On the other hand eighty three trade union officials criticised the Boer War, saying 'The Capitalists who brought up or lured the Press both in South Africa and in England to clamour for war are largely Jews and foreigners'. A very racist beginning for both sides.

Nine years after the Boer War, in 1910, despite appeals from black South Africans, Britain handed over power to the privileged white minority - the colonial British and the Afrikaners. A series of racist laws were soon passed. The Native National Congress was formed to represent Black Africans (it changed its name in 1925 to African National Congress). Its stated aims were to seek redress of grievances by constitutional means and to agitate for the removal of the colour bar in education, industry, Parliament and the administration. In 1914 the Afrikaners formed the National Party led by General Hertzog, on a platform of extreme racism and anti-British nationalism.

The Afrikaner nationalists were not yet in power, but very soon the government had introduced the Native Land Bill - assigning 90% of the land to 1 million whites, with 7.3% of the worst land for the black people. The black people were forced off their land. The Master and Servant Act made it a crime for any black person to break a contract or refuse to obey his employer's orders, effectively making strikes a criminal offence. At a time of crisis the black people's organisations looked to Europe for support - they found none.

By 1917 the Labour Party was firmly opposed to self-determination for African people on the grounds that 'it is impracticable here to leave the various peoples concerned to settle their own destinies'. The official Labour Party statement in reply to the Bolshevik peace proposals made it very plain:

'Nobody contends that the black races can govern themselves. They can only make it known that the particular government under which they have been living is bad in some or all respects, and indicate the specific evils from which they desire liberation'.

Using some very familiar arguments on immigration to Britain, in April 1917 the annual conference of the Independent Labour Party 'emphatically condemned proposals to import dispossessed native labour of European dependencies' because this 'could not fail still further to lower the standard of life of the people of this country'. FW



Mourners at the graveside of a Soweto massacre victim

Mosses of the Federation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Trades, had put it more sharply, 'But I draw the line at the yellow man or the black man...'. He argued that such labourers would work for next to nothing and would bring into Britain conditions which were detrimental to its morality and traditions.

More specifically on South Africa such racism was reflected in Labour's practice. Labour held its first British Commonwealth Labour Conference in 1924. The all-white racist South African Labour Party was asked who should be invited. Henderson wrote to them saying: 'We shall not communicate with any Trades Union in your country until we have heard your opinion.' The South Africans suggested only their counterpart, the all-white Rhodesian Labour Party, even though the Industrial and Commercial Workers Union (ICU) was already a strong trade union organising black workers in South Africa, and the Native National Congress had certainly 'made it known' that the South African government 'was bad in all respects'.

The South African Labour Party at the same time backed General Hertzog's racist policies, so much so that it formed an alliance for the election in 1924 which made Hertzog prime minister. The Labour Party in Britain failed to put any pressure on its counterpart in South Africa to end this alliance.

When the ICU, in 1926, sought admission to the Commonwealth Labour Conference the Secretary of the joint international committee thought it 'hardly the special duty of the British Trade Union officials to establish contact and assist them'. When the ICU applied for affiliation to the South African TUC, despite appeals, the British trade union leadership failed to exert any pressure on the South Africans to admit them. The application inevitably failed but the TUC and the Labour Party felt they should not 'intervene in a domestic matter'. This was the perennial excuse for failure to act against the growing racism in South Africa. South Africa had Dominion status, and as such control over its own domestic policies, but at heart the Labour aristocrats shared the same racist point of view and this was the real obstacle to any challenge to white supremacy.

SOCIALIST IMPERIALISM

The Labour Government 1929-31

In the same year that Labour came to power in Britain (1929), the Nationalists under the leadership of Hertzog, gained an overall majority for the first time in South Africa. Oswald Pirow (later an admirer of Hitler) became Minister of Justice and flew to Durban to personally administer the collection of taxes from the black people. 500 white police supported by 200 Native Police invaded the black areas, arrested 350 people,

threw tear gas and terrorised the population. The black people were unable to pay taxes because wages in Durban had not risen since 1914. The assault on the black population and their few remaining rights continued. By December 1930 40,000 black Africans were being convicted under the pass laws every year.

The Labour Government was happy in practice to ignore what was going on in South Africa. The Anti-Slavery and Aborigines Protection Society, spurred by Hertzog's removal of the vote from the handful of black South Africans who could still vote in the Cape, urged Prime Minister MacDonald 'to set forth a national policy on the treatment of Coloured Colonial subjects'. The policy was to cover four essential points: native rights in land and industrial freedom; opposition to the colour bar; empire citizenship to mean full rights regardless of race, sex, creed or colour; training of natives in legislative responsibility.

The Labour Government's reply in July 1929 maintains their earlier position on Black Africa. It is worth printing here in full.

'But it is questionable whether a statement of general policy by the Prime Minister on the subject of a "national Colonial policy for the treatment of the coloured colonial subjects of the Empire" is either possible or desirable. The variations of policy in the government of native populations must in the main depend not on questions of race or colour, but upon the stage of civilisation, education and economic development that has been attained by any particular section of the community. The problems presented by the civilised races of the East and the Europeanised blacks and coloured folk of the West Indies have an aspect differing entirely from those presented by the peoples of primitive culture, suddenly brought into close contact with an advanced social and industrial system, with whom this country has to deal, for instance in Tropical Africa.'

No one could doubt that this windy reply was intended *not* to offend the white South Africans and Australians.

This same Labour Government permitted the Southern Rhodesian Land Appearances Act to be passed in 1930. The Act had been introduced by the Tories, but there was no doubt that the Labour Government could have stopped it but chose not to. The Act introduced segregated land rights for Europeans and black Africans. The better land went to the whites and the black people were prevented from settling in the towns - another apartheid state was being formed with the connivance of the Labour Government.

POST WAR IMPERIALISM

The Labour Government 1945-51

The Labour Party swept to power in 1945 on a tide of popular radicalism. It espoused the ideals of democracy and the equality of the 'common man'. Unfortunately such radicalism did not run very deep, and certainly did not extend beyond the shores of Britain.

In South Africa, Hertzog had been ousted at the beginning of the Second World War by Smuts, but the racism of the regime remained. Many Afrikaner nationalists were imprisoned during the war because they supported Hitler. In 1946 when 50,000 African miners went on strike, they were swiftly and bloodily forced back to work by the state. In 1948 the Afrikaner Nationalists took power again on a platform of apartheid - racism became institutionalised in the South African state. The Nationalists immediately abandoned all proposed reforms to the migrant labour system and pass laws, and perhaps worst of all ended school meals for African children - many of them wholly dependent on this meal. Alongside this they released the Nazi war criminals and suspended the banning of their organisations.

Black people began to organise within the ANC to fight apartheid. A Programme for Action was adopted at a conference in 1949 including strikes and civil disobedience. Minister of Justice CR Swart announced he was studying the conference speeches and that, in company with the Chief of the British Secret Service, he was going into the question of the growth of Communism. In 1950 the Suppression of Communism Act was passed.

How was the new, 'more radical' Labour Government going to respond to its inherited Empire of colonies and dominions? Much the same as before. In January 1946 Herbert Morrison said 'We are great friends of the jolly old empire and are going to stick to it'. Ernest Bevin, Foreign Secretary, addressed the National Union of Manufacturers in October 1948 along the following lines:

'We have ceased to be an imperialist race: we dominate nobody'

But his speech continued:

'I believed and still believe that: If we can organise Western Europe with its direct connection with the Middle East, If we can use the great resources of our Colonial Empire in Africa, If we can work out co-operation with our great Dominion of South Africa. If we can arrange matters correctly with Pakistan and India, If we can maintain a correct position in South East Asia, and if we can make our proper contribution to the revivification of China, then with a little planning we somehow occupy the position of a great balancing factor as between East and West, and may provide the correct equipoise and the correct equilibrium for the maintenance of peace and prosperity in the world.'

We dominate no-one but we intend to dominate everyone, seems to be the message here.

Nor had the Labour Party's position on self-determination for African countries significantly altered. In the draft Policy pamphlet of 1943 they said:

'Nearly all the colonies outside Africa are, in the opinion of the Advisory Committee, ripe for full self-government or at any rate for a very large measure of self-government...'

Africa however conditions are entirely different... From the point of view of Europeans, their civilisation and their economic system, the inhabitants of the African territories are "backward" and "not yet able to stand by themselves."

The final version was altered to remove reference to 'the point of view of Europeans' but substantially it remained the same. The final document also weakened the stand on the colour bar, removing the clause which prevented grant aid to any country where the colour bar existed.

On two further issues, the racist standpoint of the Labour Party became clear in its subservience to white South Africans. South Africa had persistently attempted to annex South West Africa (Namibia) on a permanent basis. This had been blocked at the United Nations no thanks to the British. In 1950 the United Nations resolved to place South West Africa under United Nations Trusteeship. The Labour Government opposed this, their 1951 Handbook explains why:

'The Labour Party regards the racial policies of the present South African Government with repugnance. But in dealing with the General Assembly resolutions on South-West Africa, moral feelings cannot change the legal position. In the British view it was by no means clear that the Union of South Africa was under any legal obligation to put South-West Africa under the Trusteeship system of the United Nations.'

Here we see a familiar pattern of argument emerging - 'We are totally opposed to South Africa, BUT...' Labour Party election manifestoes and programmes are littered with condemnations of apartheid, but like 'litter' they count for nothing. Perhaps the real reason for their opposition at the United Nations was not pettyfogging attention to legality, but the vast mineral resources of Namibia, which, whilst under the control of South Africa, were accessible to the British.

The Seretse Khama affair showed the real sordid hypocrisy of Labour. Seretse Khama was heir to a chieftom in Bechuanaland (at this time a British Protectorate bordering on South Africa, now Botswana). When he was old enough he was elected chief with a majority of 5000 to 43, but the decision had to be approved by the British Government. Unfortunately the Labour Government was unable to approve, for Seretse, whilst in Britain, had married a white woman, and the South Africans were



The poor in London and Johannesburg suffer under imperialism

known to oppose his recognition as chief. In the 1951 Handbook, Labour explains that its decision was 'misunderstood in some quarters'... 'What the Government had to decide was whether Seretse *thus married* was likely to make a suitable Chief who could command the loyalty of his people and ensure order and unity in the tribe and good relations with the tribes around' (our emphasis). Presumably the White Tribe of South Africa was uppermost in their thoughts. The Government inquiry into the affair was never published.

HYPOCRISY The Wilson Government 1964-70

From its outset the Wilson Government was beleaguered by the problem of Rhodesia. The chickens were coming home to roost. In 1961 the British Parliament had agreed a new constitution for Rhodesia which incorporated such harsh voting restrictions for black people that by 1964 only 10,700 of the 60,000 entitled to register to vote had done so. Of these only 1,443 black people voted in the 1965 election. Ian Smith wanted independence based on the 1961 constitution which would prevent majority rule for the next 150 years. The Labour Party, in opposition in 1961, had voted against the constitution - they could not now concede independence on this basis. The next six years of Labour Government were spent trying to achieve a compromise that the black Commonwealth countries could be bludgeoned into accepting, without Ian Smith and the racists having to give up their privileges and power which the British had given them in the first place.

The Wilson Government, under threat of a unilateral declaration of independence (UDI) by Smith and the racists, was anxious to negotiate a settlement based on 'unimpeded progress to majority rule'. The black Commonwealth leaders insisted that independence should be granted only on the basis of 'one man, one vote' and universal franchise. Many of the leaders of the Zimbabwe liberation movement were detained without trial at this time.

But Smith and the racists were in a strong enough position, with the backing of South Africa, to refuse to accept the Labour Government's tawdry compromise. In November 1965 the Rhodesian Front declared UDI. The United Nations pressed for immediate action by Britain, the use of troops to quell the rebellion and the imposition of a new constitution based on majority rule. A resolution was passed in the General Assembly but was not binding on Britain. The Labour Government immediately made it clear that it would veto any mandatory resolution in the Security Council.

Wasn't it extraordinary that a British Government, usually only too ready to send in troops (as the same Labour Government did in the north of Ireland in 1969) was refusing to use force against the white racists in Rhodesia? Not really when you consider the Labour Party's continual compromise with South Africa. From 1961 to 1966 British companies invested £28 million a year in South Africa. From 1967 to 1969 this almost doubled to £53 million a year,



with a record in 1969 of £70 million.

Decisive action against Rhodesia was ruled out if it was likely to upset British trade with and investment in South Africa.

The Wilson Government agreed on trade sanctions against Rhodesia, including oil. But they were a farce from the beginning, despite Wilson's prediction that they would soon bring Smith to his knees. The oil sanctions never worked because the oil companies used South African subsidiaries as their supply routes. In 1966 Shell and Mobil financed a 100,000 gallon oil depot at



Callaghan and Vorster

STAN WINER

Messina in the Transvaal, within easy reach of the Rhodesian border.

By the time Wilson came to power, 67 people had been shot in the back in Sharpeville, South Africa; the ANC had been banned and had formed its army Umkhonto we Sizwe; Nelson Mandela and his fellow leaders of the liberation movements in South Africa had been gaoled for life; repression in South Africa had grown to new heights and the black South African people and their allies had shown by their courage that they were fighting a just war for liberation against fascist apartheid. But despite the ritual condemnations of apartheid which were now a feature of Labour Party conferences, when it came to taking a stand in support of the struggle Britain's stake in apartheid, its investments, must not be affected.

In 1964 the Labour Government introduced an embargo on arms trade with South Africa, excluding the substantial contracts already signed. In 1967 the Labour Cabinet was split on whether to continue the embargo, and after much wavering decided to maintain the ban. They were very quick to reassure the South Africans, however, that all other trade would remain unaffected. Crosland wrote:

'In 1967 we sent goods worth nearly £260 million to South Africa... Our investment in South Africa has been estimated to be of the order of £1,000 million by the Reserve Bank of South Africa... We are very conscious of the importance attached by South Africa to her exports to the UK... We have firmly resisted political pressure to terminate the preferential access enjoyed by South African products. Our concern to see this valuable trade develop and to avoid any economic confrontation with South Africa has been repeatedly made clear in Parliament and the UN.'

Some of this 'valuable trade' which Labour wished to see develop included uranium from Namibia. Tony Benn, as Minister for Energy, signed a contract with Rio Tinto Zinc for 7,500 tons of uranium from the Rossing Mine in 1968. The contract was to run from 1976 to 1982.

After the cancellation of the Springbok cricket tour to Britain in May 1970, the Labour Government told its trade officials to reassure the South Africans that this must not affect trading relations. Indeed the real motivation for the cancellation of the cricket tour was Wilson's fear that, in an election period, violent anti-apartheid demonstrations might be blamed on the Labour Party, and on himself in particular.

BROKEN PROMISES The Labour Government 1974-79

After 4 years the Labour Party picked up where it left off. Labour's election programme for 1974 promised:

'We oppose all forms of racial discrimination and colonialism. We will continue to support the liberation movement of Southern Africa. By a decision of the Government arms are no longer being supplied to South Africa. The Labour Government will seek to end the unlawful South African occupation of Namibia. The policy of sanctions against Rhodesia

has been intensified and we will agree to no settlement which does not have the agreement of the African people of that country.'

In addition the Labour Party Programme of 1973 pledged an end to further British investment in South Africa and the termination of the atomic energy contract with Rio Tinto Zinc for the Rossing uranium.

The Labour Government honoured none of these pledges. Arms continued to be supplied to South Africa and Britain vetoed the UN mandatory arms embargo, along with France and the USA, only three weeks after the 1976 Labour Party conference had called for a stricter application of the British arms embargo. In the same month the Department of Trade allowed Marconi to export a multi-million pound communications system to the South African Armaments Board. In 1974 the Labour Government welcomed a senior research official of the South African Institute for Defence Research to the top secret Royal Radar Establishment and the Defence Operational Establishment.

In June 1976 the youth of Soweto took to the streets to fight the apartheid regime. Thousands were killed and injured. Independent non-racial trade unions were being formed, the workers were striking against apartheid and the military struggle against apartheid reached new heights. But what did the Labour Party's pledge to support the liberation movements amount to? Very little but rhetoric. British Leyland was nationalised by the Labour Government in 1975, at the same time black workers in British Leyland's South African factories were fighting to achieve recognition of their union. They expected the Labour Government to act in their favour, but true to form Labour let them down:

'... Although the Government has a controlling interest in British Leyland, it has been agreed that its administration should be the responsibility of the management and their commercial judgement should prevail.'

South Africa made an initial request for an IMF loan in January 1976. The Executive Board, led by Britain and the USA, approved the loan. Britain's representative said:

'We are pleased that South Africa has requested a standby arrangement which will give the South African authorities some additional room for manoeuvre and some feeling of international support, which they deserve.'

By the end of 1977 South Africa had borrowed \$464 million.

In a broadcast in South Africa in March 1977, the British Ambassador summed it all up:

'South Africa's friends and trading partners spend an appalling amount of time and energy in international bodies trying to achieve an image which will minimise the damage caused by these [United Nations] resolutions to internal trade, to sport, to what you will...'

It is because we have so many interests in common with you, which we want if possible to maintain because we have investments in your country - the biggest investments of any country in Southern Africa,

which we hope will remain profitable and remain sound - because we buy from you more than any other country does and we would like to go on doing this, even because we would like once again to play international cricket and international rugby with you and, as evidence of our good will we thought it right to take a line in the United Nations and Security Council, which, let me say frankly, has brought down very much criticism from the rest of the world. In particular I must remind you that the only four occasions on which my Government, Britain, has exercised the veto in the Security Council during the life of the present Government has been in favour of South Africa.' (our emphasis)

Who could say more?

CONCLUSION

The record of Labour in power speaks for itself - complete betrayal and hypocrisy. At each stage where the oppressed have forged ahead with great courage to challenge apartheid, they have met with treachery and lies from Labour in Britain.

Cecil Rhodes and his fellow imperialists did their job well. When Britain seized 'new lands' for exploitation in the late nineteenth century, it was able to buy off a section of the British working class. It is this section, the labour aristocracy, who owe their privileges to imperialism. It is this section which the Labour Party and the Trade Union leadership represent. Lenin summed it up in 1916:

'On the one hand, there is the tendency of the bourgeoisie and opportunists to convert a handful of the richest, privileged nations into "eternal" parasites on the body of the rest of mankind, to "rest on the laurels" of the exploitation of Negroes, Hindus etc, by keeping them in subjection with the aid of the excellent technique of destruction of modern militarism. On the other hand, there is the tendency of the masses who are more oppressed than formerly and who bear the brunt of the misfortune caused by imperialist wars, to throw off that yoke, to overthrow the bourgeoisie. The history of the labour movement will from now on inevitably develop as the history of the struggle between these two tendencies: for the first tendency it is not accidental, it is 'founded' on economics. The bourgeoisie has already begotten, nurtured, secured for itself "bourgeois labour parties" of social chauvinists in all countries... unless a determined and relentless struggle is waged all along the line against these parties - or groups, trends, etc, it is all the same - there can be no question of a struggle against imperialism, or of Marxism, or a Socialist labour movement.'

There is no possibility, contrary to what the left of the Labour Party have argued in the General Election, that the 1983 Labour Party is different from its predecessors. If Labour had come to power in 1983 it would have trodden the same path as all previous Labour Governments - compromise with imperialism. Because the Labour Party represents the labour aristocracy, because its own future is tied to the survival of capitalism, no matter how 'democratic', it inevitably will invest in apartheid and rake off super profits from oppressed nations throughout the world. The Labour Party has its roots in imperialism itself.

The allies of the oppressed people of South Africa in their struggle for freedom, are the oppressed in Britain who have no stake in apartheid or imperialism. Investment in apartheid will be ended. Aid and support will be given to the liberation movements in Southern Africa. Not by the Labour Party who, by their record, have chosen the side of the 'eternal parasites', but by the oppressed in Britain, as part of the common struggle against imperialism.

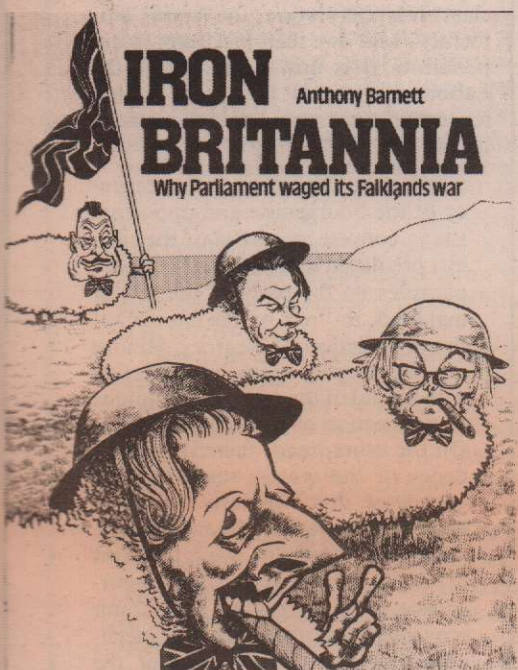
Carol Brown

R ~ E ~ V ~ I ~ E ~ W ~ S

■ **Falklands/Malvinas – Whose Crisis?** Latin America Bureau, £1.95; **On the Falklands War**, Tony Benn, Spokesman Books, 40p; **Iron Britannia**, Anthony Barnett, Alison & Busby, £2.95; **One Man's Falklands**, Tam Dalyell MP, Cecil Woolf, £1.95

The Latin American Bureau book is divided into two parts. The first, useful, part contains much factual information about the islands and about Argentinian-British relations. The second part of the book, dealing with the South Atlantic war, resorts to distortions and lies to apologise for the role played by the Labour Party.

The LAB blames the 'rush to war' on the 'hard right of the Conservative Party' (pp108-9). Yet it was the Labour Party which was responsible for the rush to war. When news of the Argentinian landing broke, the Labour Party tried to out-imperialise the Tories, to be better imperialists than the imperialists themselves, by challenging the government to 'prove by deeds – they will never be able to do it by words – that they are not responsible for the betrayal and cannot be faced with that charge' (Michael Foot). Eric Heffer, flagship of the Labour left, was equally eager to despatch the gunboats. And Thatcher rose to the occasion, promptly sending the Task Force on its way.



The book even invents Labour Party opposition to the war: according to the chronology, on 1 May 1982, 'Labour split over the conflict', while on 2 June there was a 'Major split in labour movement over position of parliamentary leadership' – outright lies!

This crude and incredible apologia for the Labour Party is accompanied by attempts to 'prove' that the war was more damaging to British imperialism than negotiation:

'Britain has done significant damage to its relations with Latin America... In practical terms, the losers are the British banks and subsidiaries which will close, the exporters who will lose contracts...' (p111-2)

Since the tentacles of imperialism straddle the world, in every crisis there are always going to be some imperialists who get their fingers burnt. Squealing on their behalf, as LAB does, has nothing to do with anti-imperialism. What really count are the overall interests of imperialism. The Argentinian re-occupation of the Falklands/Malvinas was a challenge to British imperialism, a test. If the Argentinians had succeeded, the British ruling class would have been weakened. And that – not fretting for the safety of the profits of the blood-sucking banks – is why anti-imperialists opposed the despatch of the task force: they wanted British imperialism to be weakened and humiliated.

Yet this sort of imperialist accountancy was at the heart of the so-called 'opposition' within the Labour Party, voiced by Benn in his pamphlet:

'The risks of this exercise far exceed the gains' (p3)

And most clearly on 29 April, discussing the repercussions if the British bombed mainland Argentina:

'... we should be wholly isolated. That would have consequences for our interests in Argentina. Our economic interests are many and varied in terms of British people throughout Latin America. It would be a betrayal of a very wide interest.' (p10)

The Benn pamphlet really ought to be entitled *On the Betrayal of Our Economic Interests*.

Barnett's book is about the politics of the South Atlantic war in Britain. In contrast to the LAB's lies about Labour 'splits', he emphasises that 'no major political challenge was mounted... This was the major defeat of the Falklands war'.

A memorable chapter is devoted to the dissection of the hysterical debate in the House of Commons on 3 April 1982, including Labour's pro-imperialist trumpeting. As Barnett accurately notes of the House-

turned-mob 'On 3 April 1982, it was Foot himself who became the leader of the pack'. (p21)

Yet the rest of the book is a swamp of confusion and common-or-garden opportunist arguments. Having just brilliantly exposed Labour's collaboration, Barnett then tries to explain it. He develops a concept of 'Churchillism', recalling the wartime alliance. But 'Churchillism' explains nothing and itself needs explanation, for such collaboration was underway for decades before the Second World War. Lenin gave a simple and precise explanation of this behaviour when he drew attention to the existence of a section of the working class bought by imperialism:

'This stratum of workers turned bourgeois, or the labour aristocracy... is the principal social (not military) prop of the bourgeoisie. For they are the real agents of the bourgeoisie in the working-class movement, the labour lieutenants of the capitalist class, real vehicles of reformism and chauvinism.'

This simple explanation is not, apparently, good enough for Barnett, who wants a complicated idealist explanation. Elsewhere he explains the war in psychological terms – as if the ruling class had gone off its collective rocker. Indeed Chapter 2 is entitled 'The Crackpot Parliament'.

One Man's Falklands is a contribution from inside the gasworks itself by a Labour MP. A very 'respectable' character in the Parliamentary Labour Party, he had detailed background knowledge of Latin America and the Falklands/Malvinas dispute.

Unsurprisingly, he is yet another of those warning of the threats to trade, investment and political standing posed to British imperialism by the war.

Dalyell, like Barnett, pinpoints the responsibility of Labour for sending Britain to war:

'without the support of the official Opposition in the House of Commons, I do not believe that even a Prime Minister of Mrs Margaret Thatcher's mulish obstinacy would have felt able to despatch the task force' (p37)

As Dalyell shows, Labour came to the government's support at the crucial moments: Peter Shore's assertion on 2 December 1980 that the islanders' wishes 'must be of paramount importance'; John Silkin's promise – before the task force was even mentioned – to 'defend' them 'even though it may mean fighting'; Foot's speech on 3 April – so imperialist that a Tory MP, Patrick Cormack, was moved to say 'that he truly spoke for Britain' – ie for British imperialism. Consistent with this were the attempts to control dissent (already minimal) within the Parliamentary Labour Party – Dalyell and his few allies were sacked from Labour's Front Bench for voting against the Tory government! – and Michael Foot's congratulations to Thatcher on British imperialism's victory.

As Dalyell shows, the vast majority of Labour MPs were completely ignorant of the issues at stake. Yet without hesitation, Labour MPs instinctively leapt to the defence of British imperialism. There could be no clearer proof that the Labour Party has gone over wholesale to imperialism.

As for Dalyell himself, it is true that he has persistently raised questions about Thatcher's sinking of the Argentinian battleship Belgrano with hundreds lost, apparently in order to destroy the Peruvian peace initiative. Yet this attempt to 'prove' in hindsight that war might have been avoided is no substitute for organising an anti-war campaign amongst working people while the war was going on. Indeed his recoil from 'extreme groups carrying banners' (p94) and his self-congratulation for his 'moderate, sensible' TV performance reflects his utter contempt for ordinary working people: he would rather the war continue than take to the streets.

At the end of the day, Dalyell's 'opposition' is just rhetorical, since he supports and finds excuses for the very same Labour people and organisations whose support for the war was, on his own admission, essential to the despatch of the task force.

Nevertheless, despite their defects, all these books are well worth reading for the information about the Falklands/Malvinas question, about British imperialism, and also for insights into the way the slavish British Labour Party works.

Steve Palmer

■ **An anti-imperialist's guide to the Irish war** IFM, Junius Publications, 1983, pb £1.95, pp.138.

This is not an anti-imperialist's guide but a middle-class socialist's guide to the Irish war. In the tradition of middle class socialism – especially the Trotskyist variety – the RCP-IFM attack the Republican movement; ignore the existence of the British labour aristocracy and ignore the emergence of new revolutionary forces in Britain. They are, therefore, absolutely incapable of providing an anti-imperialist guide.

This is what the RCP-IFM have to say about the Republican movement:

'The programme [of Sinn Fein] expresses the dreams of small farmers and small businessmen in the Ireland of 70 years ago. It is no answer to the needs of working class supporters of the anti-imperialist struggle in Ireland today.' (p108)

Like all Trotskyists, the RCP-IFM are incapable of understanding that the revolutionary significance of

An anti-imperialist's guide to



the Irish struggle is the fact that it is a struggle for a democratic right – the right of Irish self-determination – that British imperialism cannot concede without fatally weakening its own power to oppress and exploit not only the Irish people but also the British working class. Because this revolutionary democratic struggle is a direct threat to British imperialism it is also a direct threat to the material social and political privileges of the British labour aristocracy – the Labour and trade union leadership – which depend on the continued strength of British imperialism. This labour aristocracy is, as Lenin pointed out more than sixty years ago, the major social prop of the imperialist ruling class. This, for communists, is the revolutionary significance of the Irish struggle making it today, as in Marx's day, the key to the British socialist revolution. This is why communists give unconditional support to that struggle.

Middle class socialists, on the other hand, deny the significance of the revolutionary democratic struggle against imperialism and condemn the national liberation movements for not being 'socialist', 'communist' etc – exactly as the RCP-IFM does in its guide. It is no surprise to discover that just as they attack the liberation movement in Ireland so do they cover up for the labour aristocracy. Instead of exposing the role of the labour aristocracy they berate something called the 'TUC bureaucracy' without ever once explaining what this layer is or why it exists. Thus they say: 'The TUC and Labour Party have a record of collaboration with imperialism'. (p73) The truth is that they are agents of imperialism whose support in the working class depends on those sections of skilled, traditionally organised, better off workers who have yet to suffer the ravages of the imperialist crisis and remain wedded to their reactionary leadership. All the RCP-IFM have to say on this, however, is that the 'role' of the Labour and TUC leadership has 'a degree of resonance among the membership of the trade unions'. (p74) For the RCP-IFM the British working class consists only of precisely that skilled, organised, better off section of the class which is the most backward. Like all middle class socialists they turn to this section and ignore the new emerging revolutionary forces.

Those forces – black workers, especially the youth, white unemployed youth, the poor, Irish workers – precisely because they experience nothing but ever increasing poverty and repression from imperialism have rejected both the British imperialist racist state and its agents. It is the national liberation movement – which the RCP-IFM attack – which has a 'resonance' among these most oppressed workers, not the labour aristocracy. These workers showed their revolutionary potential in the uprisings throughout Britain in 1981. Today, in campaigns such as that of the Stoke Newington and Hackney Defence Campaign, they are confirming that revolutionary potential. Therefore it is to these workers that anti-imperialists turn to build a mass anti-imperialist movement that will make common cause with the Irish people against both the British imperialist ruling class and its agents in the working class. Yet the RCP-IFM guide does not even mention their existence!

Small wonder that when it comes to the way forward in Britain all the RCP-IFM can say is this:

'Only if the case for Irish freedom is presented in a direct and compelling way will the present consensus around imperialist policies be broken.' (p79)

Having harnessed themselves to the most backward section of the British working class, the RCP-IFM can only offer this banal evangelicalism as 'anti-imperialist' strategy!

It would require a review as long as this guide to rehearse all the stupidities and inaccuracies of this production. For stupidity the claim that Ken Livingstone, in inviting Sinn Fein leaders to London, was pursuing the policy laid down by Merlyn Rees (p75) ranks a clear winner. Inaccuracies such as the remark that the present round of shoot-to-kill operations 'claimed 10 lives within weeks of Sinn Fein's success in the October 1982 Assembly elections' (p26, by p47 it becomes 11 'within weeks') abound. In fact these murders took place over a period of four months from 11 November 1982. This guide is, in short, a shabby shoddy typical middle class socialist effort. Avoid both it and the RCP-IFM which spawned it.

Terry Marlowe

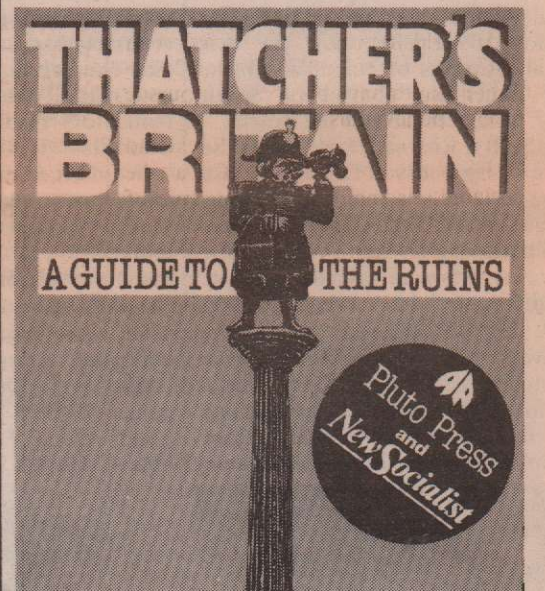
■ **Thatcher's Britain – A Guide to the Ruins.** New Socialist/Pluto Press 1983. £1.50

This book is written by Labour Party researchers purporting to highlight the misery of Tory Britain. It is full of facts and figures detailing the attacks on working class living standards from 1979 onwards. The year the Tories came to power.

The obvious fact that the Tories' attacks on the National Health Service, on social services, on trade union rights, are a continuation of the last Labour government's policies is notably omitted. The main emphasis of the book is to show that Thatcher's policies are destroying British industry and the British nation, and that only Labour has the interests of the whole British nation at heart. It is a book written by the Labour aristocracy for the Labour aristocracy and their middle-class socialist hangers-on.

When it comes to the oppressed, those who are actually engaged in a struggle against imperialism, this book, like the Labour Party, offers nothing.

On Northern Ireland the Tory government is said to have been a disaster for the people there. The PTA and the Emergency Powers Act are said to have restricted(!) civil liberties and proved largely ineffective against terrorism, the Labour aristocracy's label for freedom fighters. The authors state that 'since 1979, seven people, including four children under the age of sixteen, have been killed with the plastic bullets sanctioned by the government.' The authors' contempt for the oppressed is expressed in that statement, they couldn't even be bothered to check the facts to find out that nine people have been murdered by plastic bullets in Northern Ireland since 1979. The first person murdered by a plastic bullet in the north of Ireland was Stephen Geddis aged 10 on 30 August 1975, murdered by a Labour government sanctioned plastic bullet. The racist, anti-Irish PTA was introduced by a Labour government in 1974. Labour throughout its history has vied with the Tories to see who could be the best defenders of British imperialist interests in the north of Ireland.



On racism, the British Nationality Act introduced by the Tories in 1981 is condemned as being racist and sexist. Nothing is mentioned of the fact that it was based on a Green Paper produced by the last Labour government. The racist and inhuman forced splitting up of black families has certainly increased under a Tory government, but it was a Labour government that first refused Anwar Ditta's children the right to live with their parents. It was Labour governments that passed the racist immigration laws of 1965 and 1968 and implemented the 1971 Act throughout its term of office.

The record of the present Tory government and the previous Labour government concerning South Africa are almost exactly the same. The last Labour government refused to impose sanctions on South Africa, refused to force industries in which the government had majority shares even to recognise black trade unions and it refused to terminate the notorious Tony Benn contract with Rio Tinto Zinc for uranium from Namibia. The Tories are condemned for flouting the United Nations mandatory arms embargo by allowing the export of a Plessey mobile radar system, and by approving an IMF loan to South Africa of £622 million. In 1976 the Labour government flouted the UN mandatory arms embargo and allowed the export of a Marconi communications system to the South African Armaments Board; in 1976 the Labour government approved an IMF loan to South Africa!

All of this of course is not mentioned in 'Thatcher's Britain'; to do so would expose the real nature of the Labour Party as an out-and-out racist pro-imperialist party. A party with no intention at all of fighting for the interests of the oppressed in Ireland, South Africa or Britain.

'Thatcher's Britain' is in reality a condemnation of the Labour Party; the only lesson to be drawn from reading it is the necessity to work to build an organisation of a new type in Britain. An anti-imperialist movement that will be the ruination of both Tory and Labour.

Robert Barry

REAGAN HYSTERICAL - CUBA DEFIANT

In an outburst of frustrated rage at the advancing tide of revolution in Central America and the Caribbean US President Reagan ranted that Cuba was a 'new fascist regime'. The venue for this new pinnacle in Reagan's formidable imbecility was the 20th May 81st anniversary celebration of the founding of US neocolonial rule in Cuba (an event celebrated by British imperialism in Kipling's invitation to the Yankees to 'Take up the White Man's Burden'.) Reagan's audience consisted of the remnants of the counter-revolutionary gangs that fled Cuba upon the 1959 revolution. Inspired by his leader, Barry Goldwater, Chairman of the US Senate Intelligence Committee, called for a US invasion of Cuba which he said 'ought to be the fifty-first state'. It insults our prehistoric ancestors to describe Reagan and Goldwater as having caveman mentalities: they have rocks where others have brains.

If the Cubans were fascists and not communists the US Government would be falling over itself to ply them with dollars, weapons and advisers, as it does throughout Latin America, Israel and South Africa and everywhere that a hand stained red with the blood of oppressed people reaches out for its reward. Reagan claimed that young Cubans are 'pressed into the military and sent to faraway lands'. In truth more Cubans volunteer to help their Angolan comrades resist the racist South African onslaught on their revolution than can be taken. It is the US imperialists who have over 1500 overseas bases and, according to US News and World Report, 'On no fewer than 282 occasions since World War 2, US armed forces have been used to pursue foreign policy aims'.

It was as an economist that Rockhead Reagan surpassed himself. 'Cuba', he declared, 'is rapidly becoming one of the most economically backward countries of the region thanks to the communist system'. Such powers of analysis disregard the fact that Cuba's economy has grown at twice the rate of almost all other Latin American countries since 1959. Furthermore the benefits of this effort are shared by the whole people and are not stolen by tiny elites as they are in Reagan's favoured states. Before the revolution Cuban peasants had no land, a third of the workforce were unemployed and a sixth of the people were held in illiteracy. Today in Cuba those in higher education have multiplied fifteen-fold since 1959, unemployment and poverty are eradicated and life expectancy has grown by twenty years with a health service to rival that of the best in the world.

This is despite having to channel valuable resources into defence to keep the imperialist predators at bay. It is in the glittering rubbish heap of US capitalism which Reagan now sits astride that there are thirteen million unemployed including half the black youth. Where families are forced to sell their possessions and drift like nomads from town to town searching for work, selling their blood to pay for petrol, sleeping in their cars and waking up to a desperate American nightmare of two million homeless and thirty two million living below the poverty line. In the midst of New York's gaudy splendour there is a special telephone number for help to those suffering from hunger; restaurant garbage is gobbled up in minutes!

Astonishing lies

In the melodramatic style that befits a Hollywood B-movie actor, Reagan said he spoke in the name of the values of god, family, freedom and justice. It will not have worried the select pack of gangsters that watched him that this would-be crusader intends the US to spend over a billion dollars a day on weapons for the next five years, while reclassifying ketchup as a vegetable to cut school meal costs. In a pitiful

example of US ruling class values the government has thoughtfully issued instructions to welfare workers on how to deal with the thousands of disabled people who threaten to commit suicide now that their disability benefits have

been withdrawn. State statistics on disabled suicides are not kept!

Continuing with his astonishing contempt for the truth, which is the hallmark of a true capitalist, and which is why he is where he is, Reagan had the gall to accuse Cuba of promoting the US drug trade and crime. Unlike the pre-revolutionary days of Cuba, which Reagan fondly recalled, drug addiction, prostitution and racial discrimination no longer exist in Cuba, and violent crime is seldom known. In the misery of US capitalism drug dealing is the second largest industry, with profits that bribe and finance high officers of state, who care not a jot about the droves of addicts who furnish the incumbents with luxury. The land is awash with pornography; teams of scientists and engineers devise lewd video games that are marketed by giant corporations, and every six minutes say the FBI, a woman

is raped in the USA! In Reagan's own capital city there is a murder every fifty hours. The *New York Post* called murder 'An American Sport' and the *Sunday Times* observed that many city mortuaries are not big enough to take the number of corpses coming in. This is capitalism stripped of its lies: an inferno fuelled with the hopes and lives of millions of working and oppressed people.

The Cuban people have given their own reply to Reagan. They reminded those in his audience who took part in the 1961 Bay of Pigs fiasco that now, as then, 'only iron and fire are waiting for them'. They also warned the US of deploying its own forces: 'More Yankee soldiers and officers would find their tomb in our sacred soil than died in the Second World War'.

Trevor Rayne

Nicaragua

On three fronts the Sandinista revolution is being assailed by US organised counter-revolutionaries. In the north, from across the Honduran border, 3,000 ex-Somoza National Guards organised in the FDN (Nicaraguan Democratic Forces) are attempting to establish footholds in the provinces of Nueva Segovia and Zelaya. In the south, from sanctuaries in Costa Rica, ARDE (Democratic Revolutionary Alliance) is attacking towns and villages. President Reagan describes these bandits, popularly known as 'contras', as 'freedom fighters'. He and his cohorts depict the FDN and ARDE as the representatives of Nicaragua's popular masses revolting against Sandinista tyranny! Just a glance at their credentials, however, reveals these outfits to be bourgeois counter-revolutionaries stamped with the trade-mark 'Made In USA'. They are composed of groupings of dispossessed capitalists, Somoza torturers and petit-bourgeois malcontents whose bourgeois ambitions were thwarted by the Nicaraguan workers and peasants. They are united together and have become willing instruments of US imperialism in the hope that a restoration of imperialist influence in Nicaragua will also restore to themselves the privileges and wealth confiscated by the Sandinista revolution and handed to the working masses.



'We don't want war but we're prepared to defend our peace' - April demonstration

The FDN is led by one Edgar Chamorro a businessman and representative of the wealthy Pellas family. It is based in Miami, USA, and most of its political leaders are also businessmen. Its military command is dominated by eight long-serving National Guardsmen. In the political and military leadership of the FDN one can find a former Coca-cola

factory manager, a former Somoza Vice-president, a former leader of COSEP (a capitalist business organisation), former National Guard colonels, military attachés and rightwing intellectuals. The FDN's money and military equipment comes from the CIA - M60s, bazookas, mortars, machine guns, right down to boots. For two years they were trained

and organised in Honduras by CIA agents and their operations today are directed entirely by the CIA and other US agents, headed by the US ambassador to Honduras Mr Negroonte. This agglomeration of dispossessed capitalists and defeated National Guardsmen is filled with hatred for the progressive measures taken by the Sandinista revolution. They call for the reversal of the revolution's land reform, the return of property confiscated from Somoza and the release of imprisoned national guards. They also denounce the immensely successful Sandinista literacy programme as a 'Marxist-Leninist plot'. It is hardly surprising that Reagan, the representative of the US capitalist class regards these minions as 'freedom fighters'! ARDE on the other hand is composed of petit-bourgeois malcontents who could not stomach the Sandinista revolution's solidarity with Cuba and the socialist camp and who cringe with fear and hatred at the prospect of Nicaragua's workers and peasants completely destroying capitalism and the bourgeois class in Nicaragua. ARDE's main leader, Eden Pastora, one-time Sandinista now a renegade and traitor, has repeatedly denounced the revolution for 'becoming communist'. Initially claiming to be absolutely opposed to the FDN, ARDE has now made an alliance with them and is receiving money and arms from the CIA.

It is hardly surprising, therefore, that these counter-revolutionaries who are attempting to re-establish the rule of imperialism and its local bourgeois puppets in Nicaragua have failed to win any support from the Nicaraguan masses. Despite numerous boasts and great assistance from imperialism, their attacks have been driven back again and again, and they have failed to gain any footholds whatsoever. Imperialism will, however, redouble its efforts. It cannot tolerate the existence of a revolutionary government in Central America whose example of progress and democracy is an inspiration to peoples throughout Central and Latin America and the world as a whole. The people of Nicaragua are now facing their most severe challenge from US imperialism. They are however confident of ultimate victory. They taught Somoza a lesson and they will teach the same lesson to his successors in the FDN and ARDE.

Eddie Abrahams

IN BRIEF

● Chile - national day of protest

As we approach the 10th anniversary of the US-engineered military coup, the Chilean working class has forcibly reminded US imperialism and its puppet dictator General Pinochet, that it will not forever submit to the bloody terror and mass impoverishment of the last 10 years. On 11 May, thousands of Chilean workers participated in a national day of protest. The most militant were in the working class districts of Santiago where barricades of burning tyres were thrown up at crossroads as hundreds of youth engaged the police in fighting. The police, using teargas, water-cannon and guns, killed a 15 year old student, a 22 year old worker and arrested over 300 people. Substantial numbers of Chile's middle classes also joined the protests that day. Three days later, Chilean police raided Santiago's working class districts, herded all adult males into a football ground and detained 200.

Repression and mass detentions cannot halt the slow but sure revival of the Chilean working class movement. Chile's crumbling economy, indebted to imperialist banks to the tune of \$18bn, is driving thousands of families into direst poverty. Unemployment stands at 30% and in working class ghettos mothers scavenge in dustbins and beg in the streets to feed their children. National income has fallen by 14% in one year. In Santiago over 300,000 families have had either electricity or water cut off as they cannot pay their bills whilst hundreds of thousands more live permanently without running water or electricity. An unemployed carpenter asks 'Do you know what it is like to hear a child cry and not have any food to give her?' These conditions will get worse as the Pinochet regime has just negotiated a \$900m loan from the IMF on condition that it further cuts working class living standards. In the face of these conditions and a tyranny which equals in barbarity the regimes of El Salvador and Guatemala, the Chilean working class is raising the banner of revolt.

Whilst ready to employ the bloodiest repression against the working class, US imperialism and its puppets are seriously concerned at the loss of middle class support, a long-time prop of the brutal military regime. The US Ambassador, James Thelberge, is therefore pressing for a 'democratisation' which would permit the formation of an official opposition of bourgeois politicians and opportunist trade union leaders. Holding out the illusion of democracy to the middle classes and a small section of relatively privileged workers based in the copper (Chile's principal export) industry, imperialism hopes to isolate and destroy the reviving revolutionary working class movement in Chile.

Such schemes, however, are doomed. The vast masses of Chilean people know from bitter experience that there can be no democracy and no progress emerging from a regime founded on the blood and bones of 40,000 murdered Chilean workers, peasants and democrats. The working masses will rally to the revolutionary banner which began to unfurl on 11 May!

Eddie Abrahams

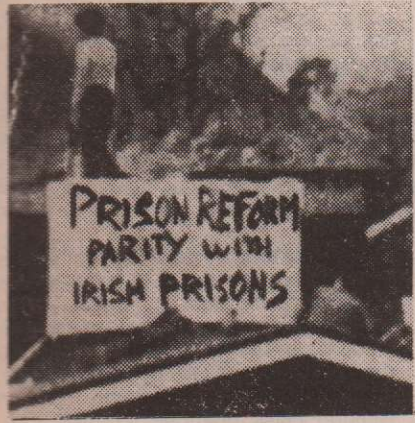
● El Salvador

US imperialism and its lackeys in El Salvador have suffered a number of heavy blows over the past month. On 25 May, an urban commando unit of the FPL (Popular Liberation Forces), a constituent organisation of the FMLN, executed US Commander Schaufelberger, in San Salvador. Schaufelberger was deputy leader of the US military Group which is training and advising El Salvadorean government troops. He was the first US soldier killed in El Salvador, and the FPL said in a statement that US military personnel will now be targets unless they are withdrawn. 24 hours earlier, FMLN forces destroyed a key bridge on the Pan-American Highway 50 miles from San Salvador killing 44 of the 80 soldiers defending it. Following Schaufelberger's execution, FMLN forces in Morazan overran an important government military communication centre on the Cagua-tique volcano where in five days of fighting they killed or wounded 399 government soldiers. Then in the first week of June, FMLN soldiers destroyed another communications base on top of the Charparra-tique volcano in San Miguel.

Eddie Abrahams

Albany Prison Protest

The Albany roof-top protest began on Friday 20 May when 10 prisoners took to the roof following a MUFTI (Minimum Use of Force Tactical Intervention) squad attack. The protest ended at noon on Wednesday 25 May when the 7 remaining prisoners - Eddie O'Neill (Irish POW), Paul Norney (Irish POW), Anthony Clarke (Irish POW), Stephen Blake (Irish POW), Fahad Mihi (Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine - General Command), Michael Jamieson and Vincent Brown - voluntarily and peacefully came down from the roof. During the protest the gutters of Fleet Street ran with filth - 'Killers on the Roof' 'Baby-faced butcher' etc - but the truth about the protest and the longstanding fight of prisoners for their elementary democratic rights was suppressed.



The protest began when 14 men refused to continue sewing mail bags. The newly-arrived Governor, Peter Meech, fined them between 60p and £1 from the pittance they get for their labour. But Meech reckoned without the growing solidarity and resistance of the prisoners. 114 prisoners went on strike. Meech confident that brutality, protected by the Home Office and the cowardly British media, would suppress the protest unleashed the infamous MUFTI squad. The MUFTI thugs injured at least 5 prisoners - 1 had to have 7 stitches to a scalp wound and 8 to an injury of the right eye. But the brutal MUFTI attack failed because 10 prisoners smashed their way through to the roof. And once again prisoners, through their own determination and sacrifice, cast a public spotlight on the barbarism and inhumanity of the British prison system.

By Sunday 24 May 3 of the prisoners - William Baldock, Charles McGhee and Peter Knight - had gone down. The 7 who continued the protest conducted a running propaganda campaign by making their own banners. When Home Secretary Whitelaw rejected Owen Carron's offer of medi-

ation the prisoners quickly replied 'Willie Whitelaw electioneers with prisoners lives'. They made their demands clear calling for parity of conditions with prisons in the Six Counties and repatriation for Irish POWs. Their internationalism was displayed by a banner condemning Zionism. Throughout, other prisoners managed to evade prison officer patrols and, risking further punishment for themselves, smuggled food and other supplies up to the roof. This courageous solidarity is testimony to the developing resistance in the prisons.

Gradually it became clear that the Home Office was planning a vicious attack in which the 7 would be seriously injured if not killed. An SAS squad was prepared and statements issued to the ever-compliant press about prisoners storing 'weapons' etc. The press also helped out by running stories about 'terrorists' 'convicted murderers' etc to prepare public opinion for an onslaught on the prisoners. The Home Office issued a thinly-veiled threat

'At this stage we don't want to do anything which could cause unnecessary injury or death.' (our emphasis)



Paul Norney

However, on Wednesday 25 May at 9.30am the prisoners put up a banner stating that the protest would end at noon. This move deprived the Home Office and its prison thugs of any excuse for assaulting the prisoners. The prisoners also said that their demands would be released to the press. These demands have not yet been made public, such is the censorship operated against prisoners.

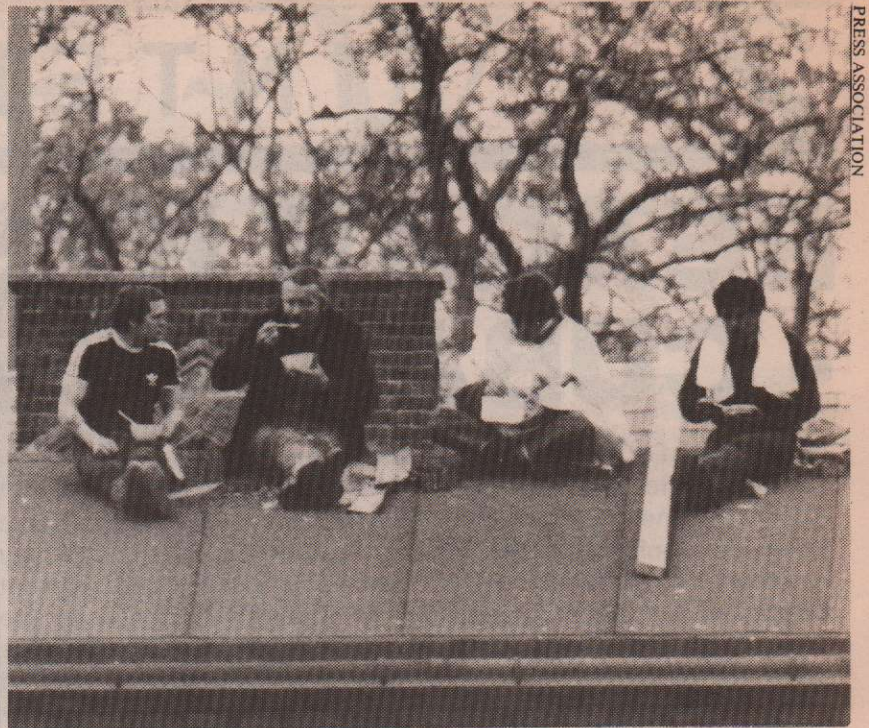
No such censorship exists for the prison officers. During the annual Prison Officers Association Conference - Roy Richardson, an Albany Prison Officer, declared that the Irish POWs

'... spread their sick brand of anarchy to impressionable, drug reliant prisoners who will do anything to pay off their debts which they owe for a drug habit fed to them by the IRA.'

This dirty slander was an attempt by the prison officers - the highly-paid hired thugs of the Home Office - to divert attention from the real issue: the prisoners' struggle for their basic democratic rights. Such poisonous filth flowed naturally into the open sewer of Fleet Street where it became front-page 'news'. It is well known, of course, that the real drug-pusher is the prison medical service which poisons prisoners with dangerous, mind-destroying drugs as a means of controlling them.

SUPPORT THE ALBANY PRISONERS

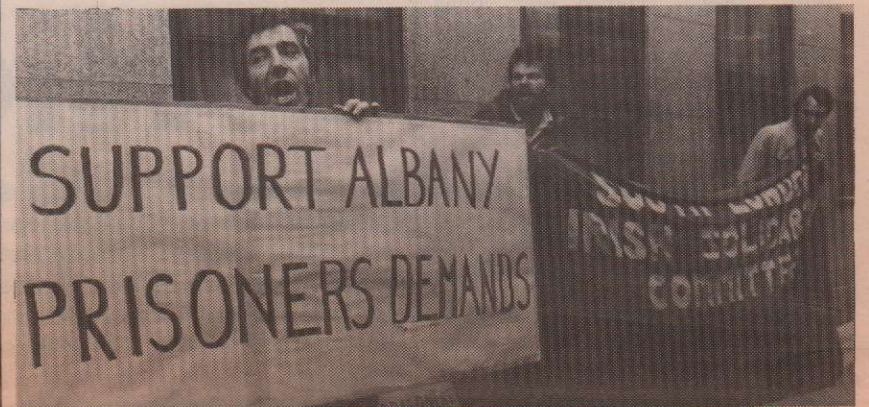
Building an Irish Solidarity Movement (BISM) responded to the prisoners' protest by calling two pickets of the Home Office on Tuesday 24 May and Thursday 26 May. The pickets demanded the immediate granting of the prisoners' demands, the abolition of the MUFTI squads and no victimisation of the prisoners. The pickets were supported by BISM, NLISC, SLISC, RCG, RCL, South London FRFI, IFM and South London TOM. The police attempted to undermine the protest by forcing the pickets across the road from the Home Office and forbidding the use of a megaphone. But the message came over loud and clear through vigorous chanting and a specially-produced leaflet. Black and Irish workers employed in the area responded with sympathy and support to the aims of the pickets. After the second picket a letter of protest jointly signed by BISM, NLISC,



SLISC, RCG, RCL, South London FRFI and South London TOM was handed in. The press, with the exception of Newsline, censored both pickets thus continuing their loyal support for the Home Office.

The Albany protest was only the latest act of resistance by prisoners to the inhuman, degrading and barbarous British prison system. It follows two national strikes - 18-20 January 1982 and 28 February-1 March 1983 - and countless other protests including the

POWs are now being used in an effort to isolate them and break up the solidarity in the prisons. But all this will fail. The fact is that the prisoners, with Irish POWs playing a prominent role, will no longer accept anything less than their rights. They have shown what is needed to defend democratic rights today. They have shown the courage, organisation, and willingness to fight that alone guarantees any rights for the working class, the poor and the oppressed. They have again exposed the treacherous and cow-



BISM picket outside the Home Office

well-known ones in Hull, Gartree, Parkhurst, Albany (1976) and Wormwood Scrubs. The Home Office's attempts to defeat the struggle of the prisoners by dispersal, isolation, MUFTI terror, punishment and censorship will undoubtedly fail. At least 130 prisoners have been moved from Albany. Information is beginning to emerge that Irish POWs and prisoners prominent in previous protests are being moved about, isolated and put on 28 day 'lie-down' - solitary confinement. Prisons never previously used for Irish

ardly Labour and trade union movement which uttered not one peep in defence of the Albany prisoners. They have exposed the lying Home Office-controlled British press. They deserve and must get the solidarity of all who genuinely defend the rights of the working class and oppressed.

SUPPORT THE PRISONERS DEMANDS!
MUFTI SQUADS OUT!
NO VICTIMISATION!
Terry Marlowe, Alan James

death sentence

The Home Office admits that in England and Wales in 1982 55 people died in police custody, the 1981 total was 49. In 1981, 22 people died from 'non-natural' causes, a category of deaths that rose to 39 in 1982. In 1970 3 people died whilst in the custody of the Metropolitan Police. In 1982 no less than 27 people died at their hands. The following are some of the deaths in custody since December 1982. FRFI will regularly report deaths in police custody and prison to help uncover the British state's murderous police and prisons.

SIMEON COLLINS

At midnight on 8 December Hackney police received a call that a man was lying on the ground in the rain and needed help. It took the police two hours to find Simeon despite the fact that the area was well lit and the police had got a second call for assistance. It was another fourteen hours before Simeon was taken into the operating theatre, by which time he had lost 4 pints of blood from internal bleeding - he died at 9.20am on 10 December. At the inquest Coroner Dr Paul refused the family's request that the jury consider the verdict of 'lack of care' and treated the distressed relatives with the complete contempt that is normal for paid agents of the state. Finally, after return-

ing twice for directions, the jury brought in a 7-2 majority verdict of accidental death. The Collins family are completely dissatisfied and they are applying for another hearing.

JAMES RUDDOCK

James Ruddock, a 44-year-old black man, was found by a passer-by in Kensington High Street on the freezing cold night of 13 February. Fearing that he might get hypothermia, the passer-by called the police.

When the police arrived they arrested James. He could not speak but only mumble. The police had to carry him. In the cell three hours later James, who also suffered from diabetes and the sickle cell trait, could still not speak.

Throughout that night the police 'did not notice' how cold James was; they only touched him with gloved hands. A doctor was finally called at 10am the next day and he found James to be 'in urgent need of hospital treatment'. James Ruddock died in hospital some weeks later as a result of hypothermia. At the inquest the family were outraged by the verdict of 'natural causes attributed to self-neglect'.

DENNIS RILEY

On 17 February Dennis, aged 50, died in the cells beneath Knightsbridge Crown Court whilst in the custody of prison officers from Brixton. At 2.30pm his brother Terence called out to the screws that Dennis was suffering chest pains. Not until 3.30pm did a prison 'hospital officer' check Dennis and found him 'obviously very unwell'. The police surgeon Dr Carne did not arrive in the vicinity of the court until 3.45pm and he took another 20 minutes to park his car. The screws did not call an ambulance until 4.05pm, one and a half hours after the first call for help. Dennis was dead on arrival at Westminster Hospital. The pathologist reported to the inquest the cause of death as cardiac arrest. In reply to Terence's question whether Dennis would still be alive if he had had hospital treatment for the heart attack the pathologist said, 'the chances of being

'brought back to life', so to speak, would have been much greater.' The callous screws were responsible for the death of Dennis Riley. The inquest found that he died of natural causes.

OLIVER CLAIRMONTE

There is a history of hostility from the security guards at Stoneborough Shopping Centre in Maidstone to local youth. On 19 February Oliver Clairmonte was waiting for his girlfriend when the guards fought him and pinned him to the ground. They called the police who took Oliver away. Within one hour of his arrival at the police station Oliver was dead - according to the police hung by his knotted underpants from a loose wall bracket in the cell. After the inquest the family stated 'We are deeply concerned at the death of our son at a time in his life when he had everything to live for.'

MATTHEW PAUL

At 2pm on Friday 6 May homeless 18-year old Matthew Paul died in Leman Street police station in the East End. The police say they found Matthew hanging by his own jumper from the cell door. This was the second time in a week that Matthew had been detained for questioning. A spokesman for the Saxon Youth Club made it clear to the press that Matthew was a happy youth and 'It wasn't the sort of thing he would

do'. Then who did? The police investigation in preparation for the inquest is being led by Commander Taylor, Head of the Scotland Yard Complaints Bureau, and therefore a well experienced cover-up merchant.

NICHOLAS OFUSU

Nicholas Ofusu died in handcuffs on the floor of the charge room in Rotherhithe police station, South London. On the evening of Saturday 14 May the police raided the Ofusu's home. Three police fought Nicholas, a Ghanaian, and took him away. He died later that same evening. In characteristic fashion Chief Superintendent Ponsford, Head of Southwark Division, told the press that the police deemed Nicholas to be of 'unsound mind'. They would.

DAVID MCKAY

David McKay was a 38-year-old black man held on remand in Brixton prison. On the night of Saturday 21 May he is supposed to have hung himself. The inquest into David McKay's death, like that of Nicholas Ofusu, will be held in Southwark Coroner's Court which is presided over by a Dr Arthur Gordon Davies. A name to be remembered - it was he who conducted the Great New Cross Massacre Cover Up (see FRFI 10).

Andy Goddard

26 COUNTIES REPRESSION

In the last few weeks the neo-colonial regime in the 26 counties has intensified attacks on the Republican movement.

● In Cobh, on 18 April, four anti-H Block activists and two local Sinn Fein members were arrested in their homes by the Garda Special Branch. They were detained in the notorious Bridewell Jail for 36 hours. They were questioned intensively about their political work before being released. Papers and books were seized at their homes and not given back.

● In Limerick on 21 May five Sinn Fein supporters were arrested and held in the local Garda barracks for 36 hours. Another person arrested the following day was held for 8 hours. All were threatened, insulted and offered bribes. None of them succumbed to this intimidation which resulted in 4 of them being physically assaulted. One of these 4, Niall Burns, received a heavy beating which left almost his entire body covered in bruises.

● Shortly after the Easter commemoration in Islandeady, Co Mayo, the Task Force arrested 5 Sinn Fein members. Among them was Paddy Bolger, National organiser of Sinn Fein and Dermot Whelan, head of the education department, who was held for 20 hours. Task Force thugs then raided the home of Joe McHale, a republican, who was recently released from Portlaoise prison and who had given press interviews exposing the bad conditions inside the jail and the maltreatment of republicans there.

● On 7 May a member of Liberties Sinn Fein was arrested in Dublin and kept for 20 hours in the Bridewell. She was fingerprinted, photographed and then released without charge. Two days after this she was then detained and harassed in the street! Also in Dublin, Sinn Fein community worker Christy Burke was stopped and questioned four times in 48 hours. On one occasion he was abused by Special Branch heavies who refused to show their ID badges and who then ransacked Christy's car, ripping out its inside panels. On 6 May 2 Sinn Fein newspaper vendors were arrested while selling *An Phoblacht/Republican News*. They were detained all night in the Bridewell and then released without charge.

However, the most serious of all the

Garda attacks took place on 27 April when a force of twenty officers barged their way into a house in Drumcondra Dublin. They arrested eight leading members of Sinn Fein including Paddy Bolger, regional organisers and central committee members. The Garda broke up a meeting which had been called to discuss plans for the 1984 local government elections and future EEC elections. One of the tenants of the house, who wasn't even taking part in the meeting, was also arrested. All 9 were charged under Section 20 of the offences against the State Act and were taken in handcuffs to the Bridewell. (You could be forgiven for thinking the Bridewell deals only with republican election workers.) Two days later they were charged with being members of the IRA. But they were not interrogated much - the police just spent their time bawling insults at them. Not one shred of evidence was brought against them and five defendants have subsequently been acquitted.

They all experience this kind of harassment regularly though. The Garda arrest Martin Ferris nearly every week and have arrested Paddy Bolger no less than 4 times in the last 6 weeks. As for Noel McLoughlin, he had already been arrested on 26 April, released in the afternoon of 27 April and then re-arrested that night in the Drumcondra raid.

It is clear, therefore, that the Garda has stepped up harassment to try to frighten people away from the growing Sinn Fein and to interfere with its community work amongst the oppressed of Dublin's inner city. Most importantly, the police are trying to hinder Sinn Fein's preparations for future election campaigns. The corrupt, pro-British 'Free State' ruling class is most alarmed at Sinn Fein's recent electoral successes in the occupied Six Counties of the north. The growth of the Republican movement in the south poses a major threat to the neo-colonial puppets in Leinster House.

Gerald Johnson

FAIRY TALES FROM SCOTLAND YARD

THE 'JACKAL BITES BACK'

A MODERN MYTH

Sequel to 'The Bald Eagle'

In the run-up to the General Election as they attempted to bolster reaction and anti-Irish sentiment, the British ruling-class launched yet another one of their 'IRA terror' plots. On Thursday 27 May, Scotland Yard, aided by its hysterical lackeys the British press, launched an 'IRA Jackal' (no doubt brother to the Bald Eagle) terror scare. Apparently, an IRA hit squad, Sean O'Callaghan (the Jackal) aided by his associate John Downey, had entered Britain with plans to assassinate a leading British politician. All the leading members of each party were given armed Special Branch detectives to 'guard' and 'protect' them. 'THE TERROR GUARDIANS' the *Standard* screamed. 'JENKINS TARGET OF IRA JACKAL' yelled the *Daily Mail*. Scotland Yard fed out the 'facts', the press gobbled them up with glee.

But on Sunday 29 May they were all in for a shock. Sean O'Callaghan, the

'Jackal' turned up in Tralee, Co Kerry, had been there for weeks and even had his photo taken holding the Mail with its Jackal headline! He said, 'The whole thing is hilarious. I regard it as nothing more than an election ploy on the part of the British.' Scotland Yard denied his appearance at first, then said they were 'studying reports'.

Their embarrassment was even greater the next day when John Downey turned up in Ballyshannon, Co Donegal. He had been seen drawing his dole there on the day Scotland Yard issued the scare and he said he'd never been in England in his life nor did he even know Sean O'Callaghan!

Needless to say, the gutter press did not have front page headlines on this development - their lies had been exposed! Scotland Yard retreated to their hideaway to think up new stories! Pauline Sellars.

NICKY KELLY ENDS HUNGER STRIKE

After 38 days, Nicky Kelly, an IRSP member, ended his hunger strike on 7 June. Sentenced to 12 years in prison by Dublin courts for a 1976 mail train robbery he had no part in, Nicky Kelly exhausted all legal channels to gain his freedom. Two other IRSP members convicted with him were released after the IRA claimed the robbery. The Dublin appeal courts ruled statements extracted from them by torture as inadmissible. Nicky Kelly, who had jumped bail, then returned to Ireland to also clear his name. He was thrown into gaol and in 1982 the Supreme Court turned down his appeal.

During the hunger strike national and international support grew rapidly. In Ireland a vigorous nationwide campaign of protest and pickets took place. In Britain, the Irish Solidarity Committees along with the IRSP and TOM picketed Ireland House and supported a 24 hour vigil outside the Irish Embassy. Manchester ISC organised daily pickets outside the Irish Tourist Office. Elsewhere ISCs held street meetings demanding Nicky's release and produced special bulletins and leaflets.

The campaign to free Nicky Kelly will continue. In Britain ISCs will continue campaigning until he is released. Eddie Abrahams

BISM CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETS

On Sunday 12 June the Co-ordinating Committee for building an Irish Solidarity Movement met in London. 24 delegates and observers attended from Edinburgh, Glasgow, Liverpool, Manchester, Bristol, Hemel Hempstead and London. 2 delegates also attended from the newly-formed Southampton ISC.

The main discussion centred on the unity campaign and endorsed the call for a united demonstration on the 3 demands put forward by the Albany POWs to take place on 1 October and to be followed by a unity conference. Invitations to take part in the building of a united demonstration and conference have gone out to TOM, IFM, Sinn Fein and all other interested organisations. All delegates and observers pledged themselves to continue fighting for unity both locally and nationally.

Local reports covered vigorous election interventions in all areas, pickets and other protests in support of Nicky Kelly and other local activity. An example from Edinburgh ISC was their intervention at a mass CND demonstration with banners saying 'No more Nagasakis! No more Bloody Sundays!' and 'Britain out of NATO! Britain out of Ireland!' They got great support from many youth on the march.



IN BRIEF

● Commando harassment

The brave men of the Royal Marine Commandos on a three month 'tour' of South Armagh are still using the same methods. Following the report of 'Green Berets' in FRFI 29 there have been a number of other incidents involving the Commandos.

On 10 May 21 year old Noel White was stopped in his car just 50 yards from his home by the Commandos. The foot patrol began removing panels from his car and generally harassing White. This caused a number of people to gather round the car and the Commandos demanded their names and addresses. After about 30 minutes Noel moved towards the door of the car to open it for his mother. For this the Marine Commando struck him in the face with his rifle butt, fracturing his jaw and cutting his face and lips. Noel said 'I remember vaguely someone turning me on my side because blood was going down my throat and then the local doctor arriving and taking me to the Health Centre in Crossmaglen.' White was later released from the Health Centre.

The next day an *AP/RN* photographer and driver who went to cover the story were arrested by the Marine Commandos and held for over an hour.

Alan James

● Death threats

Following the murders of IRA volunteers Geraise McKerr, Sean Burns and Eugene Toman by the RUC at a roadblock in Lurgan last November, they have now issued death threats to three other Lurgan Republicans who have recently been released from Long Kesh.

Noel Quinn, released in 1981 after serving a 10 year sentence, was asked to become an informer before his release. Having refused, Quinn was re-arrested on the day of his release and held for a further five months before the charges against him were dropped.

In August last year Quinn and Sean Coleman, who had also just been released from Long Kesh, were arrested by the Lurgan RUC and told that they would be shot.

The RUC have made no secret of their intent to murder Quinn. Many local people who have been arrested and interrogated have been told that they will 'do Quinn one way or another'. The third Republican to be told by the RUC that they are going to murder him is Sean McCann. McCann, who was released from Long Kesh in November last year, was arrested on May 3 and taken to Gough Barracks. During the interrogation the RUC 'started to get really angry. It was then that they started making the first threats about shooting me' said McCann. After making references to their murder of Geraise McKerr the RUC said 'you're going first, Coleman is going next and then Quinn. And if we get the three of you together in one car we'll shoot the whole fucking lot of you'.

The RUC later dismissed the death threats as 'hypocritical'. In the light of the shoot-to-kill policy operated by the RUC/ British Army which has led to the murder of Republicans since November last year, the threats against Quinn, McCann and Coleman must be taken seriously.

Alan James

● Fools Forum

The opening session of the unelected New Ireland Forum took place in Dublin on 30 May. Only the pro-imperialist Fianna Fail, Fine Gael and Irish Labour Party attended from the 26 Counties and the pro-imperialist middle-class SDLP from the 6 Counties. Loyalists from the 6 Counties refused to attend, and despite their boycott of the opening session, invitations to them were renewed. This eagerness to involve the Loyalist parties whose death squads collaborate with British forces to try and suppress the nationalist people is a stark reminder of the reactionary character of this New Ireland Forum. Sinn Fein and the organisations of the Irish working class have been excluded.

Frank Coughlan

INFORMERS

There are two developments in the British use of informers against the nationalist community in the occupied Six Counties of Ireland.

The Christopher Black trial has concluded after 88 days and the final judgement is expected at the end of June. During the trial Black was in the dock of Belfast Crown Court for more than three weeks in January and gave evidence implicating 38 men and women in 182 charges. These people have already spent long periods on remand and face long gaol sentences if the non-jury Diplock Court accepts the uncorroborated evidence in which his RUC 'handlers' have schooled him. In return for his betrayal of his community Black has been granted immunity from prosecution and is understood to be living at a secret address in Britain but will be 'on the run' from revolutionary justice for the rest of his life.

The case of alleged INLA informer Harry Kirkpatrick illustrates the depths

to which the British state will sink in its manipulation of a person in order to pursue their tactic of a maximum number of arrests on the minimum possible evidence. During his trial Kirkpatrick's defence lawyer and the judge were at pains to paint Kirkpatrick as full of remorse for his INLA activities and a reformed character on the basis of the fact that only his own evidence connected him with any of the 77 offences he had been charged with. Nothing could be further from the truth. From previous informers it is clear that his confession is a result of Kirkpatrick having 'broken' under RUC interrogation. The extent to which Kirkpatrick has been psychologically manipulated by his RUC handlers can be judged from the fact that before the trial began he wrote letters to his wife and mother

REPUBLICAN NEWS



Crumlin Road Court - where informers sell their information

saying he regarded his relationship with both of them to be over. He also dismissed his solicitors.

The Kirkpatrick case represents a new turn in the informer tactic. Informers Bobby Brown and Jackie Goodman had retracted their statements which had been extracted by the RUC on the basis of cash payments and immunity from prosecution. However in order to forestall such a retraction Kirkpatrick was put on trial and sentenced to 22

years imprisonment after pleading guilty to all charges. Kirkpatrick will only get his reward when he has testified against the IRSP men he has implicated in his statements. He has applied to serve his sentence in an English prison and with a deal between the RUC, the Director of Public Prosecutions in Belfast and the Attorney-General's office in London this could result in him being released after 10 years.

Frank Coughlan

Round-up

● Glasgow police attack SRSP

On Friday 13 May, Glasgow police arrested 5 people under the PTA. Four were released after a few hours, but David Dinsmore the National Secretary of the Scottish Republican Socialist Party was held for 2 days and then remanded in custody on trumped up charges of parcel-bombing. The police, using the PTA, struck again on Tuesday 17 May when they arrested Donald Anderson, National Organiser of the SRSP, an SRSP activist and an Irish youth. All three were held for 2 1/2 days and subjected to non-stop interrogation and then released.

These arrests have not passed without protest. Immediately after the first set of arrests, the SRSP and GIFAC launched a campaign to secure their immediate release. On Sunday 15 May a picket was held outside Stewart Street police station where David Dinsmore was being held. Supported by the SRSP, GIFAC and the RCG, the picket was attacked by the police 10 minutes after it began. They arrested Michael Duffield for taking photographs of the picket—which the police now claim is a breach of the peace! A few minutes later they arrested Alexander Mathers for protesting at Mike's arrest. Both were held overnight. GIFAC will be campaigning for the dropping of the charges and messages of solidarity and donations can be sent to GIFAC, Box 27, 488 Great

Western Road, Glasgow, Scotland. Protests should be rushed to The Procurator Fiscal, Clyde Street, Glasgow, Scotland.

The David Dinsmore Defence Committee is also conducting a campaign to secure David's release and the dropping of the charges against him (see letters page). For further information contact DDDC, Box 15, 488 Great Western Road, Glasgow, Scotland.

● Shepherds Bush Three not guilty!

After being twice postponed, the obstruction charges against the Shepherds Bush Three were heard and dismissed on 10 June at Marylebone Magistrates Court. The 3 West London Irish Solidarity Committee members were arrested while petitioning and leafleting on 12 February (see FR27, FR28). Once again a deal was offered by the police to drop the charges if the defendants agreed to be bound over. Again it was turned down.

The evidence of PCs Murphy and McClelland was concocted, accusing the three of forcing 'pamphlets' on passers by, and hindering one particular 'elderly coloured gentleman'. Despite the effort, police stories were contradictory as to events. The democratic right to freedom of speech was clearly asserted from the dock by the defendants. The two magistrates took two minutes to return a not guilty verdict. Thirteen of the sixteen London ISC members arrested since May 1982 have now been acquitted. The WLISC is now pressing for a police apology and assurances that police harassment against the WLISC will stop.

Niall Power

● Tyneside Action Committee on Ireland

Over the period of 6-12 May, the Tyneside Action Committee on Ireland made a short visit to Belfast and Derry. The visit was part of the Tyneside Action Committee emphasis of taking people to Ireland to see at first hand for themselves the reality of the situation there. Councillor Nigel Todd (now prospective Labour Party parliamentary candidate) had meetings with both IRSP and Sinn Fein, as well as relatives of prisoners and victims of British repression.

Councillor Todd was witness to several incidents and petty harassments by the Security Forces

and the Army's attempt to disrupt the speeches made at the commemoration for the hunger-strikers who have died in the present phase of Ireland's fight for freedom.

Another visit will be made at a future date; anyone interested should contact Ray Sibley, c/o Porters Lodge, Newcastle University, Newcastle-Upon-Tyne.

● Edinburgh political police foiled

The Edinburgh political police moved into action against a joint Edinburgh ISC/International Solidarity Front-Iran Solidarity Evening on 19 May. When EISC and ISF supporters turned up at the Heriot-Watt University to set up the hall for a showing of the Patriot Game and speeches they were informed, 10 minutes before the meeting was due to begin, that the room booking had been cancelled. It turns out that the Edinburgh police had been in touch with the university which cancelled the meeting on technical grounds. While 2 plain clothed police stood around and compared notes with the University Secretary, EISC/ISF supporters moved fast and to arrange another venue. They succeeded. As the body of the meeting moved to the alternative venue, plain clothed police followed it and attempted to get the staff to cancel this meeting too by informing them that the Loyalist Coalition was threatening the building. This ploy failed and the meeting went ahead. It heard speakers describe the struggle of the Irish people and Iranian people and the solidarity work being done in Britain. The EISC has no doubt that the police will continue to attack its democratic rights to speak out on Ireland and engage in public activity and are mounting a vigorous campaign to ensure these rights for the All-Scotland Solidarity Weekend of Action on June 18/19.

● Stop deportation to apartheid

The case of Anwar Mahomed the South African political activist held in Manchester's Strangeways Prison awaiting deportation (see FRFI 28) took a dramatic step forward when Anwar went on total hunger and thirst strike.

Immigration officials had told Anwar that the Home Office had applied for a one-way travel docu-

ment for him from the South African Embassy. As soon as the travel document arrived Anwar would be immediately deported to South Africa.

Anwar was determined to resist this blatant collaboration between British imperialism and apartheid. On 4 May he began a total hunger and thirst strike; he said

'As far as I'm concerned, the only way they'll get me back to South Africa is in a coffin'.

FRFI supporters immediately pressed for a Defence Campaign to be organised and a mass picket of Strangeways Prison to be called. On 9 May more than 50 people picketed Strangeways Prison. Granada TV which had already reported on Anwar's imprisonment came to film the picket. After about one hour's picketing the Assistant Governor or Strangeways came out to the picket and announced that Anwar would be released that evening!

The combination of Anwar's resolute stand and hunger strike with a campaign outside prison, forced British imperialism to release Anwar. However this was not a total victory for the campaign; according to the Home Office Anwar is on 'temporary' release from prison whilst his deportation papers are finalised.

Anwar's release from prison after over a year of being incarcerated in Strangeways was a major victory for the campaign, but for Anwar to be allowed the right to remain in this country the campaign must win much wider support. The future of Anwar depends on whether people fight for him against British imperialism's racist immigration laws and its collaboration with apartheid.

All FRFI supporters active in the Anti-Apartheid Movement should win support for Anwar Mahomed and send messages of support and donations to

Anwar Mahomed Defence Campaign
c/o Manchester Anti-Apartheid
300 Oxford Road
Manchester M3 9NS
Write to the Home Secretary, Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1, demanding that Anwar be given the right to remain in Britain. Smash immigration controls! Defend Anwar Mahomed! End British collaboration with apartheid!
Robert Barry

● Labour's Foul Mouthed Contempt

Fuck off... bastards... shits... this was the 'principled' political language of Labour party canvassers in Wood Green on 4 June. They directed this abuse at North London Irish Solidarity Committee

supporters who were attacking Labour's record on Ireland.

The NLISC had planned a regular street meeting outside the Library. When we arrived we found several groups of people there already: the Labour Party, People's March for Jobs campaigners, the SDP and CND. We decided to raise the question of Labour's record both in government and in opposition. We spoke about Labour's rule of terror and repression in Ireland and went on to show how this is directly linked to its record on racism, unemployment and nuclear weapons in Britain. We called on people to look at the Labour Party's pro-imperialist deeds and not to vote for it; rather to vote instead only for those candidates who declare their support for Irish self-determination and troops out now. Despite the fact that they had a megaphone with them the Labour speaker would not discuss publicly the issues we raised. He just went on about voting Thatcher out while Labour canvassers sporadically swore at us. We collected many signatures on the 'Troops Out Now' petition from passers-by and people came up to express support for what we were saying. Then the police moved in with two 'local residents' complaining about the hellish noise from our megaphone. The police said we would be moved on if we didn't stop using it. On being reminded that the library forecourt is now a designated anti-racist/anti-sexist free speech area the police insisted that the other groups had already agreed to stop using their megaphones, so we would have to as well. The whole thing had obviously been cooked up to silence us. If we had carried on we would have been portrayed as people who wilfully go about to disturb 'exam studies' 'sleeping babies' etc.

Gerald Johnson

● Liverpool 24 hour picket goes ahead!

Support has been building up for the 24 hour picket in Liverpool on 17/18 June calling for the release of Nelson Mandela and all South African political prisoners. Originally called by Merseyside Anti-Apartheid Movement on the suggestion of Liverpool FRFI, it is now being organised by Liverpool FRFI with the support of several interested individuals, including a member of SWP. Merseyside AAM, after spending a month discussing and rediscussing their position, have withdrawn from it completely. In the end, they just did not believe that working class people, met on the streets, would support the freedom struggle in South Africa, and therefore regar-

ded the picket as a pointless exercise.

So far, support has come from Gordon Oakes (Labour MP for Widnes and Runcorn), Terry Fields (Labour MP for Broadgreen, Liverpool), Councillor John Hamilton, Labour leader on Liverpool City Council, the Student's Union at Edge Hill College, Ormskirk, and from Dave Evans, former South African political prisoner. Allan Roberts, MP for Bootle will attend the picket on Saturday. As part of the mobilisation, a successful picket of Barclay's Bank in Ormskirk took place on Wednesday 8 June, protesting against the execution of the Moroka 3. It was supported by students from Edge Hill College, in conjunction with FRFI.

Robert Clough

MARATHON SPONSORSHIP: £406.03 RAISED!

Since the results of our two FRFI Runners in the London Marathon on 17 April were published in FRFI 29 a further £239.79 has reached us bringing the total to £406.03

Overall, £84.30 was sent by individual readers and supporters in Southampton, Bristol, Middlesborough, Cleveland, Southport, Chester, Nottingham, London and Germany. The collective effort of our FRFI Supporter Groups raised: in North London £103.25, South London £70.20, Manchester £54.75, Edinburgh £33.88, Liverpool £29.05, Bradford £13, Leeds £7.20, Bristol £7.10, and Dundee £3.30.

A great effort for which we thank all sponsors - but particularly the two Runners!

Why not organise a sponsored walk in your area? Not quite as taxing as a marathon but equally productive and also enjoyable for all participants.

For sponsorship forms write to: FRFI Sponsored Walk, BCM Box 5909, London WC1N 3XX.

LEEDS BLACK AND ANTI-RACIST YOUTH DEFENCE CAMPAIGN

Pickets of the Courts Defend Michael Stewart!

Defend Paul Liburd!
Friday 17 June 9.30am
Leeds Juvenile Court
147 The Headrow Leeds.

Defend Bobby Blackman!
Wednesday 29 June 9.30am
Leeds Magistrates Court.

Defence Campaign Meeting:
Every Wednesday night
7.30pm at Leeds Trades Hall,
Saville Mount, Leeds 7

Building an Irish Solidarity Movement



FRFI pamphlet 'Building an Irish Solidarity Movement' by David Reed

25p plus 13p p&p single copies; orders of 10 copies £2.20 post free. Make all cheques/postal orders payable to Larkin Publications. Send order to Larkin Publications, BCM Box 5909, London WC1N 3XX.

Overseas orders: please pay in £Sterling or add 60p for bank charges.

Why not try and take some extra copies to sell or put in your local newsagent/bookshop? Please write to us stating how many copies you want us to send.

EVENTS

17 - 24 JUNE

● LEEDS

Picket of Court
Friday 17 June 9.30am
Leeds Juvenile Court
The Headrow
Called by Black and Anti-Racist Youth Defence Campaign

● SOUTH LONDON

Street Meeting
Saturday 18 June
Clapham Junction 1.45-3.45
Called by South London Irish Solidarity Committee

● BRADFORD

Mass Demonstration and Rally No to Slave Labour!
Called in support of Asian Textile Workers
Strike at Aire Valley Yarns Ltd
Saturday 18 June 1983
Assemble 3pm, Coal Hill Lane, Farsley
Called by Aire Valley Yarns Workers' Support Committee

● LEEDS

Public Forum
Fascists in and out of uniform
Thursday 23 June 7.30pm
Chapelton Community Centre,
Reginald Mount Leeds 7
Called by Leeds FRFI

25 JUNE - 1 JULY

● SOUTH LONDON

Street Meeting
Support Irish PoWs in English Jails
Saturday 25 June
Balham Tube, Outside Barclay's Bank
1.45-3.45
Called by South London Irish Solidarity Committee

● MANCHESTER

Public Forum
The Fightback in the Prisons
Tuesday 28 June
The Black Lion Hotel
Chapel St, Manchester
Called by Manchester FRFI

● SOUTH LONDON

Public Forum
Release Nelson Mandela!
Victory to the ANC!
Tuesday 28 June 7.30pm
Rm 5, Albany Community Centre
Douglas Way, Deptford, SE8 (New Cross/Deptford BR)
Called by South London FRFI

● LIVERPOOL

FRFI Forum
Defend Democratic Rights!
Speaker from Stoke Newington and Hackney Defence Campaign invited.
Stanley House, Upper Parliament Street, Liverpool 8
7.30pm Wednesday June 29
Admission 20p
Called by Liverpool FRFI

● LEEDS

Picket
Wednesday 29 June 9.30am
Leeds Magistrates Courts
(Town Hall Steps)
Called by Black and Anti-Racist Youth Defence Campaign

2 - 8 JULY

● SOUTH LONDON

Street Meeting
Saturday 2 July
Brixton - 1.45-3.45
Called by South London Irish Solidarity Committee

● NORTH LONDON

FRFI Supporters Group
South Africa: the British Connection
Friday 8 July
7.30pm Rio Cinema,
Kingsland High Street, Hackney
Called by North London FRFI

9 - 16 JULY

● SOUTH LONDON

Street Meeting
Irish PoWs in English Jails
Saturday 9 July
Tooting Broadway Tube 1.45-3.45
Called by South London Irish Solidarity Committee

● SOUTH LONDON

Public Meeting
Support Irish Prisoners in English Jails
Thursday 14 July 1983
Lambeth Town Hall
Brixton SW2
Admission 20p
Called by South London Irish Solidarity Committee

COMING SOON

● SOUTH LONDON

Street Meeting
Saturday 16 July
Brixton - 1.45-3.45
Called by South London Irish Solidarity Committee

● EDINBURGH

Public Meeting
Act Now! Join the Fightback!
Monday 18 July
7pm Crossroads Community Centre,
Tollcross, Edinburgh
Admission 25p
Called by FRFI

● EDINBURGH

Communist Education Programme
Education programme for FRFI supporters
Meets monthly on Mondays
Write to RCG, Box 40, First of May Bookshop, 43 Candlemaker Row, Edinburgh

● LEEDS

FRFI Group meets Tuesday 28 June at Leeds Trades Club 7.30pm, Saville Mount, Leeds 7.
Details from Leeds FRFI, c/o LAP, 59 Cookridge St, Leeds 2

● EDINBURGH/SCOTLAND

Solidarity Delegation in August 1983 to Belfast Internment commemoration weekend
Victory to the Irish People!
Troops Out Now! Contingent
All interested in being part should contact EISC, Box 110, First of May Bookshop, 43 Candlemaker Row, Edinburgh

IRISH SOLIDARITY COMMITTEES

BRADFORD

Irish Solidarity Committee. For details contact BISC c/o Starry Plough Bookshop, The Left Club, 6 Edmund Street, Bradford.

DUNDEE

Irish Solidarity Committee - contact FRFI sellers

GLASGOW

Irish Freedom Action Committee meets weekly. For details write to GIFAC c/o Box 15, First of May Bookshop, 43 Candlemaker Row, Edinburgh

TYNESIDE

Action Committee on Ireland meets weekly. For details write to A S King, c/o Porters Lodge, Newcastle University, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

NORTH LONDON

Irish Solidarity Committee meets on Friday 10 June and Friday 24 June at Camden Labour Club, Carol St, near Camden Tube at 7.30pm For details write to NLISC, BM 4835, London WC1N 3XX

SOUTH LONDON

Irish Solidarity Committee meetings are held on Friday at 7.30pm, at Lambeth Town Hall, Brixton. Next meetings Fridays 24 June, 8 & 22 July. For details write to SLISC, BM 4835, London WC1N 3XX

MANCHESTER

Irish Solidarity Committee. Details and information on activities can be obtained from MISC, Box 47, 164-166

Corn Exchange, Hanging Ditch, Manchester M3 4BN.

EAST LONDON

Irish Solidarity Committee meets fortnightly. For information and details write to ELISC, BM Box 4835, London WC1N 3XX

WEST LONDON

Irish Solidarity Committee meets fortnightly. The next meetings are on Fridays 24 June, 8 & 22 July, at Hammersmith Labour Party Rooms, 446 Uxbridge Road, London W12. For more information about the work of the committee write to WLISC, BM Box 4835, London WC1N 3XX

EDINBURGH

Irish Solidarity Committee. Meets weekly - organising meetings, filmshows, street campaigning, discussion and education. Contact EISC c/o Box 110, First of May Bookshop, 43 Candlemaker Row, Edinburgh

LIVERPOOL

Irish Solidarity Committee meets fortnightly. For details write to LISC, PO Box 94 Liverpool L69 8AY

SOUTHAMPTON

Following the 12 March demonstration people who attended from Southampton are now planning to set up an Irish Solidarity Committee there. All those living in the Southampton area who would like to participate in this initiative should contact BISM, BM Box 4835 London WC1N 3XX

~ LETTERS ~

24 Hour Pickets Free Nelson Mandela! Free all South African Political Prisoners!

BRADFORD

Friday 17 June 5.30pm-
Saturday 18 June 5.30pm
Outside Provincial House,
Bradford City Centre.
Bradford AAM Group

LIVERPOOL

Friday 17 June 5.30pm-
Saturday 18 June 5.30pm
Williamson Square from
5.30pm to 8am then
Church Street from 8am to
5.30pm

Called by Liverpool FRFI

LONDON

Friday 24 June 5.30pm-
Saturday 25 June 5.30pm
Outside South Africa
House
Trafalgar Square
Called by City AAM Group

EDINBURGH

**Irish Solidarity
Weekend of Action
Victory to the Irish People!
Troops Out Now!**
Saturday and Sunday
18 and 19 June

SATURDAY

Rally at the Mound, Princes
Street, 11am start.
Social in the evening.

SUNDAY

Dayschool at Crosswinds
Community Centre, Tollcross,
Edinburgh 10am to 5pm.
Speakers, Exhibition, Video,
Workshop and Plenary
Sessions.

Creche

A creche will be arranged for
Sunday, all day.

Costs

Social and Dayschool:
Waged £2.50, unwaged £1.50
Dayschool only:
Waged £1.50, unwaged 75p
For further information and
registration contact:
Edinburgh Irish Solidarity
Committee, Box 110, 43
Candlemaker Row, Edinburgh

Police riot

Dear FRFI,
I am writing to tell you about an incident that happened on the night of 5.3.83 about 10.00pm. We were all in a youth club down Bethnal Green called 'Oxford House'. Then when it closed about 30 of us (mostly Black) was walking to the bus stop to go home when all of a sudden police vans pulled up and police started running through us with their truncheons. For no reason at all and they arrested our friend Stephen Phillips (aged 15) for no reason whatsoever. What's wrong with the police, can't we even walk our own streets? What do they want us to do, stay indoors 24 hours a day? In Manchester police have been given guns to see what kind of response they get. What happens if London police get guns, there will be havoc on the streets. Because let's face facts, they are more or less licensed to kill now. Take Colin Roach for instance. They, the police, might think they're strong for not admitting Colin's death. But we, Colin's friends are stronger. One day we will have what we want - headlines in every newspaper saying:

'We admit shooting Colin Roach'. We aren't going to give in. The police have gotten away with too much, but it stops NOW. This is what I say:
**Don't fight, unite
And find the one,
Who killed poor Mr & Mrs
Roach's son.**
Yours sincerely
Miss JF
PS I am not writing this 'cause I'm Black and supposed to have a chip on my shoulder against police 'cause I am a white girl.

PTA arrests

A Charaid,
On 13 May 1983, David Dinsmore, a 20-year-old Scottish Republican, was detained under the notorious Prevention of Terrorism legislation.

For three days David was held in total isolation, denied access to friends, family and legal assistance.

Eventually, David was charged with sending a letter bomb to Lord Mansfield, the Scottish Office Minister, and was remanded in custody where he remains.

So far, no evidence has been produced to show that he was involved in any way, and despite days of round-the-clock interrogation, David Dinsmore has always maintained his innocence of the very serious charge made against him. There is a growing realisation that David Dinsmore is being used as a scapegoat. The authorities, unable to catch the perpetrators of the increasing number of 'terrorist' acts attributed to groups such as Army of the Gael and the Scottish National Liberation Army, have simply picked on one man in order to make an example of him.

As a result of this situation, a committee has been formed to defend David Dinsmore. We appeal to you/your organisation/group/readers to support this worthy cause. Donations and expressions of support are welcome. All correspondence should be addressed to:
The David Dinsmore Defence Committee, Box 15, 488 Great Western Road, Glasgow, Alba, Scotland

Those who wish to write directly to David in order to express support and solidarity may do so by writing to: D Dinsmore, (Political Prisoner), Longriggend Remand Unit, Greengairs, Nr Airdrie, Lanarkshire, Scotland.

Every gesture of support will be greatly appreciated.
Yours fraternally
Stephen Wilson
Secretary
The David Dinsmore Defence Committee

TOM SC - sectarian stand

Dear FRFI,
I am writing to you to offer an explanation as to how South London branch of the Troops Out Movement came to withdraw from a joint public meeting with South London Irish Solidarity Committee.

I am a member of South London TOM (SLTOM) and welcomed the approach by SLISC to jointly organise a meeting about Irish POWs in English jails. SLTOM has previously organised meetings and pickets in support of the prisoners, some of which SLISC has supported. The SLISC proposal was discussed by SLTOM, agreed to and two delegates appointed. At the next SLTOM branch meeting the proposal was discussed again, objections to certain slogans were raised by one member but these were resolved and the branch endorsed the meeting. (During this period I had joined SLISC and I was told that TOM Steering Committee had discussed this and were annoyed by it.)

A few days later, delegates of SLTOM and SLISC met, wrote a joint leaflet, organised publicity and so on. However at the next branch meeting (which I was unable to attend) a Steering Committee member (also a member of SLTOM) persuaded the branch to abandon the meeting on the basis that Sinn Fein (Britain) would not send a speaker. Since then, the TOM Steering Committee have discussed the matter and drafted a letter for SLTOM to send to SLISC. SLTOM have amended and sent this letter which I have not seen as yet.

Please note our address is, FRFI BCM Box 5909, London, WC1N 3XX. SEND US YOUR LETTERS. We welcome letters from readers but please keep them as short as you can.

I would like to make some observations on all this. Firstly TOM has not always done what Sinn Fein (Britain) has eg TOM support for the 1 May march was minimal and the Steering Committee decided not to send a message of solidarity. Secondly Steering Committee members have actively tried to find any excuse to oppose this joint meeting and have applied pressure to other SC members and SLTOM.

Personally I am sickened by the sectarian stand of the Steering Committee of TOM as this meeting could have been very successful and of great value to the, often forgotten, Irish POWs in England. I do not wish to attack my comrades in SLTOM but I ask them, and all TOM members, to oppose sterile sectarianism and to find ways of building unity with all those who support the Irish people.
Jon Farley
Member of South London Troops Out Movement and SLISC

Labour calls the law

Dear FRFI
On Thursday 9 June I was distributing the FRFI 'No Vote for Imperialists' leaflet outside a polling station in Dalry, Edinburgh. After about 20 minutes I was approached by a young copper who asked for a leaflet and started asking questions about it. After various points he told me that there were complaints from a few Labour Party supporters ('wearing official red rosettes') about what I was doing. I told the copper 'I have a right to do this' but he then informed me that the Inspector would be along in a couple of minutes. So I had no choice but to retreat, because if I was nicked the only witnesses there would be the Labour Party supporters who would surely testify against me in favour of the cops. This type of action shows that the Labour Party supporters would go to any lengths to cover up their Party's imperialist record.
William W
Edinburgh

Harriet Harman sits on the fence

Dear FRFI,
On Monday 9 May, the day after the election was announced, I attended a Labour Students meeting in Kingston Polytechnic, Surrey. The guest speaker was Harriet Harman, MP for Peckham. Most of the 35 people present were from the Social Science or Sociology faculties. She spoke for about 20 minutes on the role of women in Britain today. Of how the Labour Party was going to bring about radical change if elected, and alter the attitudes of society towards women.

Well, so what, you may ask. Here her chauvinism was soon exposed, as was her racism, to the all-white audience. She never mentioned working-class women, black women, Asian women, and certainly not the women political prisoners of Armagh Prison in Ireland. Nor did she mention the fact that it was a Labour government that set up the regime in Armagh Prison, and began the policy of forcefully strip-searching the prisoners in front of male prison wardens,

who often abuse the women sexually.

When I put these points to her she initially was stunned into silence. She said I was being 'selective' by raising this individual issue! and when I demanded an answer as to whether or not she would raise the issue with Jim Prior in the House of Commons, she dodged the issue until the Chairperson, Phil Cole (former students union president at the college, and a Labour Party member) interrupted me and denied me any further speaking time. However, she did say she was against the Prevention of Terrorism Act and against the Emergency Provisions Act, and against the border as it 'distorts politics in the north and the south'. She never said what she has done positively about these since being elected last November. Nor what she intends to do about the Labour Party's policy on Ireland.

One would have expected the issues of Irish women and black women to have been raised by other members of the audience, as both are of fundamental importance. But alas it was not to be. So much for radical Social Science students!

At the end of the meeting I got the last word in, when Harriet Harman said that people must vote out the Tories or else face another five years of the present government policies; whereupon I said aloud for all to hear 'or another five years of Labour Party apathy on Ireland', much to her disgust. I then asked her to sign a petition calling for the immediate withdrawal of British troops from Ireland and the right of the Irish people to self-determination. She refused pointblank, saying that the South London Irish Solidarity Committee was 'involved with the Irish Republican Socialist Party'; she refused to say anything further, or what she meant by this.

I then for all to hear me, accused her of being a racist and an imperialist, whereupon she went very red (presumably with rage) and moved away from me.

So much for a former radical NCCL member turned Labour MP. If you're Irish, black, Asian or working class and a woman, you don't get mentioned in a talk on women in a well-to-do college like Kingston Polytechnic by a female MP. Is she typical of all such women politicians in the Labour Party?

Let's hope that the people of Peckham will one day gain their senses and throw her out.
SM
London

Murder with impunity

Dear Sir
I noticed with dismay that the pathologist who examined Colin Roach after his death is the same Home Office employee that conducted the post mortem on my brother Henry, who was killed by men employed as 'bouncers' at a pub in Kings Cross in 1977. Dr Peter Vanezis' evidence to the court in November 1978 was given in such a way as to assist the men charged with his manslaughter and was in general agreement with the Police's own opinion that my brother had unfortunately killed himself.

Had it not been for the determined intervention at the trial of a number of witnesses who had seen the appalling attack on Henry the Police and

pathologist would have been quite content to let an innocent man be killed with impunity.

My sympathies are wholeheartedly with the Roach family and those arrested for demanding a public enquiry. Whatever the result of this election while society remains divided the job of the police will only be the protection of the rich but humiliation and contempt for the rest of us.

Yours faithfully
Matthew Bowles
Hackney SWP

British justice

Recently I have become involved with the Stoke Newington and Hackney Defence Campaign, chaired by Ace Kelly, whose purpose is to get the charges dropped and pay fine and act for those arrested or trumped up charges on the Colin Roach demonstrations.

My brother Silver, (Merville Bishop) was arrested on 12 March 1983 for being on the Colin Roach demonstration. He in fact was a steward. He was kept in custody from that Saturday 'til Monday when he appeared in court.

I feel obliged to tell you of an appalling way that my brother and the rest of the defendants were treated in court. Particularly a young man by name of Cirrus Noor. Cirrus was jumped in court by not less than seven policeboys for talking directly to the judge. He was then dragged down to the cell and a further police (approx) helped to beat him up. According to Cirrus, policeboys held him down, with a black copper kicked him in the face.

After witnessing British justice at its best I decided to get involved more directly.

The Stoke Newington and Hackney Defence Campaign is now informed of their activities and it was them who had told that my brother had been convicted on assaulting two policeboys and disfiguring one of them, but the disfigured one cannot be found and so that charge was dropped.

I am writing this letter to urge your readers in anyway they can to get involved with the work of the Defence Campaign and give their much needed support.

Guidance!
Ngozi Marlene Headley

BECOME A FIGHTER RACISM! FIGHT IMPERIALISM! SUPPORTER

If you are willing to help the work which FRFI is doing, become an FRFI supporter.

We need more people to support FRFI and to involve others in the fightback. We need more people writing for FRFI about their local struggles and campaigns.

Fill in your name and address on the form below, and send £5. You will receive a supporter card, a year's subscription to FRFI and details of all our activities in your area and nationally. (Postal orders and cheques payable to Larkin Publications)

Name.....
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Send this form to Larkin Publications
BCM Box 5909 London WC1N 3XX

FUND DRIVE

MAY/JUNE: £594.90

The 1983 FRFI Fund has reached £2348.40. We raised £382.69 in May and £212.21 in the first ten days of June! Many thanks to all who contributed - be it on the streets, through special fundraising events or direct to FRFI like unemployed Mr Knott from Kent.

Again, individual supporters sent us their hard won savings coming to a total of £21.05. Collections, jumble sales, stalls at fairs organised by FRFI Supporters Groups raised in South London £192.46, North London £165.98, Edinburgh £101.60, Leeds £38.66, Manchester £29.05, Bradford £16, Liverpool £15.63 and Dundee £14.47.

The support we get to keep FRFI at 20 pence is very encouraging. Please keep it up, because FRFI defends the rights of the poor, the unemployed, the most oppressed. FRFI aims to involve more people in building an anti-imperialist movement. It can succeed only if its message reaches those who stand up for their rights and want to join the organised fightback against injustice and oppression. It can succeed only with your help. Act now by subsidising FRFI! Send us your donation or hand it in to your FRFI seller. Organise fundraising events - jumble sales, socials, collections.

We will publish all contributions in this column. If you want your name or your organisation mentioned alongside the donation please say so.

Make your donation payable to 'Larkin Publications' and return to: FRFI BCM Box 5909, London WC1N 3XX

I/we want to donate £_____ to the FRFI Fund.

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HANDS OFF IRELAND

CASTLEREAGH TORTURE

Despite international condemnation, the torture of Nationalist people in an effort to extract confessions in Castlereagh Barracks continues. Kevin McGill from Dungiven, Co Derry, walked free from Belfast's Crown Court on 20 May after evidence had been given that his statement had been extracted from him by torture. Seamus Mullen who was also tortured was not so lucky; he was sentenced to 14 years. The only evidence against him was his own statement.

On 14 July 1982 McGill was arrested and taken to Castlereagh. During the first two days he was verbally abused and threatened by three RUC detectives who wanted him to admit involvement in a landmine attack on a UDR patrol. After three days four new RUC detectives used the normal methods of RUC questioning. McGill describes what happened.

'They punched me in the guts, pressed their thumbs behind my ears and made me stand spreadeagled against the wall. This went on for hours at a time. I still said nothing. One got behind me and started to choke me while another one held my nose so I couldn't breathe, saying "we'll make you open your mouth". I had to open my mouth to breathe and he spat into it. They kept beating me till I fainted. They brought me round and started again, twisting my arms and holding lighted cigarettes

up to my eyes, all the time punching me. I fainted again. I went numb and had a terrible pain in my chest. They got a fright then, they thought they had killed me.'

McGill was later put in a cell but even here he was constantly harassed and not allowed to sleep. The next day he complained about his treatment to a doctor. Later that day he was interrogated again. He was warned that he would 'get worse' if he complained again and that they would 'leave you a vegetable like your brother' - this is a reference to Kevin's brother who is handicapped.

The next day McGill, who had up until then not eaten anything, accepted some milk, which he now believes was drugged. After taking the milk he became confused. 'I was banging my head against the wall, I thought they could read my thoughts'. During this period whilst he was under the influence of drugs McGill signed a statement dic-

tated to him by the RUC.

Seamus Mullen also went through the same process: beatings and constant terror. It was only when the RUC arrested his girlfriend who had just had a heart operation in which a pace-maker was placed in her heart that Mullen signed a statement when the RUC told him that they would make sure that she spent six months in prison. Mullen knew that this would kill her. Despite the fact that the statement was extracted by terror Seamus Mullen was sentenced to 14 years in prison.

Alan James

Sinn Fein election victory

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The most daring attack took place on Tuesday 17 May when the hated Andersonstown RUC barracks was blown to bits by a massive bomb in a hijacked van. On Thursday 12 May IRA Volunteers in South Armagh shot and damaged a British army Wessex helicopter wounding two soldiers inside. Between 3 May and 10 June the military offensive against British imperialist forces claimed 2 British soldiers killed and 2 injured, 3 UDR soldiers injured, 2 RUC officers killed and 5 injured. The economic bombing campaign also continued with two successful attacks in Belfast, Monday 9 May and Sunday 29 May, which destroyed 6 shops and an estate agents and damaged many others. INLA, on polling day, bombed Stewartstown Road joint army/RUC barracks in Belfast. Mr Fitt is quite right - nationalist people, 100,000 of them, knew what they were voting for: the revolutionary national struggle to drive British imperialism out of Ireland.

As expected British 'democracy' demonstrated its 'free and fair' character by continual harassment of Sinn Fein candidates and election workers. Daily Republican supporters were stopped, detained, arrested, charged with ludicrous trumped-up 'offences', attacked, assaulted and, in two cases, shot at. In North Belfast, on Wednesday 18 May, election workers were fired

John McComb framed

On Wednesday 25 May 1983 at the Old Bailey the latest rigged Irish political trial ended when John McComb was convicted of conspiracy to cause explosions between April 1978 and February 1979 and sentenced to 17 years in prison. John McComb, an Irish nationalist from the Short Strand area of Belfast, now joins all the other Irish POWs in the British prison system.

John McComb was convicted on the basis of crooked evidence fabricated by the Anti-Terrorist Squad. During the trial itself the police, not content with manufacturing evidence, harassed the defence and applied illegal pressure to John McComb himself. Indeed, the extent to which the so-called 'judicial system' is merely a process of internment Irish people is shown by the fact that Andrew Collins QC has come under fire for his part in defending John McComb. We will be publishing the full

details of this frame-up in next month's FRFI.

The jury was split 11-1 in convicting John McComb so one person at least did not accept the police story.

FRFI sends greetings and solidarity to John McComb, his family and his comrades. We know, as they do, that this legal terror will never succeed in breaking the will of the Irish people to resist British imperialist rule.

Terry Marlowe

RUC attack Nationalist club

A recent example of the viciously repressive measures used by the RUC occurred in the village of Donagh, County Fermanagh on Friday 6 May. Whilst villagers were enjoying a peaceful social evening in the Donagh bar the RUC surrounded it with a RUC personnel carrier, 18 patrol cars and a breathalyser van.

Latecomers to the bar announced that all roads around the village were sealed off. Concerned and worried at this mindless provocation, the hundred or so people in the bar decided to leave together for self protection. Outside they found the street lined with the RUC men with others taking cover behind cars and a bus shelter. The RUC immediately blinded the villagers by turn-

ing two powerful searchlights on them.

Outraged at the provocative actions of the RUC the villagers began protesting and in the confusion bottles were thrown. John Crudden, who had been in the bar with his family, said 'The RUC opened fire with plastic bullets, bottles, stones, anything they could get their hands on. It was the police who provoked the whole thing. They had the people pinned down. There was nothing to do but take cover and stay where we were.'

After firing twelve plastic bullets the RUC withdrew having made no arrests and having given no explanation for their brutal behaviour. Mike Hunt

GENERAL ELECTION Anti imperialists intervene

During the course of a dull election campaign by the Labour Party, RCG supporters along with supporters from Irish Solidarity Committees organised a number of major interventions at Labour Party rallies. Their aim was to remind the audience of Labour's reactionary record on a wide range of issues - on Ireland, racism, the police, South Africa - and to challenge Parliamentary candidates to state their position on these questions.

South London

South London Irish solidarity committee members were attacked by stewards at a Labour Party rally in Wandsworth Civic Centre on 26 May. They simply held two banners: 'Self-determination for all the Irish People!' and 'Repatriation for Irish POWs on Demand - Troops Out Now!' The banners were ripped apart by hysterical stewards furious at the very mention of Ireland. The Labour Party cannot even face discussing the issue. Arch

'liberal' Peter Hain standing as a Labour candidate opposed the immediate withdrawal of British troops and said the only way forward was the election of a Labour Government. Having set aside no time for discussion, SLISC supporters demanded of candidates to state their position on Ireland, plastic bullets, the PTA, torture in Armagh Gaol. For this one black comrade was punched in the face, dragged from the hall and assaulted outside. Another SLISC supporter was defended from assault by a Labour councillor who threatened to sue the stewards if they attacked the man again. The entire platform - Michael Foot, Alf Dubs, Peter Hain and Tom Cox - not only refused to answer questions about Ireland, but also about South Africa, deaths in police custody and police powers. A black woman distributing anti-apartheid leaflets was told 'this meeting isn't about South Africa!' and was barred from entering because she was seen talking to a SLISC supporter.

North London

On Monday 30 May, Stoke Newington and Hackney Defence Campaign, City Anti-Apartheid and NLISC supporters attended a Labour Party Rally in Hampstead Town Hall. The hall seated only 300 people yet nearly 700 turned up to the meeting. FRFI supporters then took the initiative to set up an open air rally on the steps of the town hall. The meeting was full of lively exchanges of views and hecklers were invited to come up and make a speech. Only supporters of the Labour Party took up the offer - SWP and Socialist League (IMG) members attempted to shout down the speakers for attacking the Labour Party but refused to participate in the debate. Speakers from the SN&HDC, City AA and NLISC all expressed their views on the election explaining the issues on which they were campaigning. The spirited meeting was only disrupted when Michael Foot entered and left Hampstead Town Hall to jeers and heckles and slogans of Troops Out Now! Release All Political Prisoners!

Inside the meeting, the dull proceedings were livened up when supporters of the SN&HDC put up a banner demanding a Public Inquiry into the death of Colin Roach. Foot promised to answer a

question about Colin Roach at the end of his speech. At the end he began to answer a question but it was about Ireland! No one had raised the question! Foot's wife nudged him and reminded him that the question was about Colin Roach! The decrepit old reactionary mumbled a few meaningless words.

Edinburgh

On Saturday 4 June, Michael Foot addressed a 1,400 strong rally at the Caley Cinema. During Foot's speech an FRFI supporter asked whether Foot would speak in opposition to the use of plastic bullets. He was forced down into his seat by four burly stewards. He got up again this time demanding the withdrawal of British troops from Ireland. Immediately he was thrown out of the hall. People who objected to these assaults were themselves thrown out as were those who condemned Labour's record on South Africa. During the election campaign various former Parliamentary big-wigs - George Brown, Harold Wilson etc appeared on TV - were mouthing about the great British tradition of heckling at election meetings. The reality is different. If you heckle in support of the oppressed and anti-imperialist struggle you end up outside Labour Party meetings.

Manchester

As Labour's election campaign lurched to its fitting humiliation, Denis Healey and Michael Foot held public meetings in Bury in the north of Manchester. On Saturday June 4 Healey arrived, MISC supporters attended the meeting. As soon as he had finished his speech, in which his only reference to the north of Ireland was to call Norman Tebbit 'a Provo of the Tories', Healey left the meeting. MISC supporters chased after him demanding to know if Labour would ban plastic bullets and withdraw British troops. Healey's response was to boast that he had sent the troops in, 'to protect the nationalist minority'.

On Tuesday June 7 Foot came to Bury. As Foot's speech progressed, MISC supporters began to heckle him, demanding that the Labour Party's position be discussed. At one stage Foot was forced to stop his speech as Labour Party stewards attempted to eject MISC supporters. The response of people in the meeting hall was to shout for us to shut up and to be thrown out, and to go back to Ireland! At the end of the meeting a MISC supporter was approached and his hand was shaken by a woman who said she agreed with everything we had said.



REPUBLICAN NEWS