

FIGHT RACISM! FIGHT IMPERIALISM!

Anti-imperialist paper of the Revolutionary Communist Group

Issue No 35 January 1984 Price 20p

GREENHAM TRIUMPHANT

On Sunday 11 December tens of thousands of women gathered at Greenham Common peace camp to commemorate the first anniversary of the women's encirclement of the base. Spirits and energy soared as on the hour, every hour, everyone made as much noise as possible. Women played musical instruments, banged saucepan lids, tins and trays and blew whistles and made piercing warning cries. Thousands of mirrors and tin foil were used as a symbol to reflect evil back into the base.

On the other side of the fence, behind bales of barbed wire, soldiers patrolled with dogs, whilst helicopters swooped low, filming demonstrators, shining search lights on them and trying to intimidate and disrupt the action. Meanwhile mounted police deliberately swerved their horses into the crowd forcing people to move for fear of being trampled.

From about 3.00pm women started to angrily shake and cut down the fence. In response, police moved in striking and dragging women off the fence. Some women were punched in the face, others had their fingers broken as they clutched the fence; many were brutally hit with iron bars and one woman was picked up and hurled onto the barbed wire. Over 60 women were arrested with further arrests next morning as they again tried to enter the base. At least five women have been refused bail and are being held in Holloway Prison.

We went down to show solidarity from FRFI with the struggle of the Greenham women. We spent a lot of time talking to women and sold 120 FRFI in 2 hours! Many women were attracted by the anti-imperialist struggles covered in the paper, especially the articles on the US invasion of Grenada and the achievements of revolutionary Nicaragua.

Recent disclosures of racist, sexist, drunken British police are being matched by the reports of drug and alcohol abuses in the US marines army and navy. 24 per cent of US marines, 38% of the US army and 42% of the US navy admitted taking marijuana on duty. Of the soldiers who have been vetted to service and guard nuclear weapons, 5,000 have to be removed from this duty every year as a result of these abuses. These are the very soldiers who have the power to shoot peace protestors who enter the base.

As the struggle intensifies at Greenham, women are experiencing increasing British state repression and brutality and are identifying more and more with revolutionary forces all over the world to be rid of bloodthirsty imperialist war and oppression.

If you want peace fight imperialism!
Victory to the Greenham women!
Ruby and Alexa



JOHN STURROCK/NETWORK

Greenham/Warrington

STATE VIOLENCE



PRESS ASSOCIATION

HARD LESSONS OF NGA DISPUTE

Yet again a trade union struggle has first been crippled and finally destroyed by the trade union leadership and the TUC. The Stockport *Messenger* dispute (the paper is printed in Warrington) was irretrievably lost by the National Graphical Association (NGA) leadership when they suspended the one-day national print strike called for 14 December and made all future militant action in relation to the dispute dependent on TUC support. The decision of the TUC General Council by a vote of 29-21 not to back the position taken on Monday 12 December by its Employment Policy and Organisation Committee of a 'sympathetic and supportive attitude' to the NGA's action against the Stockport *Messenger* Group, signalled the end of any further serious campaigning around the dispute. The TUC General Council made it clear that its support for the NGA, and therefore its opposition to the Tory anti-union laws, would be restricted to action within those laws.

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RACISTS IN BLUE
Report on London's police page 5

LEBANON

Imperialists get entrenched

A terrible constellation of reactionary forces now threatens the anti-imperialist movement in the Middle East. At its centre is the USA and Israel whose recently concluded agreement according to the *Observer* gives Israel 'unprecedented financial, commercial, military and political concessions'. A joint military political group is to be formed for greater strategic co-operation against 'the threat to our mutual interests'. The US will resume the supply of cluster bombs to Israel and provide it with all the military hardware it asks for as well as over \$400m for the production of Lavi fighter planes. Despite all their disputes, US imperialism has again confirmed Israel's role as the sole trusted and reliable executor of imperialist ambitions in the region.

The most immediate aim of these partners in reaction and butchery - remember Beirut 1982 with 25,000 dead, Sabra-Chatilla and the countless crimes in occupied South Lebanon and the West Bank - is to force a Syrian withdrawal from Lebanon without a simultaneous

Israeli withdrawal from the South. Hours after the agreement Israeli jets struck Druze positions in the Shouf mountains and days later the US launched its biggest air-raids since the Vietnam war against Syrian positions. US diplomats visiting Syria will threaten

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STATEMENT

On Saturday 17 December an IRA car bomb exploded outside Harrods, killing 5 people and injuring over 90. Predictably British police, politicians and media are whipping up a storm of anti-Irish hysteria and shedding crocodile tears about civilian casualties. From the British ruling class which has never hesitated to slaughter Irish civilians, this is nothing but hypocrisy.

Reports so far show that despite a 37 minute warning (which according to the press included the exact registration number of the car) the police made no attempt to evacuate the streets around Harrods. This undoubtedly contributed to the high level of civilian casualties. Throughout the previous week the police and press were issuing repeated warnings of 'an IRA Christmas bombing campaign' and several evacuations were carried out. So why was there no

evacuation in this case?

Predictably, Labour politicians have joined the ruling class chorus of denunciation. They have little to say about British imperialist barbarity against the Irish: Bloody Sunday - 14 civilians killed; plastic bullets - 14 civilians killed including 7 children; shoot-to-kill - 15 killed in the last year; and countless other crimes against the Irish people.

As FRFI has repeatedly said the deaths, injuries and tragedies resulting from such actions are directly the responsibility of British imperialism and all those who have condoned continued British imperialist rule in Ireland.

As we go to press these events, and others in Ireland, are being used by politicians, the press and the media, to demand a ban on Sinn Fein. All readers should condemn any such attempt.

Sectarian attacks and murders

On 20 November, 3 people were shot dead whilst attending a service at the Mountain Lodge Gospel Hall in South Armagh. The shootings, which were claimed by a body calling itself the 'Catholic Reaction Force', brought forth a wave of outrage from Loyalist and British politicians and were front page news in the British press. Loyalist politicians immediately used the attacks as a pretext for demanding greater repression against the nationalist population. The Official Unionists backed up this demand by withdrawing from James Prior's collapsing Assembly.

The hypocrisy of all this was clear to the nationalist people of the Six Counties who have suffered scores of sectarian attacks and murders over the past years.

As *An Phoblacht/Republican News* put it:

'...sectarian murder has been the weapon of the loyalists seeking to

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Hard lessons of NGA dispute

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It is important to understand what this means. The Tory anti-union laws represent the most serious attack on trade union rights for 80 years. If complied with they destroy any real possibility of an effective defence of workers' jobs, pay and conditions against determined employers. Today a defence of basic trade union rights, as the Stockport *Messenger* dispute has demonstrated, brings trade unions into conflict with the law and is inevitably a direct fight against the state, its police and its courts. Those who refuse to act on the basis of this obvious fact take the side of the ruling class and will inevitably lead trade unionists into defeat after defeat.

The Stockport *Messenger* dispute is principally about the closed-shop — more specifically the pre-entry closed shop operated by the NGA to ensure work with high wages and good conditions for its members. The pre-entry closed shop operates on the basis that the work requires certain skills which only NGA members possess. It is designed to prevent the de-skilling of printing, and the consequent lowering of wages and conditions. The problem is that with the introduction of new technology, the skills of printers and typesetters are less and less required. The Stockport *Messenger* dispute is taking place against this

The middle class left and the NGA dispute

Predictably the lessons of the NGA dispute were completely lost on the middle class left. The SWP is a prime example.

For *Socialist Worker* the only place that 'general class politics' 'really matters' is on 'the shop floor'. For this reason they give little prominence to anti-racist and anti-imperialist struggles. Indeed, they criticise national liberation movements, the peace movement and anti-racist struggles for being separate from the organised trade union movement. But, if we examine the facts, the only sustained politically conscious struggles are taking place outside the organised Labour and trade union movement. Every now and again a section of the organised trade union movement is forced into struggle. When this happens we see a real test of the SWP's politics.

'The battle of the Stockport *Messenger* has become a battle over the future of working class organisation' was the message of the front page of *Socialist Worker* (3 December 1983) under the massive headline SOLIDARITY. Two weeks later (17 December 1983) came the inevitable even larger headline BETRAYAL. How often must this happen before the SWP learns anything? 'The treachery of Len Murray and Tony Dubbins', they whined, gave 'the Tories a victory they could not have expected'. But then we read on the next page that Len Murray's actions are 'entirely in character' since he had scabbed on and sabotaged workers' struggle since 1976. So it appears that anyone with any foresight — unlike *Socialist Worker* — would have almost certainly expected it. The Tories certainly did, as their confidence showed throughout.

Between SOLIDARITY and BE-



JOHN STURROCK/NETWORK

Extract from FRFI supporter's eye witness report from Warrington Picket line on 29 November

The comrade with the megaphone wasn't having a lot of impact. Less than half the people were actually in the picket. Only those near the front were linking arms. Too many were on the hill or at the back watching. At about 3.50 the police line broke and the TAG came steaming out, waving their batons. Everyone scattered. Pickets were batoned to the ground. Some were dragged off and arrested. The crowd ran about 50 metres before stopping. The TAG line was re-formed and the police came in behind. Now they controlled the T junction. There was quite a lot of shouting now and people began throwing stones. A second surge and they occupied the last hill behind. Another set of TAG aimed their running attack at the sides and created terror. All were by now on the retreat. Pickets started to light fires further back but they had nothing to counteract the TAG and their batons and crash helmets. Three such surges with consolidations followed. The pickets were in total disarray and running into the surrounding fields. It was only the small hard core who attempted to erect feeble barricades but the spirit was there. The majority hadn't expected the state to be so heavy handed. There were sporadic fightbacks and some stone throwing. The idea of barricades had come too late. At about five o'clock the dog patrol van came out followed by the Stamford Hire Van with the papers.

reactionary Tory government since the Second World War. It refuses to recognise that whole sections of the organised working class prefer to hang on to the privileges that come from the jobs they have now rather than fight for the jobs for the future, for the unemployed and less privileged sections of the working class. So *Socialist Worker* has to resort to sociological garbage in a futile effort to explain what is going on. It seems we are now in a 'downturn' but the NGA dispute, at least for a couple of weeks, was 'a sectional upturn in the midst of a general downturn'. Well, if you believe that, you will believe anything. It is simply a cover for ignorance. So is *Socialist Worker's* attempt to explain the failure of the NGA dispute as a lack of 'socialist activists operating at the rank-and-file level' of the NGA. If pigs could fly!

Of a similar character is *Socialist Worker's* attack on the Greenham women for using tactics — vigils, blockades and huge demonstrations — which 'simply don't work'. They contrast this to the NGA dispute where 'we have seen a glimpse of the sort of power which workers can use to take on the Tories.' (10 December 1983). The reality is quite different. The Greenham women, a militant section of the peace movement, have put aside a relatively privileged life in order to fight against nuclear weapons, which they see as endangering the future of the human race. They have been arrested, criminalised and sent to prison for their struggle. But they still fight on. The NGA on the other hand has given up the fight at Warrington precisely because the NGA and TUC refuse to lose all their wealth and assets in the cause of trade union rights. It is precisely because the Greenham women have refused to have the albatross of Len Murray and the trade union movement around their necks that they have had such a dramatic impact on public opinion in Britain.

TRAYAL there was a lot of nonsense in the pages of *Socialist Worker*. Among the more reactionary garbage was the following:

'Some people have been referring to the picket as the Grunwicks of the North, after the scab photo-processing strike of the late 1970s. They forget the Grunwicks strike was defeated.' (3 December 1983)

If the NGA had shown anything like the same determination, steadfastness and courage that the Grunwick workers, and in particular the black women, showed on the picket line over a period of nearly two years, then the NGA dispute might have had a different outcome. The Grunwick picket line, at one time, had one quarter of the Metropolitan Police against it. This did not deter the picketers. They still fought on. They did not attack some of those who came to support them as 'left-wing extremists' who came along for 'a punch-up with the police' as some of the six sacked NGA workers did after the night of police violence on 29 November. The TUC did indeed also betray the Grunwick strikers and they were defeated. But any serious trade unionist would be honoured to be associated with those low-paid workers, and especially the black women, who stood for nearly two years unbowed on the Grunwick picket line fighting for basic trade union rights.

Socialist Worker, as this paper has pointed out time and again, does not begin to understand why the organised working class refuses to fight the most

background of deskilling of the printing industry. Eddie Shah's workers are paid as much as £70 less per week than the NGA members who they replaced.

The dispute centres on a right-wing ex-NGA member, second cousin of the Aga Khan, Gordonstoun educated 'self-made' businessman Eddie Shah and a small right-wing privileged craft union. The so-called 'loner' Eddie Shah has the backing of the Institute of Directors, Tory MPs, the government laws, its police and courts. The NGA, in contrast, was denied even the support of the TUC.

The dispute has developed over a long period. The details are well known. What is not so well known is that during the course of the negotiations the NGA has conceded the following at various points: 50% union membership at Eddie Shah's Bury and Warrington works, post-entry closed shop, and on 17 November Tony Dubbins (General Secretary elect of the NGA) said that the six members sacked for going on strike would be 'taken care of' by the union. Eddie Shah has proved to be a maverick in negotiations. He is said to have agreed to all these points at some stage in the negotiations, but he never comes to an agreement overall.

The escalation of the dispute was due to two factors. First the intransigence of Eddie Shah, leaving the NGA, in spite of all the concessions it is prepared to make, with no choice but to fight. Second, the NGA stands to lose a great deal, even to be destroyed completely, if the closed shop is destroyed because the skills of its members are fast becoming obsolete.

The crucial turning point in the dispute has been the intervention of the courts on the basis of the Tory anti-union laws to prevent effective picketing of the Warrington works. The NGA has been fined nearly £700,000 and its funds have been sequestered. Writs for damages of over £3m have been issued following the two-day stoppage on Fleet Street and there is more to come. The intervention of the courts transformed this dispute from a conflict between a particular union and particular employer into a direct confrontation between trade unionists and the state. After the mass pickets at Warrington and the brutal determined government-directed police attack on the picketers, the NGA showed that it did not have the stomach for such a fight.

Such a fight would have required the NGA to be prepared to put further at risk its considerable assets of over £11m; to organise defence of picketers against police violence, to defy the courts; and for its members to engage in a long and bitter strike, almost certainly without strike pay. In short, the NGA and its members would have had to risk all in defence of workers' rights. This the NGA refused to do. As we have argued before, the British trade unions with their luxurious premises, conference halls, full-time staff, newspapers and massive investments in imperialist banks and multinational firms, are not fighting organisations. Their economic, social and political ties to the capitalist system have rendered them incapable of defending the working class. That is why the NGA leadership covered their inevitable retreat by handing the decision over to the TUC, knowing full well that under no circumstances would the TUC give practical support for such a fight.

The NGA dispute is a taste of what is to come in all major trade union disputes. The treachery of the NGA and TUC leadership will be repeated over and over again. Trade unionists, who will be forced to fight back against the ruling class and its agents in the working class movement, will have to build new organisations capable of carrying out such a struggle.

In doing this they will have to learn the lessons which the most oppressed sections of the working class have already learnt. First that the police are the paid, trained and armed force of the ruling class. The Warrington mass picket, 29 November, showed that the police have learned the lessons of 1981 drawn from their battles with black and white youth in Liverpool 8, Moss Side, Brixton and elsewhere. They attacked the picket in riot formation, wearing visored helmets, wielding batons, kicking and

in brief

SOUTH AFRICA

ANC attacks

16 December is the anniversary of the formation of Umkhonto We Sizwe and the movement has once again shown its ability to strike at the heart of the regime. On Monday 12 December a bomb severely damaged offices of the regime in the centre of Johannesburg. On 7 December another government department was damaged by a limpet mine, and the next day Umkhonto We Sizwe fighters blasted wagons off a rail line in Bloemfontein. CB

We will not be moved — we will die and be buried here

Since 1960, 3½ million black people have been forcibly removed by the apartheid regime from areas they have been living in for generations to the bantustan concentration camps, to die of starvation and disease. The apartheid regime has now announced that Crossroads, the black squatter camp outside Cape Town, will once and for all be destroyed and the people moved to the barren sand dunes of the Cape Flats, 25 miles away. Crossroads has become a symbol of fierce resistance and defiance of the apartheid regime's removal policy. Women, who have been forced to live 'illegally' in the Cape area rather than be separated from their families and starve in the bantustans, are the backbone of the struggle, and have organised to provide for the health and educational needs of their children. Such is the spirit of courage and determination that the apartheid regime will never be able to crush it. As one of them has said 'The Government's dream is a false one if it thinks we will leave the Western Cape. We will not leave. We will die and be buried here.'

Ruby Khan

No vote for apartheid

The United Democratic Front, who campaigned vigorously for a boycott of the black community council elections held on 3 December, have scored a major victory. The turn-out in all the twenty-six urban black areas was very poor, and in the biggest black township, Soweto, barely 10% of those eligible to vote voted for the 'new' Soweto town council. The black local government 'representatives' will merely act as stooges to the apartheid regime, and the community councils will not be controlled by the people but by the white authorities.

Ruby Khan

punching picketers. They destroyed the NGA communications van. Police in landrovers chased people and beat them up.

Second that the law, the courts and parliament will be used to prevent any effective resistance. Many trade unionists, as shown by their lack of preparation for police violence at Warrington and their concern for legality, have yet to learn these lessons. A NGA national council member Mr Bill Bush, after stating that demonstrators 'walking around peacefully' had been punched and kicked by the police and that he 'even saw young girls thumped and kicked', naively said 'you don't expect that from the police'. Where has he been?

On the picket it was the unemployed, youth, and students who were most determined in resisting police attacks as shown by the fact that of those arrested only 9 were printers, whereas 13 were unemployed, and 26 were students. Groups of youth built barricades on the approach road to the plant. Unfortunately they were not able to overcome the complete failure of the NGA to anticipate the police violence and organise a defence of the picket.

The Stockport *Messenger* dispute confirms that trade unionists who want to fight will have to break from the reactionary leadership of the organised trade union movement. They cannot rely on constitutional and parliamentary processes to defend their interests. The Labour Party, yet again, refused to back any action not within the law. Trade unionists who are prepared to fight will find their true allies amongst the most oppressed sections of the working class.

SOUTH AFRICA

ANGOLA

After 14 years of armed struggle by the MPLA against Portuguese colonialism independence was achieved by the Angolan people on 11 November 1975. On the threshold of independence two organisations simultaneously declared war on the MPLA: Unita, which had a record of compromise and collaboration with the Portuguese imperialists, and the FNLA, a tribally based grouping with backing from the corrupt Mobutu dictatorship in Zaire. The MPLA had the upper hand against these counter revolutionary elements until the South Africa forces invaded on 25 October 1975 and joined the Unita bandits in southern Angola. Meanwhile the Zairean army linked up with the FNLA in the north. This combined operation was intended to seize Angola's capital city of Luanda before the MPLA could declare independence, and was directly backed by the US. In 1975 alone the CIA funded \$30 million for covert operations in Angola, \$14 million of which was channelled to the FNLA and Unita. The MPLA called for external military aid to assist Angola's defence, and in November 1975, after South Africa's invasion had already begun, the first Cuban troops arrived in Angola. The Soviet Union also supplied military equipment. The counter offensive launched by the combined Angolan and internationalist Cuban forces expelled the South African invaders by March 1976. This was a decisive victory. It allowed the Angolan government and people a breathing space to devote their efforts towards national reconstruction and building socialism.

However, since 1976 Angola has had a continuous battle against South African aggression, which has taken the form of bombing raids, violations of Angolan air space, incursions of South African troops, border provocations, infantry attacks, artillery shelling and mine laying. 10,000 people, Angolans and Namibian refugees, have been killed as a result of South African aggression between 1975 and 1982. The most infamous and brutal attack was the massacre at the Namibian refugee camp at Kassinga where 1,315 Namibian refugees, Angolan soldiers and civilians were killed or wounded. Since early 1981 South Africa has stepped up its aggression on Angola, encouraged by the war mongering US government. In August 1981 South Africa invaded and occupied a large

APARTHEID TERROR AGAINST FRONTLINE STATES

'I'm an African, and I believe communism is bad for Africa. If fellow Africans are threatened by the evils of communism, we shall assist them when our assistance is requested.' P W Botha, apartheid's Prime Minister.

The line taken by Israel in the Middle East and by Reagan in Central America is followed by South Africa in relation to its neighbours – the frontline states. The whole of southern Africa lives under threat from the South African fascists. The apartheid regime uses economic pressure, blackmail and military action in its attempts to bludgeon the frontline states into submission. Angola, Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Lesotho all suffer from South Africa's acts of war and destabilisation. The apartheid regime backs bandits in these countries to carry out its acts of terror against the people. In Angola South Africa backs Unita, in Mozambique the Mozambique National Resistance, in Lesotho the Lesotho Liberation Army, and in Zimbabwe groups of counter revolutionaries have admitted to being trained in South Africa. All this is to further the interests of white supremacy and to act as regional policeman for western imperialist nations who want to regain their colonial stranglehold on southern Africa, indeed on Africa as a whole.

part of Cunene province, in culmination of 'Operation Protea' planned by the Pretoria regime with the collusion of the US. The occupation continues. In November 1981 South African troops sabotaged the oil refinery in Luanda, and in 1982 and 1983 South African aggression has intensified.

Throughout this year with the aid of Unita the South African troops have carried out terrorist operations against the people of Angola. On 19 January Lomaum Dam in Benguela province was attacked, seriously effecting power supplies to three provinces and forcing factories to close. On 12 March a large paper pulping complex was attacked and destroyed and 62 Czech civilians kidnapped. In the beginning of August the town of Cangamba in Moxico province was attacked with six battalions of Unita and South African troops which, because of the heroic resistance of the Angolan and Cuban troops, had to retreat. South Africa responded with

an aerial bombardment which completely destroyed the town.

MOZAMBIQUE

Mozambique achieved independence on 25 June 1975 under Frelimo led by Samora Machel, and has suffered numerous attacks. As well as the air space violations, cross border incursions, land mining and bombing raids of its own forces, South Africa backs the MNR to carry out acts of banditry on the people. In this year alone dozens of people have been killed and injured by South African aggression, and millions of pounds of damage caused. In May Matola, a suburb of Maputo, was attacked during the rush hour. Planes strafed local residents and rocketed factories. The Petromoc oil refinery, the Somopal jam factory and local residential areas all came under fire, hit by at least 120 rockets and thousands of machine gun rounds. Six people died. It is not the first time South Africa has attacked Matola. In January 1981 South African commandos drove into Matola to attack a number of houses and killed 13 ANC members.

Also this year South African saboteurs were intercepted by Mozambican

Police defend Apartheid!



On the day, 2 December, that P W Botha and Geoffrey Howe, South African and British foreign ministers, met in the South African Embassy, City of London Anti Apartheid Group started a 24 hour picket calling for the release of Nelson Mandela and all political prisoners held in South Africa.

It was a tremendous display of opposition to apartheid and British imperialism with some 500 people attending including Tony Benn, MPs, Councillors and many trade unions, students groups and political organisations.

As on previous occasions the police attempted firstly to prevent the picket taking place and secondly to provoke arrests. The day before the picket started apartheid loving Chief Superintendent Marsh informed us that because of the presence of Botha and Howe at a booze-up in this nest of spies the picket must take place in a local side street; the Embassy was to be barricaded off from both picketers and passers by. Marsh was told that we would only be prepared to picket directly opposite the Embassy. Although he said this was impossible for him to arrange, the following day it suddenly became possible after City Group had managed to have a question raised in the House of Commons and the issue raised by Labour MPs at a meeting with Sir Kenneth Newman.

The police do not run our pickets, our stewards do. David Reed, speaking for Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism! made the point that the police were so indignant because their attempts to stop last year's non-stop picket had been defeated. The police are racist and apartheid loving because their job is to defend the capitalist system which is racist and apartheid loving. The strength of the picket was demonstrated when a passing black motorist who tooted his horn in solidarity with the picket was stopped by the police. Immediately stewards went to his support accompanied by a journalist and a photographer. Those on the picket chanted slogans for his release and after 5 minutes the police had let him go.

Now with the acquittal of 7 of the Trafalgar 9 the defenders of apartheid are licking their wounds and the South African racists are continually shaken by the weekly Friday pickets (5.30-7.30pm) of the Embassy held by City Group.

Chris Fraser

troops who captured 64 explosive charges and clocks for making time bombs. On 30 May a pilotless spy plane was shot down as it flew over Maputo province.

The MNR carries out a lot of South Africa's dirty work against the people of Mozambique. Its bandits attack trains and railway lines, capture people and beat and torture them while they go about their daily business. One man lost both his legs when he stepped on a MNR land mine.

ZIMBABWE

Zimbabwe is the newest of the independent frontline states, and ever since her independence on 18 April 1980 has been included in South Africa's programme of destabilisation. Since independence there have been a number of incidents that are strongly suspected of being

South African backed. Thornhill Air-base was attacked in 1982, in what is believed to be a South African act of aggression. The blowing up of the oil pipeline and oil depot in Mozambique which supplied Zimbabwe with oil was a South African effort to destabilise Zimbabwe economically. There was a foiled sabotage attempt on Beit Bridge oil depot, near the border with South Africa, also suspected of being South African backed. There have been a number of counter revolutionaries caught in Zimbabwe who have admitted to being trained in South Africa. And fully armed South African soldiers were killed inside Zimbabwe last year. Both the road and rail link between Beira in Mozambique and the Zimbabwe border have suffered from sabotage and ambush by the MNR.

SEYCHELLES

South Africa has extended its aggression to the Seychelles where it was involved in an attempted coup against the socialist government led by France Albert Rene. A senior South African intelligence officer who participated in the coup was captured, although at first South Africa denied all knowledge or involvement.

LESOTHO

Even tiny Lesotho cannot escape South African aggression. There have been an increasing number of acts of sabotage and bomb attacks on economic and military targets. And there is evidence that the Lesotho Liberation Army has been infiltrated by South Africans so they can use it for destabilising activities.

On 9 December 1982, the South African regime murdered 42 people including 27 members of the ANC in a raid into Maseru the capital of Lesotho. Many of the victims, including children, were murdered in their sleep. Their homes were ransacked and burnt out. This brutal massacre is yet another example of the apartheid regime's methods of bludgeoning the frontline states to cease supporting the African National Congress and SWAPO.

Nomsa Langa

MALESELA BENJAMIN MOLOISE Statement by the African National Congress

On the 7th November 1982, a detective warrant Officer of the South African Special Branch, Philipus Selepe of Mamelodi, Pretoria, was executed by a firing squad. Shortly afterwards, Malesela Benjamin Moloise was arrested and charged with the 'murder' of this notorious police officer.

Selepe had been a policeman for 30 years. He had been involved in many political arrests and trials, including the capture and torture of the combatants of Umkhonto We Sizwe, Thabo Motaung, Simon Mogoerane and Jerry Mosololi who were hanged on June 9th this year. Benjamin Moloise had himself been detained in connection with this latter trial and was brought to court as a State witness.

Once he was in the witness box, Moloise refused to answer questions saying that statements he had earlier given to the police and a magistrate were extracted from him under duress.

It is clear that having failed to break him and turn him into a traitor, and having further failed to capture the unit of Umkhonto We Sizwe which was responsible for Selepe's execution, the torturers of our people decided to revenge themselves on Moloise by charging him with this execution.

Throughout his trial, Moloise has maintained his innocence. His application for leave to appeal has now been turned down. It is therefore obvious that Selepe's masters are determined to see Benjamin Moloise dead.

In the light of this latest decision, we hereby wish to state categorically and unequivocally that Moloise was wrongly arrested and falsely charged and convicted as he had absolutely nothing to do with the execution of Selepe at any stage.

When he found Moloise guilty and sentenced him to death on June 6th 1983, it became clear that the judge who tried the case, one Van Dyk, had turned himself into a willing tool for the commission of an inexcusable crime, namely the planned and vengeful assassination of Benjamin Moloise.

We salute this patriot who, even as he was sentenced to death, spoke bravely of his commitment to a free and democratic South Africa, knowing full well that this would further enrage those who had conspired to murder him.

Thabo Mbeki: Director of Information
Lusaka, Zambia.
November 29th 1983

The execution could take place at any time: readers are urged to:

Write to Sir Geoffrey Howe, Secretary of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Downing Street, London SW1 to urge the British government to intervene to stop the execution.

Write to the State President, 'Presidencia', Bryntyrion, Pretoria, South Africa urging that the death sentence be commuted.

OPPOSE THE PTA — all of it!

In FRFI 34 we drew attention to the new 'Prevention of Terrorism Bill' which includes the recommendation that the power of arrest under the old Prevention of Terrorism Act be 'available for use against suspected international terrorists of any group'. In reality the PTA has been used for the last 9 years to harass and intimidate the Irish community in Britain. Now the state is planning to broaden the use of the act to include members and supporters of other liberation movements in this country, for example the movements of Central America, Middle East and Southern Africa.

Progressive forces here from solidarity groups to communists must unite to defeat this anti-democratic law. We must unite to oppose the PTA in total. No longer will the law be anti-Irish-it will be anti-Irish, anti-Central American, anti-Asian and anti-African. An attack on one section in this country is an attack on all – an attack on Irish activists is an attack on all anti-imperialists, and the failure of other groups to defend the rights of Irish activists is to weaken the whole movement.

It is in this context that the position adopted by the solidarity movement in this country, the Anti Apartheid Movement, is divisive and sectarian. The AAM urge their members to:

'raise this matter immediately with your MP, and ask for his support to ensure that the powers in the Bill will not apply to perfectly legitimate activities of the OAU recognised liberation movements based in Britain.'

The OAU (Organisation of African Unity) does not recognise the liberation movements of Ireland, Central and Latin America, nor the movements of Iran and other Asian countries. Effectively the AAM is saying that whilst it is alright to attack members and supporters of the liberation movements in Ireland, Iran, Central America and elsewhere, an exception should be made in the case of Southern Africa. We would urge all readers, especially those who are members of the AAM, to raise this question and urge a different policy – a defence of democracy in the interests of the whole movement.

FIGHT RACISM

in brief

SELF DEFENCE IS NO OFFENCE

The trial of the Newham 8, charged with threatening behaviour, causing an affray and 'conspiracy to assault persons unknown' began at the Old Bailey on 17 November. The 8 black youth were arrested in September 1982 while guarding local schoolkids playing football from constant fascist attacks. Fearing the self organisation of the black community, the police are trying to make an example of the Newham 8.

The trial began with a victory when the police, fearing sure humiliation dropped the 'conspiracy' charges. The case is following the classical style of police frame-ups - a combination of lies and duplicity. The police have not been able to cover up the fact that, when arrested, the Newham 8 were bundled into vans and assaulted. It has also been revealed that the police have been tampering with exhibits they are presenting as evidence. So flagrant has this been that judge Lymbery has felt it necessary to call for an inquiry into the matter. The court battle is revealing the full truth of direct and indirect police collaboration with racists in Newham who are allowed to ram-page unchecked. The police claimed to be totally unaware of racist attacks, yet were forced to let slip that it is common practice for them to check Asian peoples' passports when they go to the police station to report racist attacks.

The trial of the eight youth has not yet ended. But support for them from the black community has been evident on the daily pickets organised by the Newham 8 Defence Campaign. Recognising that the case represents a serious attack on the right of black people to organise in defence against racist attacks, over 400 people, including schoolchildren who went on strike that day, attended

the first picket on 14 November when the trial was due to start. The picketers have not been intimidated by racist building workers nearby who have hurled abuse and eggs at them. The police claimed there was nothing they could do about it! Support for the pickets has come from as far away as Birmingham with a contingent which brought a rousing revolutionary internationalist spirit with their chants 'The Newham 8 are warriors! The PLO are warriors! The FMLN are warriors! The IRA are warriors! The INLA are warriors!'

Not surprisingly the bourgeois press is assisting the police in its efforts to convict the Newham 8 and undermine the right of black people to self-defence. Their headlines such as 'Sergeant beaten by Asian gang' and 'Vengeance mob beat up policemen' expose them as col-



PAUL MATTHEWSON

laborators with the police.

As we go to press, the final defence submissions are being made before the jury retires to pass judgement. We say 'Self Defence is No Offence'.

For further information contact the

Newham 8 Defence Campaign at 555-3311.

**Ace Kelly
Eddie Abrahams**

CIRUS NOOR IMPRISONED

Cirus Noor's four day trial at the Old Bailey ended on 1 December when he was sentenced to 2 years and 4 months imprisonment. Cirus stood charged with 4 counts of 'attempted arson on Bethnal Green police station' and 2 of being in possession of paraffin 'bombs'. The nature of the charges and the police story were designed to exact maximum sentences and cover up the fact that on the night of 12 April the police station was virtually empty due to most officers being on duty in the nearby Shakespeare pub. The police claimed to have caught Cirus outside the station in the act of 'bombing' it. He apparently ran into the station and tried again, where another 'violent struggle' took place until he was 'subdued'.

Cirus and his barrister did a brilliant job of destroying the police story. The police could not account for the fact that not one of them had the slightest injury after being engaged in 'violent struggle' with the well-built and fit Cirus. Neither could they account for the fact that a matchbox remained intact after apparently being under several large men, nor for the fact that no paraffin was spilt on any clothing or the floor.



Cirus Noor

In the dock Cirus unfolded the true story of what happened on the night of 12 April and why. Cirus told how during the protests to find the truth into his ex-schoolfriend Colin Roach's death, the police continually met the people's peaceful protest with brutality and arrests. They had arrested 100, imprisoned 7 black youth, Colin's father had also been arrested and assaulted and Cirus himself had been arrested 3 times. Cirus determined to make a protest, using paraffin, rather than petrol in order not to cause anyone an injury. His first concern was not to hurt anyone,

but to be arrested and later have a big trial which would create publicity so that people would not forget but remember Colin Roach.

At the end of the trial Cirus was

acquitted of the 4 attempted arson charges but convicted of possessing paraffin 'bombs'. He was sentenced to 2 years in prison. In addition he was also given 1 month following his arrest on the 12 March Colin Roach demonstration, 9 months for breach of probation and 4 months for a previous suspended sentence.

In his final remarks, Judge Herrod, revealing the corruption of British courts, flew in the face of the facts, the jury's verdict and reality when he recommended that DC Brown be 'commended for acting in the highest tradition of gallantry and bravery' for incidents which were proved never to have taken place.

All FRFI readers are urged to write to Cirus at HM Prison, Wandsworth, Heathfield Road, London SW18.

Ace Kelly
Chair Stoke Newington and Hackney Defence Campaign

BEATEN BY SCREWS

While awaiting trial in Pentonville Prison, Cirus Noor was brutally attacked by upwards of 25 prison officers (POs) on 17 November. Ace Kelly Chair of the Stoke Newington and Hackney Defence Campaign (SNHDC) was visiting at the time and witnessed the event. Basically, Cirus didn't finish his cup of coffee as quickly as the POs would have wished. He was threatened twice and then rushed by 6 POs, who were joined by a further 25 or so. They rushed in kicking and punching Cirus to the ground. Ace himself was grabbed and surrounded by POs, escorted out of the prison and abused. The other visitors and prisoners were cordoned off while this attack took place.

The SNHDC initiated a campaign of phone calls to the prison, to the press, MPs, councillors and progressive groups and individuals. The next day the authorities were denying that Cirus had been assaulted or that he had sustained any injuries. The Home Office claimed that he had merely been 'removed' and that his size justified the amount of POs used! Councillor Joseph Merwitch was told by the Governor that 'malicious rumours were being spread for political reasons' and that he certainly could visit the prison... in 2 months time after writing in! Barrister Sarah Forster did however succeed in visiting Cirus and

described him as being 'extensively bruised... some clearly boot prints.'

Prison and police harassment of Cirus and his friends continued on 20 November when Cirus was visited by Ruby Noorani. On ending the visit she was arrested and taken to Islington police station on 'suspicion of smuggling out a letter'. In the police station she was strip searched and even had her anus examined. These were no more than disgusting attempts to humiliate her as the police released Ruby without charge after 45 minutes. Needless to say Ruby is taking out charges against the police.

Following these incidents, Cirus informed his solicitor that he was daily being visited by psychiatrists trying to have him 'sectioned' under the Mental Health Act (ie certificated mad). They are claiming that he is 'violent and hyper-maniac'. On threat of certifying him mad, they tried to force him to take Largactil - commonly known as the liquid cash and used widely in prisons to control prisoners who stand up for their rights.

These attempts to break Cirus's spirit failed as was demonstrated in the course of his trial. We say Hands Off Cirus Noor! No Mental Health Act! Stop Prison Brutality!
Ace Kelly

Brent Council Area Health Authority welds its gates to the public

On Monday 5 December, the Brent Council Area Health Authority (AHA) met in Belvedere House behind padlocked and welded gates. A barbed wire fence at the back and a large contingent of police were other means employed to keep the public out of the meeting which was called to overturn a democratic decision in September not to implement the £250,000 cuts in health services.

The decision to call the meeting behind closed doors was taken by Lena Talmage (nominee of the Secretary of State with no previous experience in the health service). It was supported by David Pashley, administrator of the AHA who claimed they were within their rights to keep the public out as the 2 previous meetings had been severely disrupted. During the meeting Lena Talmage refused to take discussion on the public being excluded from the meeting. Laurie Nerva chair of the Labour Party Borough Social Services, and others against the action were not allowed to address the chair. Councillor Graham Durham stood beside Talmage saying that he would not allow her not to have a debate. For this he was removed by 2 policemen at the request of the chair on the grounds that he was interfering with the progress of the meeting.

Laurie Nerva told FRFI:

'I don't advocate violence, but if they think that by excluding the public from meetings at which decisions contrary to those already agreed democratically are to be taken they will silence opposition, they are wrong. People will protest in whatever way is left to them.'

Are the ruling class and their faithful servants so afraid of the power of the oppressed masses that they must now take to welding gates and having their public meetings defended by the police to prevent the public attending?
Ken Hughes

Esther Ankeli

Esther was married in Nigeria in 1972 and came to England to join her husband in 1977. The marriage broke down in 1980, Esther was given custody of their two children. Angela 10 and Felix 3 who was British-born.

Esther has, through hard work, established a home for herself and her children but now is faced with deportation because of her marriage breakdown.

Esther is one of an increasing number of women faced with the injustice of the racist/sexist legal system which makes women dependent on the goodwill of their husbands for the right to live in this country.

If Esther is deported, she and her children would be deprived of the only way of life they know and as a divorcee in Nigeria would be reduced to begging in the street.

Donations and further information from: Abasindi-Co-Op, Moss Side, Manchester M15.

Josie Thomas must stay

On 12 January the second half of the appeal against the Home Office deportation order against Josie Thomas is to be heard. Josie Thomas has had to fight for the right to live in Britain even though she came here in 1962 and her children were born here. She is threatened with deportation due to the racist British immigration laws which have denied her British citizenship.

Josie Thomas is determined to fight to stay in Britain. In this fight it is Josie who has to prove that she has a right to stay in Britain, rather than the Home Office proving that she has no right. Black people have no rights in Britain unless they are fought for. In the case at the tribunal hearing in Leeds every detail of her personal life, her health, her children, her finances had to be defended.

No Deportations! Josie must stay!
Contact Josephine Thomas Support Committee, c/o 54 Deighton Road, Huddersfield, HD2 2UF.

Keith and Chas

Another SNHDC Victory

Asela Nanayakkara - arrested after the Stoke Newington and Hackney Defence Campaign picket of Old Street Magistrates Court on 27 July - walked free from Bow Road Juvenile court in December. He defeated the police on two charges, threatening behaviour and swearing. As usual, apart from their identical 'notes', the police witnesses gave two different stories of what was supposed to have happened. Asela had in fact been standing on the court steps getting witnesses for a young black SNHDC supporter who had just been arrested. Police in a van had jeered and made abusive gestures at him before arresting him. Photographs showed the peaceful, disciplined nature of the picket, and the large numbers of police, who had earlier threatened to arrest the whole picket! In court the photographer was asked if he went 'out of his way' to get photographs of police in compromising situations - 'I don't have to', he answered, 'they put themselves there'.

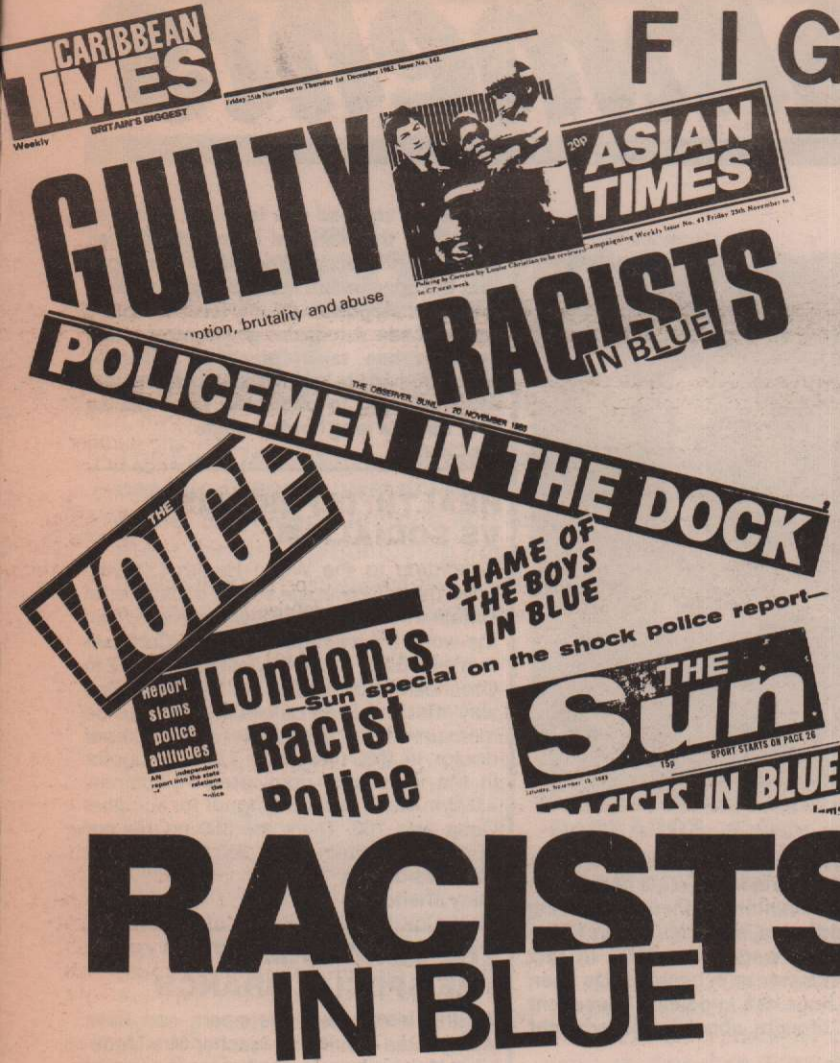
Charles Bolton

Dole Office race checks

A year ago we reported that 'ethnic monitoring' of the unemployed was going to start in January of this year but that due to opposition from dole office staff it was postponed. The government has recently announced that it will now start 'ethnic monitoring' of unemployed people in January or February 1984. There will be three racial categories: a) West Indian/African; b) Asian; c) Others. Each category will have a code which will be fed into the computer alongside the claimant's national insurance number (this number is the key to all major personal details). Of course the government says statistics are needed to identify 'racial disadvantage'. But the very report which first recommended monitoring-the Rayner report - also implied that black people were more likely to commit 'fraud' than white people. With the new Regional Benefit Investigation Teams now in action one of the real purposes of these race checks becomes clear - a tool for racist harassment. 'Ethnic monitoring' is a low-level intelligence gathering operation - another weapon in the state's armoury aimed at the oppressed. But this racist attack can be defeated. Claimants can refuse to be checked, and dole office workers can refuse to carry out the checks.

Fight Racism! No Ethnic Monitoring!
Gerald Johnson

FIGHT RACISM



With these and similar headlines the British press greeted the publication of the report that had been commissioned by David McNee Head of the Metropolitan police in 1979. An official stamp was given to what is well-known to readers of Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism!

It took 2 years research at the cost of £163,000 for the independent enquirers to establish clearly and loudly for the middle class what poor people, white working class youth and black people have known to be true for years. The police in London are not merely racist, they are prejudiced against black people to the extent that they have declared unofficial war on them. Racist abuse accompanies arrest, arrests are carried out with physical force, physical force becomes intimidation at the police station, and in detention the black/poor/young person is denied legal rights. This survey shows that this behaviour by the police is the common pattern of the thousands of arrests each day in London. Nearly half of those arrested in the survey thought the police behaved unreasonably and nearly 20% considered they used unjustified force.

But what has emerged most clearly from the report and has shocked the liberal commentators who have always spoken about 'a few bad apples' or 'young and inexperienced coppers on the beat' is that this racist, illegal activity of the police takes up most of their time and energies. The Metropolitan Police, and there are 25,000 of them not counting Special Branch, spend much time in aimless, undirected wandering about in cars or on foot looking to cause trouble. The notion that the role of the police is

'to enforce the law' is meaningless. The police select all the time what to ignore and what to treat as criminal. And since they are a solid body of racists in blue at war with black and poor people, their main choice is to arrest, detain and deliver up to the courts a neat package; in this they are successful. In 1982 83% of all cases brought before magistrates courts in the London area resulted in conviction.

Crime detection has increasingly become a matter of harassment on the

streets. In one year there were one and a half million 'stop and search' exercises. These led to 45,000 arrests or 3% of the total. In the view of the writers of this report who worked alongside the police for two years, 45% of the 'stop and search' actions could not be justified under present police powers. Those most likely to be stopped - often several times over - are young males aged between 15 and 24, and in particular young West Indians.

Public order has likewise increasingly become an area where police 'discretion' means that they will lavish their vicious attention on the black community. Organisations, demonstrations, protests and pickets against the racism of the NF or the state are automatically attractive to the Boys in Blue. Where they will merely contain and control football hooligans, they attack and if possible smash-up all struggles for democratic rights. Furthermore this is work police enjoy. One constable speaking to a researcher recalled his time on duty at the Grunwick photo-processing factory with these words.

'That Grunwick dispute, I liked that one best of all. It was such a fair clean fight. The unions got these blokes in from all over the country, they were a really tough lot, not rubbish mind you, but a really good class of demonstrator. They had a go at us and we had a go at them... It was a really good one that, I liked it. When it was over I felt like shaking hands with the opposition and thanking them for such a good contest.'

RACISTS IN BLUE

A different constable on a different occasion recalled the police station in Southall in July 1981 when they were called on to protect the National Front's election meeting as follows.

'We went wanging down there, jumped out of the van and just started fighting... It was a great day out, fighting the Pakis. It ought to be an annual fixture. I thoroughly enjoyed myself.'

The gross racism of the police force, its contempt for human life and dignity can be measured by the everyday language of their profession. 'Coon', 'spade', 'monkey', 'wog', 'nigger' and 'Paki liars' are common, while women police officers (9% of total) are 'plonk' and all poor people are 'slags' and 'scum'. This view of humanity is translated into practice in police detention where those in custody are seen as guilty and as losers in a power struggle.

was taken - dozens of senior officers were implicated.

When the police show 'institutionalised disregard of the niceties of law' then we can expect the 'niceties of law' to be swept away. In its provisions for the search of premises the new Police Bill sweeps away the 'niceties' and sets up the legal framework to back this police terror. Regardless of whether the occupiers are suspected of an offence, the Bill provides for search warrants to be issued for 'anything that *might* be produced in evidence'. In addition, once someone is arrested for any offence, their home can be searched without even a warrant being issued. And the Bill gives the police power 'to use reasonable force if necessary' to carry out a search.

It is a damning indictment of Labour's cowardice that it was left to a Conservative MP, Sir Nicholas Bonsor, to object to these extensions of police power.

What the Police Bill will do is strip away the institutional niceties of complaints, inquiries and disciplinary procedures and give the police the green light to put in the sledgehammer as they did in Railton Road on 15 July 1981.

Andy Goddard

The black PSI researcher Stephen Small aged 26 was arrested during the course of this study. His arrest on the Black People's Day of Action March in March 1981 is really at the core of this report. Although he was finally released without charges after four court appearances, once his identity was known, he could have lodged an official complaint on the following grounds.

(a) insulting language. He was addressed as a 'cunt' and a 'bastard'.
(b) refused a telephone call. Judges rules were ignored on this right.
(c) intimidating threats. He was told he would be detained for a week if he refused to give his fingerprints. They would in any case be taken by force.

RACISTS IN BLUE

(d) misleading information as to his whereabouts. Next of kin were repeatedly told he was at another station.

(e) fabrication of evidence. Stephen Small overheard an officer tell another he had jumped on his back whereas he was arrested from the crowd by a 'snatch-squad'.

Most of this is familiar stuff of course but the significant point about the PSI report is that the public at large will not admit it. In the words of the Economist,

'Under his peculiar Victorian helmet your ordinary London bobby is racist, sexist, bored, aimless and quite often drunk. Despite this only 10% of Londoners completely lack confidence in their police'.

Largely, of course, this reflects who has the most contact with the police. Young males are very likely to be stopped, especially if they are West Indian. In a twelve month period 63% of young (15-24) West Indians and 44% of young white men were stopped - among those stopped, West Indians were stopped on average four times each and whites about two and a half times each. In this case familiarity certainly breeds contempt but there is a further issue here. The British press and television media as always, assure the public that all is, or soon will be, well. The shock-horror headlines which greeted the report were balanced by self-congratulations that in the whole world only the British police force would allow an independent enquiry into itself. (It should be noted that only 120 copies of this report were printed at first and were sold for over £20 each.) The media turned to the present Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, Sir Kenneth

Newman, for words of comfort. He was praised for accepting the 'bitter pill' of the report and for recognising 'the need for action'. 'In many areas', readers were assured, 'Newman has already begun to reform the Met'.

And so in order to defend an indefensible police force the British journalists make presentable a man who is known to the people in the North of Ireland as 'torturer Newman'. This neo-colonialist policeman has the ambition to run a truly efficient Metropolitan force. No doubt he will streamline the force in its attack on democratic rights and he may even try to cut down the casual offensive racism that has shocked the media so greatly.

To Newman and other state bosses the PSI report is a warning that the image must not be allowed to slip too far. The middle-class and their respectable allies must keep the illusion that the police force is the upholder of law and moral decency. A great deal of social control is at risk when the population questions the honesty and fairness of the police too closely. As the authors of the PSI report say, 'it is rather like asking patients as they are wheeled into the operating theatre whether they think that surgeons are competent.'

Above all the gathering forces of protest and struggle against the police like the black and white youth who rose up in the summer of 1981, must be isolated and attacked. That is the aim behind Newman's 'reform' of targetting groups and areas for special police attention. Of all people it will be Newman, backed by a subservient lick-spittle press, who will endeavour to see that the 10% who really know and hate what policemen do, will remain only 10%.

He will continue to be helped in this by the British journalists who gave the Metropolitan Police invaluable assistance in March 1982 when they published crime statistics and a mass publicity campaign suggesting that there was an unprecedented rise in 'serious crime' and that black people were largely responsible. This 'totally misleading' (PSI report) information was slavishly covered by the British press. They are as

RACISTS IN BLUE

guilty as the 'racists in blue' now officially exposed in the PSI report. All those who ignore, or cover up, or in any way excuse the Metropolitan Police Force are no better than the racist, sexist, boozing thugs in blue on the streets in London.

Susan Davidson

POLICE BILL Sledgehammer rules

Shortly after 2.00 am on 15 July 1981 Brixton's Frontline was cordoned off by 391 police officers. Then 176 more police carrying sledge hammers and crow bars forced entry to 11 houses in Railton Road. They systematically wrecked each house, they ripped up floor boards, broke water pipes, removed gas and electric meters, hand rails and bannisters and they smashed almost every window. The police subsequently paid out £8,500 for structural damage as well as undisclosed sums for the loss of personal property.

This raid was authorised through the issue of search warrants under the Licensing Act, for unlawful drinking, and the Criminal Damage Act, to search for petrol bombs. Needless to say no evidence of petrol bombs or illegal drinking was found, yet the police made four arrests.

The publicity attracted by this terror raid obliged the ruling class to engineer a cover up, the Police Complaints Board initiated an inquiry. Legally, the police officer in possession of a search warrant may not use it to search for evidence of crimes other than that specified in the warrant - the raid was illegal.

Over a year later the Board reported,

'It is difficult not to come to the conclusion that every senior officer in possession of a warrant regarded it as a licence to enter premises and, once having gained entry, to search for evidence of any crime... (There was) at best, ignorance or misunderstanding of their powers on the part of a large number of officers or, at worst, institutionalised disregard of the niceties of law.'

The report was not published - except a copy was placed in the House of Commons library. No disciplinary action

SUPPORT BLACK NURSERY WORKERS

The Black Nursery Workers Support Group was set up in Hackney to defend Jane Purdon who was appointed deputy matron of Wetherell Nursery in July. This appointment has been opposed by the matron Jane Maple who was, until recent union elections, a NALGO shop steward and is a prominent member of the Labour Party in Hackney. Jane Maple made complaints against the manager responsible for Jane Purdon's appointment and claimed that the job advertisement was wrongly worded. Then, abusing her position as a shop steward, Jane Maple called an unofficial strike on 31 October. She has manipulated nursery workers in the area into believing their jobs are in danger simply because Jane Purdon and two other black nursery workers hold social work qualifications!

The Support Group intends to fight against this racist harassment. On 30 November it had its first public meeting attended by 60 people at the Hackney Asian Centre. Jane Purdon spoke about her struggle emphasising that her struggle is a struggle for all black people. Heavy criticism was directed at the Commission for Racial Equality and the Equal Opportunities Commission which were accused of being tools of the British state. Jane Purdon's case has focused the grievance of black workers being excluded from the organisation of the social services which affect them in their communities. In the nurseries in Hackney 90% of the children are black. Yet few black workers hold responsible posts.

The Black Nursery Workers Support Group is calling on other workers to support their campaign. NALGO and Hackney Council must be forced to end this harassment and the Support Group is calling for help from the Community. If you can help this campaign in any way, contact the Black Nursery Workers Support Group, c/o Hackney Asian Centre, Dalston Lane, London E8.

Sarah Moore and Ken Hughes

Caribbean reaction and misery

The East Caribbean police and troops that trailed the US invasion forces into Grenada were drawn from Dominica, Jamaica, Barbados, St Lucia, St Vincent, Antigua and St Kitts-Nevis. Their normal employment consists of upholding imperialism's interests in their area and repressing any opposition to the mass unemployment and poverty which scourge the East Caribbean.

The British Labour Party formed the joint Eastern Caribbean Defence Force in 1979. Headquartered in Barbados, it was used in December of that year to put down a Rastafarian uprising on Union Island, St Vincent. Barbadian Prime Minister Adams boasted of his willingness to send troops to any other Caribbean island. British capital thanked him with \$10m worth of military aid.

Between 1981 and 1983 imperial military aid to the Eastern Caribbean countries neighbouring Grenada multiplied five fold, and in addition British and US banks splashed local reactionary regimes with credits to use on arms stockpiles. For example, Barbados spent thirty-two times as much on weapons last year as six years ago! Its police and troops are trained by the self-same Royal Marines that stamp all over the rights of the nationalist people in the Six Counties of Ireland. They are equipped with British supplied gunboats and the same armoured landrovers, bristling with guns, that patrol the streets of Belfast and Derry.

JAMAICA Seaga's economic policies are directed by the IMF and other imperialist banks. Jamaican debt per person now stands at US \$1,000. Within three years debt repayments will exceed export earnings on current trends. Farming communities are suffering malnutrition as crops rot in the fields for want of markets and the people have no money to buy 'fish kind', flour, salt or oil. Jamaica's wealth is being poured into the coffers of the pirate banks. Services are slashed on their orders: in one week three hundred bus workers were sacked, a service vital to most Jamaican people. Thirty-five per cent of children of school going age are not enrolled. Half Jamaica's youth are unemployed. Meanwhile, dwindling currency reserves go to furnish tourist areas with beauty contests, cocktail stirrers, and plastic flowers! This humiliation is enforced by police guns. The Assistant Chief Constable of the Northumbria police is only the latest in a steady stream of British police and troops sent to train and advise the Jamaican police. The SAS and US Green Berets also train in Jamaica.

CIA-installed Prime Minister Seaga of Jamaica has taken the opportunity of the Grenadian invasion to call a general election two years before it is due, and coincident with a forty-three per cent devaluation of the Jamaican dollar that

will intensify poverty among Jamaicans. Opposition parties have refused to partake in the electoral bear-garden awash with the blood of Cuban and Grenadian martyrs. Seaga's government will take a further term of office.

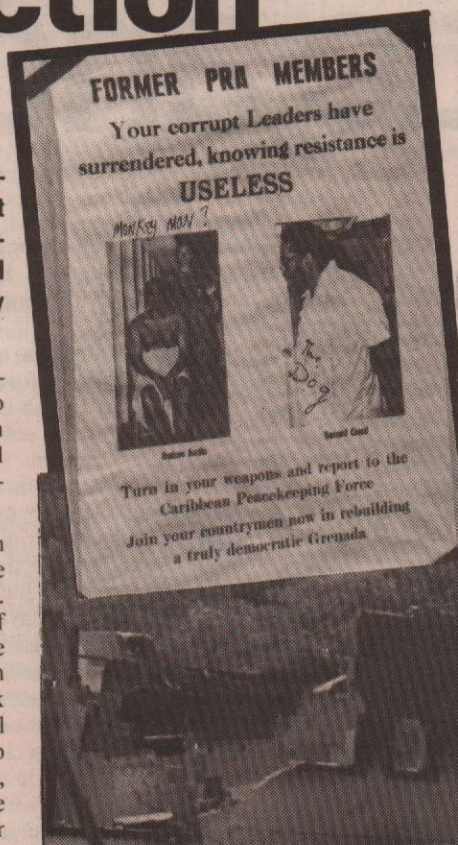
BARBADOS Cuba's revolution cleared out the parasitic growths of the US tourist trade and its attendant Mafia. However, the sprawling rubbish heap of US capitalism quickly spilled onto the other Caribbean islands. US and British hotels dominate the island and black people are not allowed onto many hotel beaches. Rather, they are expected to serve as shoe-shine boys, bartenders, drug peddlers and prostitutes. When the US fleet docked in Bridgetown earlier this year 6,000 sailors were given \$3m to spend in four days. As a special treat for the locals, Prince Andrew's HMS Invincible also paid a call. Imperialism would have the Caribbean islands vying with each other for the status of most favoured whore! Barbadian school girls have been forced into pornographic films made for US consumption, then murdered and dumped in sugar cane fields by crime syndicates that blend this trade with narcotics peddling.

ST LUCIA It is illegal to show films or videos without police permission. Their interest is not in arresting pornography but political opposition. It is illegal to wear the popular 'greens' fatigue jackets associated with the Cuban revolution. Opposition politicians have been branded as 'Libyan terrorists'.

ST VINCENT In 1981 the government devised a Public Safety and Public Order Act intended to forbid anything from pamphlet to gesture it considered 'undemocratic' or promoting 'ill will between classes' on pain of seven years' imprisonment. Strikes in any industry the state considered 'essential' would be illegal. Determined opposition from workers has shelved this legislation for the time being.

ANTIGUA This tiny island hosts both a US naval and air base along with a booster for 'Voice of America' radio and a Barbadian intelligence unit. The opposition press is constantly harassed and the right to strike is not recognised in the constitution.

ST KITTS-NEVIS This September St Kitts-Nevis was formally granted independence after an empty British



GRENADA New Jewel Movement speaks

Operation Invasion of Grenada completed, the United States has now moved to a new stage of effective occupation of the island. While the bourgeois press is busy trumpeting the withdrawal of US combat troops, they neglect to stress the fact that hundreds of US personnel including 'propaganda' experts and 'military police' remain to enforce the continued heavy repression on the island.

Left, US propaganda poster and racist marine graffiti; below, Radio Free Grenada after US bombing

House of Commons passed the independence bill. Kittitian Labour leaders and opposition politicians boycotted the celebrations, condemning the constitution as being devised to keep them from power.

DOMINICA The Charles' government has cut infrastructural spending on roads, buildings, electricity by 30% this year: fish putrify for want of a preservative factory. The government intends to introduce the death penalty for 'treason' and give the police powers to detain people and prevent their access to bail. In 1981 the government drafted emergency powers that revived a law effectively legitimising the shooting of Rastas on sight; thirteen people were gunned down in a single day.

Unemployment is rising and repression descending across the Caribbean even above its customary 30 to 50 per cent. Looming before its people are the horrors of Haiti, a land whose regime was US-installed and where half the children die by the age of four; where 85% illiteracy reigns in a country with thirty five prisons for every high school and 189 soldiers for each teacher, and whose 'anti-subversion' force, the Leopards, are trained by the United States.

This is the model for the Caribbean people that imperialism holds up and that is why it has smashed Grenada! The oppressed Caribbean people have no choice but to unite across the islands, unite with those who fight imperialism within the USA and Britain and strike down the predators that hover above them.

Trevor Rayne

All reports coming from Grenada confirm that the puppet 'interim government' set up after the invasion is simply not functioning. The 'cabinet' is in fact a committee consisting of the General of the US Armed Forces, the US Ambassador Charles Gillespie, the Governor General Sir Paul Scoon and the head of the Caribbean Force. This committee which is clearly US controlled meets daily at 10am and with the troops is the main instrument of US rule. The interim government is frequently not even represented at these meetings. In any case, without the leadership of the principled Mr Alistair McIntyre, the PIG (Puppet Interim Government) has dissolved into vacuous ineffectiveness. Meanwhile, as confirmed by Mr Anthony Rushford, the British so-called 'constitution expert', Sir Paul Scoon has refused to return to his constitutional ceremonial rule and increasingly allows himself to be used as the mouthpiece of US domination.

The main thrust of present US policy is, as expected, the crushing of the progressive movement and particularly the New Jewel Movement. At least 350 political prisoners are being held, and families have expressed concern at 'regular beatings'. Former NJM members and supporters of the revolution not actually permanently detained are subject to frequent 'pick-ups' and interrogation, and road blocks, personal searches, and searches of homes are everyday occurrences. At the same time known supporters of the revolution

have arbitrarily been sent home from their jobs. All 'foreigners', ironically not Americans, who had been working for the PRG were given 24 hours to leave the island. The result of all this is that the administration is even more crippled by an acute shortage of critical skills. The Ministry of Finance is said to be without economists, and many schools are only partially functioning because of a shortage of teachers.

Otherwise the US is, as expected, concentrating on attempts to discredit the revolution. Despite popular concern they seem determined to confirm their own myth that the new international airport was intended as a military installation by moving swiftly to turn it into a US military base themselves. For the first time in its short history our international airport has been sealed off from the people and deemed a 'security area'. Lately there have been attacks on the PRG economic policy as seen by Sir Paul 'Gillespie' Scoon's recent tirades. Since the PRG economic achievements have already been confirmed by internationally prestigious organisations such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, it can only be assumed that the US reputed economic chaos has been caused by the destructive 7-day war and subsequent civil disruption occasioned by the invasion itself.

Despite their efforts however the US have of course been unable to deny the real benefits of the revolution in the eyes of the working people. A survey allegedly done by US personnel themselves has revealed that the majority of the population continue to support the NJM. Hence the elections, first promised within 6 months, have been put off indefinitely to allow time for the continued effort to destroy the NJM. The efforts to deny the achievements of the revolution can only rebound in discrediting US propaganda itself and building resistance to the occupation.

Carol Davis
New Jewel Movement

The NJM Support Group (UK) urgently need funds to continue the struggle. Write to the NJM Support Group (UK), c/o 4 Windus Walk, London N16. Tel 01-806-9112.

Nicaragua

Early this year, President Reagan presented Nicaraguan counter-revolutionaries operating from Honduras and Costa Rica as freedom fighters leading a popular uprising against Sandinista tyranny. A special CIA report in November concluded that this was rubbish, stating that the 'contras' were incapable of achieving a political or military victory over the Nicaraguan revolution for lack of any popular support. US imperialism is therefore intensifying its open and arrogant military preparations for war against the Sandinista revolution.

Already 28 US warships and 25,000 US troops have encircled Nicaragua. 5,000 are stationed in Honduras co-ordinating with the Honduran army and up to 5,000 'contras'. In Costa Rica US Army Corps are supervising the construction of an air-strip near the Nicaraguan border capable of handling combat and troop planes. Plans also exist

for a rapid mobilisation of 25,000 Honduran, Guatemalan and Salvadoran troops to invade Nicaragua. Meanwhile, the US financed 'contras' continue their campaign of terrorism and sabotage which has cost over 1,500 Nicaraguan lives and billions of dollars to the Nicaraguan economy.

From behind this massive deployment of fire-power US imperialism is demanding that the Sandinistas 'democratise' Nicaragua. The Sandinistas are being 'told' to organise elections and share power with the 'contras' and their political representatives.

In anticipation of US imperialist aggression, the Nicaraguan people are mobilising for a popular war of national resistance. Tens of thousands of Nicaraguans are undergoing military training, Sandinista Defence Committees are organising medical and firefighting brigades in all major towns, air raid shelters and trenches are being constructed and emergency provisions are being organ-

CENTRAL AMERICA The people prepare

ised for schools, hospitals and factories. The Sandinista government is however doing its utmost to avoid war. In an attempt to destroy any pretext for US intervention it has announced that elections will be organised in 1985, that an amnesty for counter-revolutionary prisoners is imminent, that censorship will be relaxed and that all except senior

counter-revolutionaries can return home and form political parties to participate in the elections. Though these measures allow greater room for the counter-revolutionary pro-imperialist bourgeoisie to organise, the Sandinista government is confident that the counter-revolutionaries will be rebuffed.

El Salvador

In an important communique issued on 5 November, the FMLN General Command warned of US preparations to invade El Salvador.

'Overwhelmed by the devastating blows struck by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front against the puppet army, especially during the last two months, the defence minister of the Salvadorean dictatorship General Eugenio Vides Casanovas, following instructions from the US government, just a few days ago asked the armies of Honduras and Guatemala to invade our country...'

The danger of such an invasion has not

receded as over the past month FMLN armed forces have continued to deliver stunning blows to the Salvadoran army. The FMLN now dominates 6 of the country's 14 provinces, they have consolidated their positions in Cabana and Cuscutlan and defeated the US inspired 'rural pacification programme' in the economically important San Vicente province.

The FMLN Communique points out the connection between US preparations to invade Nicaragua, its support for 'contras' operating from Honduras and its plans to invade El Salvador. To prepare their forces for a foreign invasion, the FMLN General Command: '...calls on the working class, the peasantry, the students, teachers government and private employees professionals, technicians and all their organisations to defend the homeland and be ready to struggle and resist the invaders on all fronts.'

Eddie Abrahams

BRITISH IMPERIALISM parasitic and decaying

This article is an extract from the manifesto of the Revolutionary Communist Group The Revolutionary Road to Communism in Britain to be published in February 1984. It is taken from the section 'The crisis of British imperialism'.

A myth exists among the privileged strata of the British labour movement. It is a myth that is also peddled by most groups on the 'left' of the Labour Party. Its argument is that the decline of Britain's industrial production shows that Britain is a declining imperialist power or not even an imperialist power at all. Tony Benn has put this view, a view shared both by the Labour Party and the CPGB, most clearly of all:

'Britain has moved from Empire to Colony status. It is a colony in which the IMF decides our monetary policy, the international and multi-national companies decided our industrial policy and the EEC decided our legislative and taxation policies.'

Britain which has bulldozed its way through most of the oppressed nations of the world, which still brutalizes the people of its oldest colony Ireland, which is the major backer of the racist South African state and whose imperialist banks are among the most profitable in the world, is called a colony. The reality is quite different – indeed the opposite of what Tony Benn and his 'left' supporters would have us believe.

British imperialism, far from being undermined in the last 10 years, has moved from strength to strength under both Labour and Tory governments. As we have argued earlier, the fall in the rate of profit on industrial capital in the major imperialist countries has led to a rapid rise in the export of capital and an enormously strengthened role for banking capital. Imperialism's stranglehold over the oppressed nations has grown immeasurably as a result of these developments. And British imperialism, second only to the United States, has been, through its banking system, the imperialist power gaining a commanding position in this process.

Between 1972 and 1982 the rate of profit on industrial and commercial companies (excluding North Sea Oil) fell from 9.3% to 4% reaching its lowest point of 3.3% in 1981. Manufacturing profitability fell even lower to 2.3% in 1981, rising slightly to 3.3% in 1982. In the same period North Sea Oil profits have grown from an insignificant £50m to a huge £12.6bn – from a negligible proportion of gross profits of industrial and commercial companies to a massive 36.6% of the total. Meanwhile profits from overseas investment have increased from £1.7bn to nearly £11bn – equivalent to an increase from 22% to 32% when compared with the total gross profits made in Britain (including North Sea Oil).

What the figures in Table 1 show is how much British capitalism has in the last decade grown dependent on the monopoly profits from North Sea Oil and from the export of capital abroad.

The collapse of profitability in British industry has led to a rapid increase in the export of capital abroad each year. In 1972 private investors sent £1.4bn capital abroad. By 1982 this had grown to £10.8bn. The significance of this dev-

to 167% of it in 1982. Can anyone now doubt the growing strength of British banking, and hence of British imperialism?

Unfortunately, there are those on the British 'left' who do. They are forced to minimise the strength of British imperialism because they refuse to acknowledge that opportunist currents in the British labour movement are sustained and nourished through the super-profits derived from British imperialism's export of capital abroad, and particularly that sent to the oppressed nations. Such organisations inevitably play down the centrality of anti-imperialist struggles in the overall struggle for socialism world-wide. They also carry out most of their political work among the more privileged sections of the working class in the organised Labour and trade union movement seeking alliances with the more radical sectors of the labour aristocracy and its supporters.

The self-proclaimed Revolutionary

Table 1

	1972	1977	1982
Rate of profit industrial and commercial companies (excl North Sea Oil)	9.3%	6.9%	4.0%
Gross trading profits (excl North Sea Oil) – £ million	7,725	16,391	21,794
North Sea Oil profits £ million	50	1,957	12,617
Profits, interest and dividends from overseas investment £million	1,748	4,032	10,991

British terror has been unleashed all over the world since 1945: Greece, Vietnam, Palestine, India, Malaysia, Borneo, Aden, Cyprus, Suez, Indonesia, Oman, Kenya, Korea, British Cameroons, Brunei, British Guiana, Falklands/Malvinas and, of course, Ireland... British troops have been used systematically to crush any struggle for liberation from imperialism. British imperialist money, weaponry and manpower has been devoted to propping up murderous reactionary regimes and crushing resistance to such regimes. The British ruling class know that their wealth and power depend on imperialist exploitation and oppression. Therefore, they seek to drown in blood any movement of oppressed peoples for freedom.

RCG Manifesto

elopment can be seen by comparing these amounts with private investment in British industry. (See Table 2)

Private investment overseas has grown from a size equal to 20% of total private sector fixed investment in 1972 (69% of fixed investment in manufacturing) to over 35% in 1982 (more than 175% of that in manufacturing).

These figures however, significant as they are, are overshadowed by the towering size of British banking activities internationally. Vast sums of money are borrowed abroad by banks based in Britain to lend out at a higher rate of interest to other countries. The sums involved are so enormous that they have made banking and commercial claims the largest component of Britain's private sector external assets. (See Table 3)

Money lent by financial institutions in Britain (ie banking claims) have increased from 58.5% of total private external assets of Britain in 1972 to over 77% in 1982 (the figure for 1962 was 22%). Besides these figures the accumulated assets from private direct investment abroad – second only to the US in the world – are relatively small. UK banking and commercial claims abroad alone were equivalent in amount to 87% of the gross national product in 1972 and

Table 2

Year	Gross domestic fixed capital formation £m		Private investment overseas £m
	Total	Manufacturing	
1972	7,100	2,044	1,402
1977	16,143	4,754	2,334
1982	30,375	6,012	10,768

Table 3 UK external assets – private sector (£ million)

	1972	% of total	1982	% of total
Private direct investment	7,860	16.1	32,500	8.5
Portfolio investment	9,490	19.4	37,700	9.9
Other direct investment (mainly oil)	2,930	6.0	16,825	4.4
UK banking and commercial claims	28,640	58.5	295,052	77.2
TOTAL	48,920		382,077	

Private direct investment – investment by UK companies in their overseas branches, subsidiaries and associates.

Portfolio investment – investment in shares of a company which does not give a controlling interest.

The trends which we see emerging world-wide are deeply rooted in the contradictions of the capitalist system of production itself. The crisis of imperialism will deepen until those contradictions are resolved – until one side or the other suffers a massive defeat. Socialism or barbarism are the choices facing humanity.

RCG Manifesto

Communist Party, therefore, denies that UK banking assets abroad can be treated as 'assets' in the real sense at all – unlike for example the assets of an industrial company. Frank Richards goes so far along these lines as to emerge as an apologist for the imperialist banks when he says that the export of banking capital is a sign of British imperialism's weakness. This is a petty bourgeois notion of capitalism in its imperialist phase. Capitalists are concerned with profits not what their assets look like. The activities of the banks allow them to obtain an increasing share of the profits produced world-wide even though they, themselves, produce no wealth at all. Money which makes money – capital in its most parasitic form. It might not comply with the petty bourgeois vision of capitalism but, in reality, imperialist banks exercise a dominant control over capitalist society and are in the forefront of imperialism's plunder of the oppressed nations. British imperialist banks play a leading role in this process.

In the wake of the world crisis, the record level of bankruptcies in Britain and the growing threat of major defaults on international loans, the profits of the four major British banks were still a staggering £1.5bn in 1982. Although this was a fall of 10% on the record profits of the previous year, these results were achieved in spite of a massive 'bad and doubtful debt provision' of £962m – two and a half times the provision for 1981. Confidence that such high profits would be achieved in the future was shown when all the banks increased the dividends paid to shareholders – Barclays by 20%, Lloyds and NatWest by 15% and Midland by 6%. Bank share prices rose considerably.

Out of the growing world-wide poverty and starvation, the British imperialist banks continue to accumulate vast amounts of wealth. The total assets of these four banks in 1982 were £196bn, an increase of 22% on the previous year. (See Table 4)

The fifth largest British bank, Standard Chartered Bank, after doubling its bad debt provisions, reported a profit of

Table 4 Big Four banks

	Pre-tax profit 1982 £m	Bad debt provision £m	Total assets end 1982 £bn
Barclays	495	318	59.0
NatWest	439	229	54.5
Midland	251	196	48.0
Lloyds	316	219	34.5
TOTAL	1,501	962	196.0

£242m – a fall of only 7% on the previous year. 32% of its profits came from its stake in the brutal racist South African apartheid regime. The banks are increasingly dependent on their international operations for their income and profits. In the first half of 1983, for example, NatWest overseas operations contributed a half of total company profits. For Barclays in the same period, they contributed over 40%, with nearly 40% of the profits of Barclays International coming from South Africa.

Over the last three years (1980-82) three British banks have been among the top twenty largest banks in the world. More significant is the fact that British banks have in the same period had three banks among the most profitable ten banks in the world. And in 1980 five British banks were among the top ten most profitable banks, with Barclays



Workers and oppressed peoples of all

M capitalism

being the most profitable bank in the world in that year. Can anyone really deny the strength of the British imperialist banks?

British companies have nearly always financed the great proportion of their investment (60-70%) out of their profits from home and abroad - out of internal funds. At the height of the post-war boom the largest proportion of new *outside* finance came from money raised by the issue of shares. With the growing crisis of capitalism, the fall in the rate of profit, and the increase of inflation, companies were forced more and more to borrow from the banks. This led to a dramatic increase in British companies' dependence on banks. Between 1967 and 1973 the percentage of bank borrowings in companies' total new outside finance rose from 30% to 70%; between 1973 and 1982 it rose yet again, from

70% to 80%. The proportion of outstanding gross debt of industrial and commercial companies owed to the banks increased from 46% in 1967, 63% in 1973 to 86% in 1982. Today the hold of the banks over even large companies is greater than ever before. Banks can force companies into liquidation by restricting credits if the profit outlook of the firm does not merit further loans. Under capitalism in its imperialist phase the production of material goods is at the mercy of a handful of very powerful banks.

Britain is the major centre of international banking. Most of the important imperialist banks therefore have subsidiaries and branches in Britain. British-owned banks have about a 23% share of the London market with a similar share (22%) of the foreign currency business. Nearly 70% of Sterling lending abroad is conducted by British-owned banks. But, of course, it is the activities of all the imperialist banks in Britain (UK banks) which effect the flows of funds, profits and interest, into and out of the British economy. The growing share of banking profits as a proportion of the profits etc from overseas investment show the crucial importance of the imperialist banks based in Britain for the British economy. (See Table 5)

From 1972 to 1982 profits etc from the external lending of UK banks increased from nearly 6% of the total profits from overseas investment to a massive 24%. Can anyone really deny the crucial importance of the export of capital by UK banks for British imperialism?

The statistics for external assets of UK banks in the London market exclude the branches and subsidiaries of British-owned banks world-wide. The *Bank of England Quarterly Bulletin*, however, has published statistics for the external assets of UK registered banks including their foreign subsidiaries and branches, the vast majority of which are British-owned banks, since December 1979. From these figures we get a clearer picture of the growth of British-owned banks' external assets and their distribution world-wide. (Table 6)

Between 1979 and 1982 the external assets of UK-registered banks grew by 66% to a massive US\$169,887 million (£113,258 million) - more than twice the size of the assets from private direct investment abroad in 1982. And these figures exclude UK-registered banks overseas branches and subsidiaries' claims on local residents in local currencies on some US\$74,100 million (£49,400 million). Over 30% of assets are in the oppressed nations and more than 50% outside the imperialist bloc.

When it is remembered that oppressed nations pay higher rates of interest on their borrowing than countries in the imperialist bloc and also have to pay enormous fees to the banks for rescheduling their debts, it is clear that the

'profits' from transactions in the oppressed nations will be a major proportion of banks' overseas profits overall. British-owned banks are heavily committed in those major debtor nations so near defaulting on their debts - with outstanding claims on Mexico of US\$8,327m and Brazil of US\$7,937m. Other oppressed nations with significant debts to British banks are Argentina US\$3,347m, South Korea US\$3,060m and Venezuela US\$3,057m. British-owned banks are also the major supplier of funds to the racist South African state, their outstanding claims increasing threefold over the last three years. Can anyone still deny the importance of the assets of British banks overseas and particularly those in the oppressed nations?

The Socialist Workers Party, in an article called 'Modern Imperialism' in *Socialist Worker* 28 April 1979, not only denies the importance of the export of

It is therefore our duty, if we wish to remain socialist, to go down lower and deeper, to the real masses; this is the whole meaning and whole purport of the struggle against opportunism.

VI Lenin

Table 6 External assets of UK-registered banks plus branches and subsidiaries world-wide (US\$ million)

	Dec 1979	% of total	Dec 1982	% of total
Imperialist bloc (including offshore banking areas)	49,880	48.7	83,979	49.4
Weaker capitalist nations	8,060	7.9	15,147	8.9
South Africa	1,698	1.7	5,234	3.1
Oppressed nations	32,125	31.4	54,595	32.1
Socialist countries	9,821	9.6	9,959	5.9
Other	815	0.8	973	0.6
TOTAL	102,399		169,887	

capital to the oppressed nations but also the importance of a labour aristocracy whose existence is based on the super-profits of imperialism.

'In fact neither the export of capital nor the "superprofits" of imperialism play the role they once did... It is arguable that there has been no net capital export at all (to the Third World) for long periods in the recent past... Export of capital plays a vital role in modern capitalism but it is overwhelmingly export from one developed country to another. Its economic significance is entirely different... It cannot account for the "corruption" of "labour aristocracies"... by the crumbs of super-profits.'

Not only does the SWP choose to ignore the increasingly dominant role of banking capital over the last 10 years but the very *essence* of imperialism is denied.

The importance of profits from overseas investment for the strength of the British economy has already been dem-

Table 5

	1972		1982	
	£m	% of (P)	£m	% of (P)
Interest on borrowing and lending in foreign currencies (balance) by UK banks	44	2.5	1,454	13.23
Profits from external lending in Sterling by UK banks	57	3.3	1,148	10.44
Total profits etc from overseas investment (P)	1,748		10,991	

onstrated. So has the crucial role of the imperialist banks and the export of banking capital to the oppressed nations. Recently published statistics on British direct foreign investment overseas conclusively demonstrate the overwhelming importance for British imperialism of the super-profits from overseas direct investment in the oppressed nations compared to profits from foreign direct investment overall.

Table 7 Shares of overseas direct investment 1981 and earnings

	Investment (£m)	% of total	Profits (£m)	% of total
EEC	805.8	15.8	446.5	12.4
Other Western Europe	138.3	2.7	193.9	5.4
North America	2,590.5	50.8	996.0	27.6
Other developed countries	395.9	7.8	375.9	10.4
South Africa	305.8	6.0	467.5	13.0
Oppressed nations:-				
Africa	243.9	4.8	266.1	7.4
Asia	281.2	5.5	462.5	12.8
Caribbean, South America, Central America	318.2	6.2	368.4	10.2
Other	24.0	0.5	28.7	0.8

In examining the distribution of foreign direct investment abroad it is also crucial to examine the distribution of the profits made from those investments. Whereas only 23% of foreign direct investment went to the oppressed nations and South Africa over 44% of earnings came from those areas. On the other hand 77% of foreign direct investment went to the imperialist bloc and other capitalist nations but only 56% of earnings came from those areas. Can anyone really deny the significance of the export of capital to the oppressed nations or the existence of the super-profits of British imperialism as the material basis for privileged strata of the working class in Britain?

Finally yet another indicator of the

parasitical character of British imperialism is Britain's 'invisible earnings' - 'earnings from the provision of services to people living abroad'. These include not only the profits etc of overseas investment discussed earlier (about a third of these earnings) but also income from activities of the City of London, insurance and other financial services, transport and shipping, royalties and consultancy earnings from overseas, and so on. Invisible earnings account for over a third of Britain's total foreign earnings (including those from exports). In 1982 they were £31,724 million. In 1981 net private sector invisibles contributed more than £6½bn to the balance of payments. In 1982 the figure had increased to over £7bn. More than half of this net balance came from earnings of the City of London. Britain's net invisible earnings are second only to those of the United States.

Britain is a creditor nation: its net assets in 1982 added up to £42.46bn, an increase of £11bn on the previous year, equivalent to about £2,000 per working person. As the wealth from North Sea Oil begins to dry up so British capitalism will be forced to depend more and more on the profits from its investments abroad, particularly those from its parasitic banks. A greater and greater amount of super-profits will have to be squeezed out from the oppressed peoples of the world to maintain the economic stability of imperialist Britain. British imperialism is indeed a parasitic and decaying capitalism.

In that lies its vulnerability. For as the oppressed peoples fight back and threaten the economic and political interests of British imperialism, as the wealth from North Sea Oil decreases, the British ruling class will be forced to dramatically reduce the living standards of major sections of the British working class. The conditions that have nourished and sustained privileged strata of the working class over the last 30 years in Britain will no longer exist. The domination of opportunist currents over the working class in Britain will begin to be undermined as new forces of revolution begin to emerge.

FORTHCOMING SPRING 1984

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countries unite to destroy imperialism

BRAZIL

RUIN OR REVOLUTION

'Everyone knows that Brazil is not going to pay its debts'. Elio Gaspari, columnist *Journal do Brasil*

In October 1983 representatives of US and British imperialist banks, the IMF and the new governor of the Brazilian Central Bank travelled half-way round the world to scrape together the \$6.5bn rescue package necessary to prevent an immediate default on Brazil's staggering \$90bn debt. They personally contacted over half Brazil's 830 creditor banks in a period of ten days. The bankers were told they had no choice. Brazil had to be bailed out or the international banking system faced possible collapse. Nevertheless the response was slow. It was only after the Brazilian Congress had passed a new wages law on 9 November that commitments to contribute to a new loan came rushing in. The people were being squeezed further so the imperialist bankers would get back their profits.

It took the longest session of the Brazilian Congress in memory and the skill of surgeons to prolong the life of the chairman of the senate Nilo Coelho to get the approval of a new law to restrict wage rises to 87% of the cost of living - that is, to reduce the wages of the vast majority of the Brazilian working class. The bill was passed just before dawn after 231 opposition members walked out of the Congress. The bill got 245 votes, a handful above the 240 minimum required to get it passed. Nilo Coelho was kept alive for an extra few hours on the operating table until the bill was passed. Should he have died before the vote had been taken

the session of the Brazilian Congress would have been automatically suspended. Such is the extent of the crisis of the international banking system that the timing of one man's death played its role in staving off the day of reckoning.

For the Brazilian people there is no such respite. The \$6.5bn loan - the largest international credit ever assembled - was part of an \$11bn IMF organised rescue package. The condition for it being granted was an 'austerity' programme imposed on the Brazilian people. By late 1982 41% of the population earned less than the minimum wage, defined as the minimum necessary to support a family

of four. 10m people earned less than half the minimum wage. Matters will get much worse. In 1983 national income will decline by 6.6% - the worst year in Brazil for half a century. Inflation is currently running at 200%.

The impact of the imperialist banks on the people of Brazil is vividly portrayed by their effect on the country's children. The *International Herald Tribune* recently spoke of the 'abandoned children of an entire continent [Latin America], a ragged army of as many as 40 million youngsters on an aimless march that never gets past the margins of civilised life'. They can be seen in every town and city across Latin America. 'By night they sleep wrapped in newspapers, stretched out in doorways, littered alleys and discarded construction tubing...' They stave off starvation in any way they can. Every month in Brazil more than 100 infants are left in police stations, hospitals and on the streets by desperate mothers. It is estimated that there are 2m abandoned children in Rio de Janeiro and 2.5m in Sao Paulo. Only some 1% of these receive assistance from government agencies. These children are officially anonymous, beginning life with no birth certificate and ending up in an unnamed pauper's grave. Little wonder that 80% of the prison population in Brazil is made up of former street children.

The IMF austerity package will further devastate the country and it will not even solve any long-term problems for the imperialist banks. Brazil is on the road to ruin. It can never pay back its ever-growing debts. The imperialists fully understand this and are looking for new methods to get back their profits. The president of the Bank of International Settlements is leading the way. 'Countries should sell their national assets to their creditors'. Having forced the oppressed nations to mortgage their wealth to the imperialist banks, the imperialists are now saying it's time to call in their assets.

State-owned firms, state industry and mining, in other words the wealth of these countries, should now be handed over lock, stock and barrel to the imperialists in order to reduce their debts.

The people, however, are fighting back. They will not allow the wealth of their countries to be given away to the imperialists. The wealth belongs to the people. The writing is on the wall. In the first 8 days of September in Rio de Janeiro 30 supermarkets, bakeries and pharmacies were sacked by people in search of food and medicine. The police are out on the streets in force. They have been attacked by people with guns. The government has been forced to extend the emergency measures, introduced while Congress was discussing the new wage law, for 60 days. These measures ban public meetings and allow house searches and arrests. The government is under threat. The IMF 'austerity' programme has confronted the people with the stark choice - ruin or revolution. The people have shown they will fight to survive.

David Reed

ARMS RACE SPEEDS UP

The arrival of cruise missiles at Greenham Common and the West German Bundestag's decision to deploy Pershing II and cruise missiles have pushed the world onto yet another lap in the arms race. This is the culmination of three years of manoeuvring, lies and deceit by the imperialists in an attempt to gain military superiority over the socialist countries.

NATO's original moves in 1977 to deploy cruise and Pershing missiles had nothing to do with the state of the Soviet armoury, and were based on the argument that there was a gap in NATO's weapons that needed modernising. A NATO report states that:

'NATO doctrine requires the capability to strike the Soviet Union with systems based in Europe. Existing capabilities, all based in the United Kingdom, were ageing and were in need of replacement. Modernisation was required irrespective of Soviet capabilities.'

At that time there was no mention of the Soviet SS20 missiles as a reason for modernisation.

'NATO's nuclear systems based in Europe... are concrete evidence of the nature of the American commitment. They are a concrete manifestation of NATO's willingness to resort to nuclear weapons if necessary'. (A Haig, April 1982, ex Secretary of State and ex Head of NATO forces)

On 12 December 1979 NATO took its infamous 'twin track' decision - to go ahead with deployment, while engaging in arms control talks. These talks were an afterthought, a public relations exercise contrived to demonstrate 'Soviet intransigence' in order to disorient opposition to deployment. Cruise and Pershing, we were now told, were being deployed to counter SS20 missiles which created a nuclear imbalance in Europe.

This imbalance is a total lie. First, the imperialists count only land-based mis-

siles, leaving out US, British and French submarine based missiles (some 912 warheads). Secondly, they count only missiles with a range greater than 625 miles. This leaves out the Pershing IA (180 warheads) not to mention many other land-based and tactical missiles. Thirdly, the imperialists leave out nuclear capable aircraft (587 bombs). After excluding most of their own weapons, the imperialists then have the nerve to say they are defenceless against the Soviet Union! In fact there is a rough parity in nuclear delivery systems when all are included.

Basing himself on the supposed imbalance, Reagan proposed his so-called 'Zero option' in November 1981 - no new US missiles would be deployed if the Soviet Union scrapped all its mis-

siles. This was a call for the USSR to disarm whilst the imperialists kept British and French missiles, and all their aircraft! - a call supported by the British middle class left with their slogan 'no cruise no SS20s'.

The Soviet Union, by contrast, has offered to scrap all but 140 SS20s and proposed equalising the number of aircraft at a much lower level than at present provided cruise and Pershing are not deployed. This would bring about equality in delivery systems at a lower

BANGLADESH
upsurge of struggle

Following the very widespread and mass protests against the Zia regime in Pakistan Bangladesh has seen a renewed upsurge of struggle against the equally brutal and corrupt dictatorship of Lieutenant General Ershad.

Only days before the royal parasites, the Queen and Prince Philip, were due to parade around Bangladesh oozing 'concern' for starving and malnourished Bangladeshi children, opposition forces launched a campaign aimed at smashing 20 months of martial law. More than 5,000 marched in the capital city Dacca, while in northern Bangladesh a six hour general strike was declared and angry people stoned a cabinet minister's car. Ershad's police and army, trained by Britain, arrested hundreds and dispensed violent beatings to protesters.

As in Pakistan, the grinding poverty and state of permanent near-starvation is forcing millions of people to struggle in order to survive. Bangladesh has for over two centuries been under the colonial and neo-colonial domination of British imperialism. As a direct result it is now the world's second poorest country. Over 80% of the population live in the most dire and terrible poverty, while

level. These proposals have been rejected by the imperialists who are only interested in gaining military superiority over the Soviet Union.

The Soviet Union has therefore refused to bow to imperialist pressure. They have withdrawn from the Geneva talks, since their continuation would only serve as a cover for the actions of the imperialists. Secondly, the Warsaw Pact countries have agreed to deploy new missiles to counter the new threat in GDR, Czechoslovakia, and in the sea off the United States. The USSR has stated nevertheless that if the imperialists are prepared to return to the situation before deployment, the Soviet Union is prepared to do the same.

Steve Palmer



British multinationals, banks, and drug companies reap literally enormous profits. A recent TV report on the British-owned tea plantations in Bangladesh showed how diseases such as leprosy, diarrhoea, TB and malnutrition were rife among the tea workers and their children. These British companies showed not the slightest concern to even provide clean water and adequate medical facilities.

Despite Ershad's repression, even larger protests took place at the end of November. In Dacca 25,000 people stormed the government secretariat. Street meetings and smaller demonstrations were held in many localities of the city. The offices of a student campaign supporting Ershad were burnt. Protest also erupted in the city of Chittagong.

Ershad has responded by banning all political activity and imposing a curfew in Dacca. 6 people have died in police firings; a further 630 detained and hundreds more injured in police teargassing and baton charges. This savage repression has not however sapped the strength of the growing movement against Ershad. A general strike was soon mounted to protest at these barbaric attacks on unarmed people.

Bill Hughes

in brief

● Repression of Tamils continues

2,000 Tamil women, children and men brutally murdered, 10,000 Tamil homes burnt, 200,000 refugees, 52 political prisoners slaughtered and £230m of Tamil property destroyed were the results of the July 1983 racist massacre of Tamil-speaking people in Sri Lanka. Since these terrible events, the press and governments of the imperialist countries have remained silent. Yet, the relentless repression and genocidal attacks on the Tamil people have continued virtually unabated.

Since the 'July Massacre', the traditional homelands of the Tamil nation in the north and east of Sri Lanka have become the target of intensified Sinhalese colonisation programmes, making the Tamils a minority in their own areas. Tamils are being forced to leave their lands or face murder and atrocities at the hands of the government security forces.

Since September 4 and 5, the Tamil Batticaloa district has been invaded by between 35,000 and 50,000 Sinhalese, who have seized many Tamil villages by force. A similar invasion has taken place in Panukulam in Trincomalee district, led by a Sri Lanka government Cabinet Minister.

The racist settlement programmes in Tamil lands have coincided with recent manoeuvres and schemes by US imperialism, which has long sought after Trincomalee Harbour as a naval base of prime strategic importance. US Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger visited Sri Lanka in September. It has now been reported that a US company can use Trincomalee Harbour for 'oil storage purposes'. Six new Voice of America radio transmitters have been installed in Sri Lanka.

The British advertising companies Saatchi and Saatchi, have helped the racist Sri Lankan government by launching a £50,000 campaign in Britain aimed at concealing its true face of that of a terrorist and murderer of Tamil people. Glossy colour booklets are being sent to MPs and Lords. Unconfirmed reports state that 600 Sri Lankan security personnel have arrived in Britain for training.

Further information can be obtained by writing to the Eelam Solidarity Campaign, PO Box 318, London NW1 8HS.

Bill Hughes

● Free the Iran-Air 10

On Monday 7 November, ten Iranian student supporters of the Organisation of Iranian People's Fedaii Guerrillas peacefully occupied the offices of Iran Air in London as part of an international day of protest, to highlight the barbaric state of repression and torture existing in Iran under the regime of the Islamic Republic.

This occupation successfully achieved its aim of drawing public attention to the atrocities of a regime which, in the last 2 years, has executed 20,000 revolutionaries and progressives and which has incarcerated 100,000 in its jails, where they face torture far more severe than under the Shah.

The students demanded that human rights organisations, such as the Red Cross and Amnesty International, be allowed to visit Iran's political prisoners and be allowed to visit the war torn regions of Iranian Kurdistan, where, since 1979, 15,000 people, most of them women and children, have been killed in the regime's war against the Kurdish movement for autonomy and democracy. The students further demanded a complete end to all western arms deals and shameful economic support for the Islamic Republic.

Despite the peaceful character of the protest, the ten students arrested have amazingly been denied bail and face potentially severe charges (while students engaged in similar action abroad have already been freed) and even the threat of deportation.

In order to combat this potentially dangerous threat not only to the ten students concerned, but to all Iranian progressives, we call on all British democrats and socialists to support the newly set up Iran Air 10 Support Committee. In the short term please ask your MP, councillor etc. to demand that the police justify their refusal of bail.

Iran Air 10 Support Committee
BM KAR London WC1N 3XX
for further information tel: 01 349 3312

HANDS OFF IRELAND

In a massive escalation of judicial terror against the nationalist people of the Six Counties, the use of informers has become a major weapon in the British state's war against the Irish people. The use of informers is not new. What is new is the scale of this current operation, a strategy consciously introduced. Frank Kitson, now General in Chief of UK Land Forces, wrote:

'The law should be used as just another weapon in the government arsenal and in this case become little more than a propaganda cover for the disposal of unwanted members of the public. The activities of the legal services have to be tied into the war effort in as discreet a way as possible.'

The use of informers is the latest measure designed by the British to cow and demoralise the people's resistance. Internment was followed by loss of political status, then torture in Castelreagh and recently shoot-to-kill. The new strategy exposes the sham of British 'justice', and allows the maximum number of arrests on the minimum possible evidence and a return to internment - judicially.

REPUBLICAN NEWS



Picket of Crumlin Road Court House against Kevin McGrady show trial

Sectarian attacks and murders

continued from page 1

maintain supremacy in the North, not the weapon of those who justifiably fight to free their people from foreign oppression.'

The IRA condemned the shootings. The Republican movement has consistently rejected the use of sectarian attacks against ordinary Protestant people and directed its struggle against British imperialism and its Loyalist institutions in the Six Counties.

The Mountain Lodge shootings followed a spate of sectarian attacks by Loyalist paramilitaries in Armagh. On 8 November Adrian Carroll was shot dead in Armagh. His murder was claimed by the Protestant Action Force, a pseudonym for the Ulster Volunteer Force, which has close connections with the RUC and UDR. The UVF has, over the past 14 years, carried out vicious sectarian killings such as those committed by the notorious Shankill Butchers. Adrian Carroll, as was well known in Armagh, had been repeatedly stopped and threatened by the UDR in the days prior to his murder. It was because this threatened to become public knowledge that the RUC was forced to arrest 7 UDR men in connection with his murder and 5 others are presently being questioned. The UDR is 97% Protestant and is notorious for its sectarian role, having merely replaced the hated B-Specials.

Since the Mountain Lodge shootings, Loyalist sectarian attacks have escalated. But there were no front page headlines when 51 year old Catholic Daniel Rouse was beaten to death in County Armagh. On 5 December the Protestant Action Force struck again when 25 year old Joseph Craven was shot dead whilst walking with his two brothers to sign on. Their father was also murdered in 1976. Craven's funeral, at which he was to be given military honours by INLA was itself attacked by the RUC. On 12 December 18 year old Jude Anthony Dawson was shot dead in East Belfast, a few dozen yards from a police station. An RUC officer has been arrested in connection with this murder.

Loyalist attacks traditionally rise when the Republican movement's successes multiply. The British state and Loyalists then feel that official repression is not adequate and back it up with sectarian violence aimed at striking terror into the nationalist people. The Loyalists who commit these attacks are often supplied with information on their victims by the police force or UDR or, as in Armagh, the latter merely take off their uniforms and do the killings themselves. They are rarely caught or prosecuted unless they become too blatant or a few token arrests to suit British government propaganda purposes.

Contrast this with the British state's response to the Mountain Lodge killings. 240 extra soldiers were put into Armagh within two days and SAS activity stepped up. On 4 December three unarmed IRA volunteers were ambushed and two of them shot dead by the SAS in Coalisland, County Tyrone.

Knowing that they could not pin the Mountain Lodge shootings on the IRA the British press tried to blame their favourite bogey-man Dominic McGlinchey. He has since specifically denied involvement and condemned the shootings. Nevertheless Mountain Lodge is being used as a pretext for even greater repression against the Republican movement. That repression will, as always, meet the determined resistance of the Irish people.

Maxine Williams

Smash the show trials!

A member of Relatives for Justice, whose husband is awaiting trial on an informer's evidence, said in a statement to a press conference in the House of Commons:

'You have taken away the right to trial by jury, newspapers have stolen our right to be innocent until proven guilty, are you now taking away guilt beyond reasonable doubt, and is there no longer to be even a pretence that 'justice will be seen to be done'? Will you then continue to tell us to respect law and order - your law and order?'

The RUC use intimidation, bribery, blackmail, immunity from prosecution to force people to turn informer. Families are kidnapped by the RUC to put pressure on informers. The trials and court appearances are farces. Mass trials take place where unconnected people, and unconnected offences are tried together. Guilt by association and implication is the name of the game. Relatives and friends going into the public gallery are searched, names and addresses are taken, checked, then marked under the defendant's name. The Gilmour family was thrown out of court when his mother tried to speak to him. The wife of a defendant has been barred from court for smiling at her husband. The courts are swamped with prison officers, armed police and Special Branch. Lord Justice Gibson said informer John Grimley's evidence was 'half-truth' and 'lie' but convicted 11 people on it, giving them sentences totalling 51 years.

In the non-jury Diplock courts men are charged with such offences as 'possession of an unknown gun in an unknown place at an unknown time on the

sole word of an informer.

Cracks in the strategy have begun to appear. There have been 11 retractions of false statements. On 14 November William Skelly retracted his 'evidence' and charges against 10 Belfast men were dropped. In the Six Counties there has been the emergence of campaigns against the informer strategy, with pickets of courts, leafleting, speaking tours and street campaigning. On 3 November 40 barristers and solicitors from across the Six Counties condemned the informer trials; Lord Gifford told lawyers that there is:

'growing alarm in British legal circles

at the continuing erosion of civil liberties here.'

Informers themselves, unsure about the terms of their deals with the RUC, are threatening a strike by retracting their evidence. So far the RUC have been unable to give written undertakings to them.

Despite the cracks, the pressure has to be stepped up. The RUC succeeded in imprisoning Jim Gibney, former National Organiser of Sinn Fein for 12 years: they are still attempting to pick off prominent republicans such as Gerry Adams, Danny Morrison and

Martin McGuinness. With the informers giving evidence against family, friends and comrades, the British state is hoping to cause division, demoralisation and fear within the nationalist community and the Republican Movement. Attorney General Havers defended the use of informers against those 'who cannot otherwise be charged'. Over 350 people still await trial, and 26 informers wait to give their false evidence. The vast sums spent on this strategy show its importance: £8.4m per year to keep the defendants in gaol; up to £300,000 is offered to informers; the Christopher Black trial cost £1m.

This latest assault on the Irish people's resistance to British rule must be fought against. In an open letter from Jimmy Brown, on remand in Crumlin Road Prison on the evidence of informer Harry Kirkpatrick, he said:

'As one who makes no secret of my opposition to English interference in Irish affairs, I believe that one nation that enslaves another can never itself be free. For those of you in England that are concerned about what goes on in your name in Ireland, this is an issue you cannot ignore. To do this is to turn your back and say you cannot see.'

The nationalist people and the Republican Movement are fighting the latest form of imperialist attack. Communists, anti-imperialists and democrats in Britain must raise their voices in condemnation of the unjust, corrupt, vicious and sordid use of paid perjurers. We cannot turn our backs. Support the Irish Solidarity Movement's week of action protesting against informers.

Pauline Sellars

SMASH THE SHOW TRIALS Week of action against the use of informers, 16-22 January

LONDON IRISH SOLIDARITY COMMITTEES

Court Picket No More Paid Perjurers in Ireland! Monday 16 January Old Bailey, EC4, 12-2pm (nearest tube: Chancery Lane). Public Meeting No to Informers! Wednesday 18 January Conway Hall, Red Lion Square London WC1, 7.30pm (nearest tube: Holborn). Street Meeting/Display/Petitioning Thursday 19 January, Kilburn Sq, NW6, 6pm (nearest tube: Kilburn Park). Street Meeting and Display Saturday 21 January, Tooting Broadway, 12-2pm

MANCHESTER IRISH SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE

Picket of Crown Court The Informers - Smash the Show Trials Monday 16 January Crown Square, Manchester, 9am-12 noon Public Meeting The Informers - Smash the Show Trials Thursday 19 January Longsight Library, Longsight, Manchester 7.30pm. Street Meeting The Informers - Smash the Show Trials! Friday 20 January The Asda, Longsight, Stanley Grove entrance 5-7pm. Rally Smash the Show Trials! Saturday 21 January Piccadilly 11am AND 2.30pm picket Strangeways Prison

BRADFORD IRISH SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE

Street Meeting Smash the Supergrass System - Informers Against the People! Wednesday 18 January 12.45-2pm outside Provincial House Bradford City Centre

DUNDEE IRISH SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE

Public Meeting Smash the Informer System! No More Show Trials! Wednesday 18 January 7.30pm Dundee Trades Council Club, Rattray Street, Dundee

EDINBURGH IRISH SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE

Public Meeting Stop the Show Trials! No to Informers! Tuesday 17 January 7pm. Details of this and other events during Week of Action from EISC, Box 110, 43 Candlemaker Row. Picket of High Court Saturday 21 January 11am High Court, Parliament Square, High St, Edinburgh
LEEDS IRISH SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE Picket of Leeds Magistrates Court Stop the Show Trials! End the Informers System in Ireland! Monday 16 January, 9.30am-12.30pm Leeds Magistrates Court (Town Hall Steps)

The Tidey kidnapping

On 24 November the IRA kidnapped Don Tidey vice-chairman of the Quinnsworth supermarket chain. Tidey's bosses, the Weston family, have a personal fortune of £1.6 billion, while the London-based parent company Associated British Foods made £115 million in 1982 from subsidiaries such as Fine Fare in Britain and South African Milling. Had the kidnapping been successful £5 million of this vast profit - extracted from the oppressed masses in Ireland, South Africa and elsewhere - would have gone to the IRA.

On Friday 16 December 2,500 Free State troops and Gardai descended on Ballinamore Co Leitrim and freed Tidey. Despite this display of force the IRA volunteers escaped and, whilst defending themselves, killed a soldier and a Garda. The trigger happy Free State forces shot an uninvolved motorist in the head. Lying statements were issued claiming that two volunteers had been captured. By Saturday these statements had been withdrawn. Local Republicans, including veteran John Joe McGirl have,

however, been rounded up.

The IRA statement on the kidnapping denounces Free State 'trigger-happiness'. This 'trigger happiness' only confirms that any development of the Republican struggle in the 26 Counties will meet Free State repression as fierce as British imperialist repression in the Six Counties. Garrett FitzGerald is now openly threatening the banning of Sinn Fein.

Terry Marlowe

The arrest of Tommy Quigley

Tommy Quigley is the latest Irishman in Britain to be charged with 'conspiracy to cause explosions'. Arrested in Belfast on Friday 2 December, he was secretly flown by the RAF to London. Held at Paddington Green police station (purpose-built, like a fortress, for Irish political prisoners). He was held and interrogated under the infamous Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA) for five and a half days, before being charged on Thursday 8 December amid the usual hysterical 'security' with masses of armed police ringing the court, dogs, searches, etc.

In the present atmosphere of anti-Irish hysteria he stands no chance of a fair trial - not that Irish political prisoners ever get one.

During Quigley's detention at Paddington Green the Irish Freedom Movement/Revolutionary Communist Party called a series of pickets to highlight the true terror nature of the PTA, and to demand his release. The militant pickets were well attended with an average of thirty people, representing Sinn Fein, IFM, the South London Irish Solidarity

Committee, the Irish in Britain Representation Group and Brent East Labour Party.

On Tuesday 6 December about thirty NF and fascist thugs turned up for a counter picket. but eventually left, while the anti-PTA picket stayed on, more determined and more vocal. All readers are urged to write to Home Secretary Leon Brittan and demand Tommy Quigley's immediate release.

Cathal