

The Red Mole

2½p.

SMASH RACISM

Weapon of the Ruling Class ...by any means necessary ... Malcolm X



HANDS OFF THE METRO YOUTHS



I. RACISM IN BRITAIN TODAY

It is clear that the racism that permeates British society today is being more and more openly expressed, both in the increasing number of individual acts of violence against black people and in the considerable extension of the State's power of oppression of black people. This oppression is only possible in the right racial climate, and this has been successfully created as a result of the efforts of both Tory and Labour governments over a number of years. It is important to realise why and how this has been done.

Racism, that is "the dogma that one ethnic group is condemned by nature to congenital inferiority and another group is destined to congenital superiority (*Race and Racialism*, Sami Zubaida, p. 17) arose out of the economic control of white over black which began four hundred years ago and is still continuing today. Economic control assures wealth, power and control to the exploiting minority, who have come to look on these advantages as their "rights", and have, through the centuries, taken measures to preserve the status such advantages have given them. Those in an economically and socially superior position feel themselves to be a group and reinforce one another in their attitudes.

Justification of the established order of things are developed and the maintenance of the status quo is thought to be morally right. In the course of European expansion, the group interest of those who first directly profited from the exploitation of black people was extended, by reason of shared ethnic origin, to the entire white population of the colonising country. In this way the big majority of white people have come to see themselves as a monolithic group vis-a-vis blacks and act accordingly.

Out of the economic situation, the white exploiter evolved the ideology of racism; out of the master/slave relationship he established his omnipotence and his role over the slave as one of the mind over the body. To maintain this relationship he has used the state machinery in the form of the army, the legislature and the police.

At the beginning of the colonial expansion the white imperialist armies moved across the world to slaughter and subjugate the peoples of the newly-appropriated lands. It should be pointed out that initially it was a historical accident that these peoples differed from their conquerors in sharing physical characteristics of an obvious kind. The Europeans remained for hundreds of years as an occupying force in the lands of the black people, and the concept of racism that developed out of this relationship has engendered its own dynamic. The colonial subjects had their political decisions made for them by the white masters; these decisions were ratified by appropriate laws and upheld by force of arms. Out of this domination of black people by the white man arose the assumption that such domination was in the natural order of things, pseudo-scientific treatises put forward analyses of physical characteristics of different ethnic groups to give "objectivity" to the view that the white man had a "right" to his position of exploiter. History books stressed the so-called improvements that took place under the rule of a colonising power, and glorified murderers and plunderers, such as Clive and Gordon. (There is still little change in the presentation of the history of British atrocities committed in the name of the Empire). The views disseminated in these ways are reflected in literature, boys' adventure stories and so on, and are still prevalent in present-day reading matter for children, and in comics in particular. Racist ideology is thus firmly rooted in the white society, with the result that the black populations from former colonies now established in what is known as the "mother country"—this term is again a reinforcement of the black-white relationship—have a colonial relationship to the larger white society. Black people in Britain today therefore have

colonial status; but today further repressive measures against them are seen to be necessary by the ruling class. Black people see in very concrete terms the form their oppression takes and they are beginning to organise to smash their oppressors. Black people know that white exploiters, not satisfied with the plunder of their lands and the destruction of their economic system, saw the opportunity of importing cheap black labour when the state of the British economy demanded it. Black people were enticed to come to Britain as the "mother country", they were brainwashed into imagining they would find the door of opportunity open to them, and would be welcomed as "kith and kin". On arrival, they found that they had been imported to perform the menial tasks that white workers refused. Once the demand for their labour began to decrease they were no longer wanted, so measures were taken by the ruling class to restrict further immigration. In 1962 it was the Tory government that passed the first Immigration Bill of recent times, subsequently it fell to the Labour government to extend restrictions in the bills of 1965 and 1968. At the same time racial hatred was insidiously whipped up to demoralise those black people already here. Black people, on whose labour the white exploiters had grown rich, were now a threat to the security of those same whites!

In overcrowded large towns it was claimed that the presence of black people accounted for the inadequate housing and the lack of school buildings. The black man was on the one hand shown as taking the white man's job and on the other hand indignantly accused of "living off the country" by drawing social security benefits. In this way the "right" racial climate was guaranteed for the passing of previous Immigration Bills, about which very little protest was made, and the acceptance of the outrageous injustices outlined in the present Bill.

Naturally, the savage repressive measures of the Bill will require an increase in the powers of the agents of capitalism, and in particular, of the police. It is by now common knowledge that the police will have powers to arrest and detain black people on a completely unfounded suspicion. Such harassment will be accompanied by the physical violence which is a common feature of all confrontations of black people and the police, but on an increasingly savage scale. The majority of the white population—who are racist—will have their attitudes reinforced by this state of affairs, and acts of violence on the part of individuals against black people will be more and more widespread. The ruling class will continue to be served by the mass media, which ignores fascist attacks on black people—several cases of bombings and other crimes of violence have occurred in the past few months, but have gone unreported in the capitalist press—but is swift to publicise black people as criminals and anti-social elements if they are so accused.

The reason for the calculated build-up of the repression of black people is not just that the ruling class is racist through and through, but also that capitalism finds it necessary to manipulate the white workers against the black workers in order to further the policy of divide and rule. By adopting the racist attitudes of the exploiter, the white worker is prevented from seeing the struggles against the capitalist in clear terms. It is essential that white workers realise that the recent Tory measures are a further example of tactics to oppress the majority. Racial hatred is fostered with the aim of turning worker against worker; white workers must understand that victory over the common oppressor will only be won by the united action of all workers.

THE METRO-AFFAIR

NOTTING HILL—THE BACKGROUND TO THE METRO YOUTH CLUB

The Metro Club is situated in the heart of Notting Hill, a ghetto harbouring the oppressed—hippies, the unemployed, unmarried mothers, Irish, those who have fallen foul of bourgeois "law and order", and of course, black people. It is a self-aware community; its members know they are under the

attack of the capitalist system; their living conditions and experiences have radicalised them, though as yet they do not all analyse the nature of their oppression. But out of this oppression has arisen the formation of the Notting Hill People's Association, and a commitment to collective action. This has taken the form of organising play-groups, participation in the Claimants' Union, and solidarising with members of the oppressed community involved in direct confrontation with the forces of capitalist oppression, in particular the police. Members of the Association are naturally chiefly concerned with their own problems, but are also swift to support any of their number who come under attack. This sense of collective responsibility and readiness to take action has come as a result of organisation, an essential prerequisite of the fight against the capitalist system.

Professional social workers, probation officers, all those paid by capitalist society to channel the anger of the oppressed into self-negating acts of cooperation with the oppressors, are despised in Notting Hill. Such people are seen clearly as making a living out of the sufferings of the community.

Bourgeois morality has no place in the area; stealing from a supermarket, for example, is regarded as simply taking one's due. The police are of course the enemy, as they themselves are well aware. They feel the hostility surrounding them as they patrol the area, and by night always walk in pairs. The instant they fear "trouble", reinforcements are rushed in, often from far afield, as the collective power of the people is recognised and feared.

Not surprisingly, the wielders of capitalist authority have been alarmed for some time at the potentially explosive situation in Notting Hill. Various safety valves have been devised and attempts made to divert the militancy of the community into outlets provided by the system. One such attempt was made by George Clark, clerk to the Council, when he tried to impose the forms of bourgeois democracy on the People's Association by engineering a local election to form a council to run the Association's affairs. This was the Golbourne Ward Scheme. The council was to be manipulated by Clark himself. But the attempt failed and Clark and his supporters were thrown out of the People's Association.

Another attempt was the setting up of the Neighbourhood Law Centre two years ago, with the approval and backing of the Law Society. The idea was to make the people in the area feel that at the Centre they would have their own lawyers, who would understand their particular problems and attitudes and therefore act on their behalf. Legal aid was to be provided. The capitalist system was criticised to the point of admitting that it contained injustices. But the function of the Law Centre was to try to make people accept that the foundations of the system could not be challenged; the way to work was within the system, to get round it by finding loopholes in its technicalities. But the people of Notting Hill are not fooled by this attempt to persuade them to cooperate with the system that oppresses them, and refuse to be socialised.

It is not surprising that a special attempt was made to contain the sector presenting the most dangerous challenge to the system—the youth, and in particular the black youth. This was the establishment of the Metro Youth Club.

YOUTH CLUB

THE METRO YOUTH CLUB

The Metro Club was set up by the Paddington Youth Committee about nine years ago at a cost of £32,000. The club house was ready for use in January 1968 and Laurie Little was appointed its first youth leader. He had no academic qualifications for this specific appointment, although he did have 13 solid years' experience at a discotheque in Pimlico.

Consequently the Metro became rather more unorthodox in its functionings than the traditional type of youth club. A discotheque, the quiet and cool decor made the environment comfortable and less alienating than the oppressive atmosphere outside. It immediately began to attract huge numbers of youths not only from the vicinity but from far afield.

The club became too successful. It was built to accommodate about 200 people but numbers for the first three weeks after the inauguration of the club were far in excess. Tensions began to rise. "Respectable" members of the community, such as social workers, and more "eminent" members such as those from the local council, started to become apprehensive about the club. The older black leaders considered the activities of the club as wasting the energies and money of the youth. Parochial attitudes worked their way into the club and resentment was felt against the teenagers from outside the neighbourhood. The atmosphere was becoming uncomfortably hot. As a result the club was closed for a time, ostensibly for air-conditioning, three weeks after it opened.

A further source of tension was a difference in attitude between Laurie Little and Ian King, a white member of the community who infiltrated the club right at the beginning. He was recruited to the staff and held the post of membership secretary/caretaker/disc-jockey. He soon found himself in opposition to Little, for sound reasons. King envisaged the youth club as having a much wider scope than just a discotheque. He wanted to transform the premises into a multi-purpose community centre with space provided for pre-school playgroups, old people's interests, latchkey kids and black cultural studies. Laurie Little was totally opposed to the whole idea, because he stood in danger of losing not only the charisma of his position but also the personal control he enjoyed over the whole situation. King however moved further towards Black Power. He generally left Black Power leaflets and other literature lying about the turntable. Not surprisingly, at this stage things started to fall apart. King's ideas were found to be too militant; a conflict of interests developed and King was summarily removed from his job in January 1969. He was not allowed access to the club for some time after his dismissal.

By this time the "respectable" members of the community had become totally dissatisfied with the activities of the club. It was alleged that nothing constructive was happening. There was talk among the older black leaders of burning down the whole place.



The local council ignored the mounting opposition in the neighbourhood by putting a youth club in Pimlico and the Metro jointly under Laurie Little's control. The feeling grew in the "Grove" that he and his committee were intruders as they hailed from another area, about three miles up the road. This resentment resulted in Little's removal from the club by the management.

By now the club had become predominantly black (95%). Because of the tremendous popularity of the club, there were instances of overcrowding which led to a certain amount of uneasiness inside the club and skylarking outside it.

Initially the project had been approved enthusiastically by social workers, pigs, including the local so-called "crime prevention officer", and so on, but very soon the pillars of capitalism became alarmed at the potentialities of the club. The pigs began to look for trouble in and around the club. In December 1968 six black youths from the Metro were accused of the rape of a white girl, and of course found guilty by the racist courts. A youth playing around outside the club was accused of being in possession of a "dangerous weapon"—a piece of iron! One pig involved on this occasion was also prominent in the events of May 24th this year. A drugs raid and the killing of a black man by a police car in the area, then the arrest of two more youths outside the club in October 1970 further increased the tension. During this time an attempt was made to reduce the amount of noise so that neighbours would not be disturbed, and both Little and Chris Leonard, who was appointed to replace him, refused to allow the police to enter the club in pursuit of

The police were soon keeping continual watch around the club; Chief Superintendent Paterson of Harrow Road admits that cops patrol the area daily. He has now claimed that the club is a "haven of retreat" for black youths involved in robberies and has taken it upon himself to criticise the holding of two recent political meetings in the club. It seems probable that the cops will attempt to have it closed down, as they plainly fear that the concentration of radicalising black youth will become too hot for them to handle.



POLICE BRUTALITY

The incidents of May 24th again highlight the racism of the police and their brutality towards black people. The sequence of events is widely known, but it should be emphasised that the first arrest was made *completely arbitrarily*; the police were out to get someone, it didn't matter who. (Their attitude to the population of the area is that if they get the wrong guy it doesn't matter, he probably broke the law on some previous occasion or will do so in the future anyway). It was this that inflamed the other youths and gave rise to the battle during which 70 police reinforcements from all over London arrived. The numbers give some indication of the desire of the police to provoke a major confrontation, and also of their respect for the collective force of the local population.

Those arrested, including the white people, were all roughly handled, abused and humiliated in various ways, both on the way to the police station and on arrival there. One pig taking part was heard to shout, "Let's get those black bastards", and another was known to an onlooker as an "agent provocateur". Of course it was the black youths who got the worst treatment. One was taken to the police van unconscious, and three or four pigs sat with their feet on him all the way to the station. On arrival he was propped against the wall and left there, in contradiction of regulations displayed on the wall instructing police to obtain immediate medical attention for unconscious prisoners. When he came to he was taken to a detention cell and systematically punched in the ribs in the presence of the police surgeon. His groans were laughingly commented on by a policewoman to another pig in the hearing of one of the people arrested. He was later taken to hospital, but made to walk to the ambulance, although obviously in no fit state to do so.

Others who were arrested were kicked and punched in the van; all were kept in custody without appearing before a magistrate longer than the period stipulated by the law—24 hours—but this is a common occurrence. Bail was phenomenally high, and prisoners were made to sleep on bare boards with inadequate coverings in filthy cells. This treatment shocked at least one of the white people arrested, who had imagined that under English law everyone was assumed innocent until proved guilty, and treated accordingly.



In assessing the Metro affair, it is important to stress that similar instances of police harassment of black people, and indeed of other oppressed minorities, occur continually. It is only when large numbers are involved, or a death occurs, that newspaper reports appear at all. And when reports do appear, the story is carefully constructed to give a distorted view of the actual facts. The papers reporting the Metro incidents announced that policemen had been hurt, but no mention was

arrested. There is no such thing as impartial reporting; yet the mass of the population is ready to accept information put out by the mass media as the "truth". A great number of those in power would soon be exposed if anything like the real truth were to be publicised, so the ruling class adopts repressive measures against those who wish to make the real facts known. Several instances of this can be given: one glaring example is the severity meted out to all those who protested recently over the killing of Stephen McCarthy and the orders given to all his family not to participate in any demonstrations for some time in the future. Censorship is used to keep the public ignorant of what is going on; how many people are aware of the Sunderland Road bombings, during which a large number of black people received extensive, disfiguring injuries as the result of an attack by a group of fascist thugs?

To fight the growing repression, and especially the repression of black people, is an essential and urgent task at the present time. Police harassment and acts of violence by individuals must be publicised; acts of brutality must be countered by organised resistance. The nature of racism and its use by the ruling class must be understood, so that a determined fight can be waged by all militants to overthrow the forces of capitalist oppression.

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THE ANTI-BLACKS CHARTER: an appraisal

Comment around the latest Immigration Bill is concentrated on the detail of its provisions and attacking the new codified definition of what is a wog. Little attempt has been made to set the Bill in the overall scheme of a developing racism as the capitalists adjust to changing national and international economic pressures.

But the fact is that British capitalism has programmed its racism most carefully, and has introduced its repressive measures at precise three-yearly intervals over the last decade with a clockwork regularity, irrespective of changes of government. Interspersed with the Immigration Bills have been other repressive measures, such as the "White" paper, Race Relations Act and the formation of government agencies for attempting to control black dissent and diverting liberal outrage. Indeed, Labour's nationalisation of the entire Race Relations Industry (not a commanding height of the economy) enabled Wilson to posture for a while as a friend of the blacks and provided a cover for his repressive measures in the same way as Powell's mouthings enable Heath to avoid extremes of criticism.

Immigration and Capitalism

We must accept that whilst racism to an extent establishes its own dynamic, there are basic economic reasons for this situation. A certain bedrock level of immigration has always been of benefit to the capitalists because of its anti-inflationary effect. But in periods of economic stagnation and high unemployment, such as we have now, immigration is no longer necessary to capitalism. Those sceptical about the likelihood of compulsory repatriation being introduced in the future should note that the number of white workers unemployed is now greater than the number of black workers employed. An increase in unemployment beyond the present level of three-quarters of a million, or indeed a stabilisation at this figure for a long period, will inevitably fuel demands for deportation. It was necessary to allow the black population to develop to its present size before a "black problem" became sufficiently viable as a means by which the working class could be divided, and it is possibly for this reason that the black population has been allowed to grow beyond the level of actual economic need.

But the existence of large numbers of discontented and potentially militant black people in Britain has also become a threat to capitalism. Therefore they must be cowed by threats of expulsion and, failing that, expelled.

In this way the British experience has paralleled that of developed Europe generally which has sucked in labour from its underdeveloped fringes and in some cases is taking steps now to reverse this process. Germany, for instance, is about to expel 40,000 Turks, euphemistically referred to as "guest" workers.

From Gaitskell to Wilson

During the ten years in which this process has been taking place the whole area of public liberal debate on the race issue has travelled inexorably rightward in step with each next piece of legislation. It is a far cry from 1962 when the otherwise right-wing Hugh Gaitskell mounted a Parliamentary hue and cry over the Tories' first Immigration Bill and insisted on more ringings of the division bell than Harold Wilson has mustered for the Industrial Relations Bill. But since, there can be no doubt that Labour's ever-alert response to the economic dictates of British capitalism has done more to foster racism than has been done by the Tories. It is in this field more than any other that the final demise of the Labour Party as a liberal institution has been made clear. If the first half

of the sixties was given over to the abandonment of socialist posturing, then the second half was used to throw off unseemly liberal hang-ups and to establish Labour as a right-wing party.

It would, however, be mechanistic to see the Bill and its predecessors only in terms of a response to the economic needs of the capitalists and in terms of a useful weapon with which to set worker against worker. The injection of racist impulses into the political body sets up processes which have their own momentum, taking actual circumstances as their base but travelling beyond the limits of any precise need. We should remember that the Tories are racists. It is part of their life style and training, a cultural and ideological fix, and we can therefore expect them to take measures which are not justified in their entirety by reality.

Immigration Bill?

For this reason, the present Bill needs some special explanation beyond that given above. For a start, the Bill is a misnomer. The truth is that there is no significant immigration taking place at the present time, and the Bill is not justified in terms of curbing the number of blacks coming here. It is not an Immigration Bill. In every year since 1966 the number of permits issued to immigrants from the so-called "new Commonwealth" has been less than 5,000, of which approximately half are estimated to come into the doctor/dentist category. Last year only 2,000 black workers came here. So, at the present rate, the number of black workers would only increase by around 20,000 in ten years. Of course there is immigration of dependants (mainly in respect of previous immigrants who came when there were less tough restrictions; this figure reduces annually and will soon tail off in direct relationship with current and any future immigrants). Current alien-white-immigration is running at around ten times the figure for blacks. After allowing for some dependants later joining the work force, it is clear that in future years there will be no significant increase in the number of black workers beyond natural increase. So we are forced back to the conclusion that, effective immigration having been halted by Labour, there is no real arithmetical need for this Bill. This is not to play the numbers game of the liberals, but a fact to remember before one can get behind this Bill to examine the real reasons for its introduction, which clearly have little to do with its ostensible purpose of cutting immigration. At this point we can underline this by saying that the Bill extends the right to come here free of work permit or voucher to a greater number not only of whites, but also of blacks, than have this right at the moment. It is estimated that there are for instance around 1,000,000 Anglo-Indians who will now be classed inadvertently as patrials and will have the same entry status as Canadian or Australian patrials). As the Bill is certainly not about Immigration control, we must look elsewhere for its purposes.

What is the Bill really about?

Firstly, the Tories wish to codify and consolidate Labour gains in this field and establish with the electorate an equal record in black bashing. Secondly, they have an ideological and spiritual need as a party to satisfy their own internal urges and racist lust, particularly in terms of Heath's leadership manoeuvres with regard to Powell. Thirdly, the Tories have a message that they wish to communicate loud and clear to black workers in this country—that they should keep out of industrial militancy; thus the Bill should be considered jointly with its bedfellow, the

Industrial Relations Bill. Fourthly, the passing of this measure makes it possible for them (or Labour) to pass the next measure in this series. One other additional factor in Tory calculations is pressure from Common Market capitalists. With their own adequate supplies of cheap labour from European semi-colonies, they have no wish to see blacks entering the back door of Europe via Dover. Indeed, the Tories are lying through their teeth when they contend that the Bill is intended to remove the distinction between aliens and Commonwealth citizens. Far from reducing black immigration to the level of that of aliens, it will reduce it below that level if entry to the Common Market takes place. Under the Treaty of Rome there are provisions, irrespective of nationality, for European workers to have equal "rights" to compete for jobs in different countries (thus averaging down European wage rates). If Britain were to ratify this aspect of the Treaty, it would mean that European workers would have a superior preference over New Commonwealth-non-patrial-aliens (blacks for short), as far as work permits are concerned. Revolutionaries should not find themselves in the position of complaining that white workers from Europe will have a better right to come here and do the shit shovelling and scab jobs than blacks, but this can be instanced both as a further installation of the racist nature of the legislation and of the way in which the Common Market capitalists are exerting pressure on the British prior to entry.

Whereas the provisions of the Bill will not affect large numbers of future immigrants, it is important to consider the flip side of these measures. Every measure against a future immigrant will affect the working conditions and racial climate, not to mention the nature of police repression, under which black workers here at the moment will live. This is another Tory con, because we see the Bill's unwritten consequences will bear down principally on existing black workers. And there is the constant knowledge of the likelihood of the Bill's provisions being actually extended to cover all black workers, irrespective of when they came here. But here again there is a difficulty because the main provisions of the Bill do not appear in the Bill. The government has taken powers to slacken the Bill (if more workers are needed) by adjusting the regulations with regard to work permits being granted. It has also taken powers to repatriate. Repatriation decisions can be made by Government fiat according to regulations to be made "from time to time". This means in effect that repatriation is outside the scope of Parliament. Of course we should have no illusions that Parliament would not back any Tory or Labour repatriation proposals. The purpose of making this an administrative rather than legislative matter is to prevent the development of black protest, by making Government wishes immediately effective. We should not overlook the fact that a form of compulsory/voluntary repatriation already exists, both for those who break the law and for those who fall foul of the Social Security goons, who by withdrawing benefit can coerce black workers into being repatriated. It is intended that Social Security should continue to have this function and be armed with new powers as yet unspecified. Liberals who are raising the demand that the Bill should be amended to transfer the registration procedures from the pigs to the SS are here falling into a trap. A situation could develop where unemployed blacks would not claim their unemployment pay for fear of being processed out of the country.

In the Bill there are many factors which will

deter blacks from applying for work permits. The high cost of a passage from India or Jamaica is not a sensible proposition without a guaranteed right to stay for more than one year. Questions as to what happens when a boss goes bankrupt and this year is shortened have not been answered. In any case, the large numbers of unemployed make it almost certain that the government will not be issuing many work permits; these are conditional on there not being suitable alternative local labour available. At the moment the only categories where work permits might be granted are for *au pair* girls and doctors and dentists. In some categories—domestic servants, for instance—there is no right to bring dependants at all, and in all other cases this right is conditional on an immigrant showing he is able to support his dependants and provide suitable accommodation before they will be allowed here. We may see a situation where a black postman is denied the right to bring his wife and six kids because his wage is inadequate to keep them. It is highly unlikely that new immigrants will be able to show this ability as their very situation will force them into low-paid jobs and high-cost, special ghetto type accommodation; building societies and council housing lists will not be open to them, as they will be unable to show they are going to be here long enough to acquire a mortgage or a high enough place on the monster waiting lists, which are often in any case rigged against blacks already here.

Under the new act the ability to arrest at will a whole social group, including young blacks, will be extended to all black people. Powers of arrest will exist if any thick fuff "... with reasonable cause suspects that a person may have committed or attempted to commit an offence ..." under the new laws. So, if you're black you could be an illegal immigrant. As it is an offence to assist anyone to break the laws, you could be arrested if a black guy with or without your knowledge overstays his permit and sleeps under your roof for a few nights. It will be dangerous for black people to visit the seaside, as this is where illegal immigrants land. Racists making malicious calls to the police to identify their neighbours as suspected illegal immigrants will be in their element, and the police will be only too happy to take up such "information". It is here that the passes come in. To avoid spending a few days in the nick whilst enquiries are made at the Home Office to prove that you are not overstaying a permit, it will be very wise to carry papers proving that your work pass has not expired or that you came here some years ago before the restrictions. It is those blacks who have been here for some years that have the most difficult problem for they have to prove a negative in order to go free. They have to prove that they are not illegal immigrants and that they have a right not to prove they have a job with boss X in town Y. Virtually the only documentation that will satisfy is a passport, bearing a date of entry.

All these provisions in the Bill point to an urgent necessity: it is vital for all revolutionary groups to organise together with black organisations and thwart the operation of the law. Unit United fronts like the *Black Defence Committee* have a crucial role to play in a situation where racism could increase very rapidly. We would therefore urge all revolutionary groups and individuals to help increase the weight of this committee and make it a strong anti-racist force.

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