





# 'In the army, a man becomes an animal'

## Terror campaign in Malaya

THE BRITISH Army atrocities in Borneo which we reported yesterday were no isolated instance. They were part of a deliberate policy pursued by the military command in order to instil terror into the people they were fighting against.

The troops in Borneo

Part two of JOHN SPENCER's series exposing army brutality.

Inherited these tactics from the British army which fought against the Malayan People's Liberation Army from 1948 to 1960.

In that lengthy period of repression in Malaya, headhunting was 'not an uncommon experience'. This is supported by a num-

ber of photographs showing British soldiers, sometimes accompanied by Dyak trackers, holding the severed heads of Malayan resistance fighters.

These trackers, recruited from among the headhunting Iban of N Borneo, were used with most of the infantry units in Malaya. In 1952 there were 264 Dyaks in Malaya. They were actively encouraged

to collect 'trophies' by beheading or scalping their victims. And the British army officially glorified these gory exploits.

The Royal Marine journal 'Globe and Laurel', for example, carried in May 1952 a fulsome account of the Ibans activities written by Maj Harry Willcox, one of the men who recruited trackers in Borneo for the No 3 Commando Brigade in Malaya.

### Head-hunting

Willcox describes the welcome of a returning head-hunter at his native village as a 'solemn and joyful moment'. He goes on: 'First, foremost and of supreme importance to all concerned is the question of whether he has brought back in a state of great excitement and importance, is the first to greet him, taking the head in the cloth, while the other women sing the anthem for returning warriors.'

'But if he has, he will, of course, have sent word ahead, and at a meeting of the longhouse will have commissioned the most highly-skilled weaver among the women to weave a special ceremonial cloth for the reception of the head.'

'The tracker will have fitted the scalp or hair onto a pumpkin, giving it the appearance of a turnip head and this he places in the cloth with ceremony.'

'Every boy and young man there is green with envy, and every girl gives him the sort of look Errol Flynn is used to.'

The British army can hardly claim to have been ignorant about what the trackers it employed were there for. They glorified their barbarous head-

hunting and went on using their services for at least another ten years.

Photographs of the Dyaks' hideous handwork being held up approvingly by British marines were published in the 'Daily Worker' in April 1952.

Tory newspapers immediately branded them as 'fakes'. After a week of evasion in the Commons, Tory Colonial Secretary Oliver Lyttelton was forced to admit that the pictures were genuine.

The government's response? It set a fine of \$200 Straits (£23 6s) for anybody taking similar photographs.

### Inseparable

This kind of hideous brutality and degradation is absolutely inseparable from colonial war. The only way British capitalism could protect its tin and rubber holdings in Malaya, like its oil interest in Borneo, was by systematic torture and brutality against the Malayan workers and peasants.

In the same way, in N Ireland today, the Tory government is trying to cover the plain evidence of torture and brutality against men detained without trial, justifying it on the grounds that such measures are necessary against 'terrorists'.

British imperialism is second to none in its history of colonial brutality. The same forces which produced these dreadful photographs are in action in Ulster today.

They are the Tory government and its military terror machine.



A Dyak tracker in the uniform of the Royal Marine Commandos poses with dismembered parts of the body of a liberation fighter. The Dyak headhunters were used with most of the British Infantry units in Malaya.



A British Royal Marine posing with the severed heads of two Malayan liberation fighters.

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## The crisis continues

THE ending of the state of emergency which was in force in Chile's Santiago province from December 2 to December 10 does not mean that the problems of President Salvador Allende's regime are at an end.

It is simply recovering from the first round of the attack by his right-wing opponents.

The big rally of middle-class women from Santiago's plush suburbs which sparked off the emergency was followed by a series of big workers' rallies pledging support to Allende.

The right has failed to win control of the streets in Santiago, but the left-wing parties and the Central Labour Organization (CLO) leaders think it is enough to pass resolutions to defeat the reactionary threat.

The right will have to turn to other methods. It is calling for the formation of a Democratic Civic Union to rally all oppositionist forces. It is believed that this fits in with Washington's strategy to bring down the regime in the name of 'democracy'.

Similar slogans have been used by other fascist and military groups in Latin America supported by the United States Central Intelligence Agency.

### Coup plans

Other preparations for an armed coup are being made with US encouragement.

The build-up of a reactionary bloc centred on Brazil is a sign of the times.

The former right-wing president, Eduardo Frei, has just spent six weeks in the US as the guest of the semi-official Council of Foreign Affairs. No doubt plans have been laid for his return to power in the event of a successful coup.

It is believed that the right is now making more careful preparations on the lines of a new strategy, counselled by US agents

### Speculation

While not compensating the copper companies, the Chilean government has undertaken to repay \$726m in loans from consortia arranged by previous governments through international organizations.

The Chilean central bank recently suspended foreign exchange transactions to stop damaging speculation.

The fall in copper prices and export earnings, coupled with rising costs, has placed the Chilean economy in a precarious position.

Speculators organized a run on reserves. Cattle-owners took 300,000 head of cattle out of the country. Millions of dollars have left the country illegally.

Because of the run on the escudo and the higher price of imports, shortages have appeared in the home market.

Inflation, sabotage of production and black market activities have been allowed to develop over the past several months before the Allende government began to take energetic measures.

The new controls are very much like closing the stable door when the horse has fled.

### Deterioration

The deterioration of the reserve position, which is offered as an excuse for the suspension of foreign exchange transactions, ought never to have been allowed to develop. It shows that the Allende regime went in fear of international capital and hoped to continue to work through the market, including the foreign exchange market.

These hopes were knocked on their side by Nixon's August 15 measures, since when the external position has not ceased to deteriorate.

The terms of trade are becoming increasingly adverse.

The only outcome can be run-away inflation and economic collapse, opening the way for the demoralization of the working class and the return of Frei and the right.

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Allende

Allende's government officials have claimed that there is no foreign exchange crisis, thus flying in the face of obvious facts. Reserves, in fact, are diminishing and, on their own admission, are only enough to pay for two months' imports.

Now the government has been forced to put through a devaluation, while trying to maintain different parities for different uses.

## Capitalizing on the jobless

THERE WAS JUST one big sign of enthusiasm at this year's National Careers Exhibition which came to a close yesterday. It came from the country's law-enforcement authorities.

Amidst one of their most widespread publicity campaigns, Britain's police forces and the army looked set on capitalizing out of the desperate jobless situation amongst youth.

'We are expanding all the time,' said an officer at one of the stands. And he was not joking.

Over 25 per cent of the ground space at the exhibition was taken up by display stands of capitalism's different repressive forces, including Scotland Yard, Metropolitan Police, Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force.

Britain's police stand was the biggest ever with 'entertainment and participation activities for visitors'.

Among 'celebrities visiting the stand at the special request of the police forces were footballer Geoff Hurst, DJ Tony Blackburn and Jimmy Savile and Miss United Kingdom Marilyn Ward.

'Altogether,' said the Home Office, '27 police forces have combined to make this the most ambitious police exhibit ever mounted in this country and during the show about 130 policemen and women will be on duty to man the displays, give the demonstrations and answer queries about the range of work and play in today's modern police.'

And recruitment wasn't too difficult either. The nice friendly copper next to the super motor bike showed you how to sit on it in the right position and how to switch on the various gadgets.

In a simulated control room, one was able to send pictures or messages by radio to a facsimile receiver in a police car on the stand.

Others tried their hand at Photofit identification while some had their fingerprints taken, tried on police helmets, caps and crash helmets and used a frogman's communication set.

All one required to join the



At the exhibition police put on a demonstration for mounted police display of crowd control.

police was a good character and medical approval.

Things were much tougher at other stands. Not only did one need to have the necessary qualifications for common professions such as osteopathy and Gospel-preaching, but competition, we were told, was keen. Those who made it, however, had a grand future ahead.

'They're really trying to impress the handful of people who stay on at school every year,' said one 16 year old.

### Little to offer

'There are thousands of others who end up in labouring jobs in factories. I suppose that is not considered to be a "career".'

It certainly wasn't the sort of thing one would expect after four or five years in a secondary modern school. Apart from a mass of colourful literature and a glimpse of technical achievements in industry, the majority of youth left the exhibition with little else.

All they got was an idea of the potential stored up in scientific methods used today in almost every single profession.

The architectural section displayed well-polished walls and designs, while the Ministry of Defence stand next to it showed a small scale model of a bombed-out house with a tank nearby.

And the Youth Employment Service put forward about ten bright new booklets for sale.

While the Indians are using the same machine as this field gun,' said an attendant proudly. 'And it is very effective.'

### Effective

'It seems crazy to me to make a career out of destruction. One of those rocket launchers which the army is displaying could devastate a large piece of the world.'

While the shell-throwers, artillery, guns and rockets dwarfed all the other exhibits at Olympia, the evening papers, on sale at the entrance, reported 'heavy casualties' in the war between India and Pakistan.

'The Indians are using the same machine as this field gun,' said an attendant proudly. 'And it is very effective.'



