

# CLASS STRUGGLE

POLITICAL PAPER OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST LEAGUE OF BRITAIN

Vol. 4, No.8 April 17th to 30th

fortnightly 8p

## BRISTOL: BLACK COMMUNITY REBELS

The St. Pauls area of Bristol suddenly became famous on April 2nd when the black community hit back at police repression and many whites supported them. At 3 pm police raided the Black and White Club, a social centre for young blacks. A crowd began to gather to defend their area against police harassment. The police arrested Bertram Wilkes, the popular club-owner, and the anger of the people flared. Police fled, and police vans and cars were burnt. At 6.15 police reinforcements were sent in with riot shields and dogs. The crowd fought back, led by young black residents, but including many whites. By 7 pm they had driven the police out of the area in disarray, with the support and sympathy of most of the St. Pauls residents.

For 4 hours the area was free of the hated police presence. Shops were attacked, and some people from outside came in for spoils. But shopkeepers popular in the community were spared. A chemist shop was guarded by members of the community. Some buildings, however, like banks, got special attention. At 9 pm, the club-owner, Bertram Wilkes, was released without being charged.

Around midnight hundreds of police moved into the area, and "restored order", which was more a case of the people's opposition calling it a day.

### FESTIVAL ATMOSPHERE

The next day there was an almost festival atmosphere in the area, and people realised how much they had achieved. Politicians and press were horror-struck. They had seen the power of the organised masses. They knew if it could happen in Bristol, it would spread to cities more notorious for the rotten conditions and police repression of black communities. If they'd bothered to investigate they would have known that St. Pauls has suffered for years from bad housing and high unemployment.

The response of the bosses is not to improve conditions. Home Office Minister Raison said we'd have to wait till the Tories "sort out the economy". But they will increase police power. The Sun complained that "police lack the labour, the means and the mobility to protect cities from roaming bands of thugs". Merlyn Rees drew on his experience as

northern Ireland Minister under the Labour Government. He called for a national mobile section of police to prevent "no-go" areas. He was right to draw the parallel with Ireland. When people face the organised repression of the imperialist state, they will also organise and fight back.

\* A young man picked up on his way home through St. Pauls was held by the police and knocked about before being released. When news of this reached the young man's home district, the working class estate of Southmead, where police over a long period had been harassing young people, the frustrations of the youth boiled

over.

\* The police have been carrying out nightly reprisal raids on "suspects" from St. Pauls, and over a 100 people have now been arrested, many in the early hours of the morning. What the police could not do in the face of united mass opposition, they are now doing by picking off people one by one in raids on their homes. Many black families have expressed fear at these continuing raids, as the police seem intent on getting some kind of revenge.

Bristol  
Class Struggle correspondents.

BRISTOL YOUTH BATTLE WITH POLICE ▼



## Southall resists police terror

A year ago the Asian community in Southall and their supporters were attacked by the police. The SPG murdered Blair Peach, and though the names of the men on the spot are known (Richardson, Murray, White, Freestone, Lake and Scottow) no action has been taken against them. 1,000 people were injured. "The police were chasing Asian kids all over the park and kicking them," said an eye-witness. "I saw them ram a girl into an iron-gate and cut her face open". A first-aid centre was stormed by SPG men, and doctors, assistants and patients beaten. Of those arrested, 342 have been charged. The victims

of police violence have been fined or sent to jail on the evidence of their attackers.

### FASCIST MURDER LED TO RESISTANCE

Repression built up in Southall especially since 1976, when a local youth, Gurdjit Singh, was murdered by a fascist gang. The community organised a massive protest. An Asian youth said, "They think now they have killed someone they can push us about, but we have to end this now". Police were unable to control the demonstrations of thousands. The ruling class saw and feared the

Cont'd on p5

# EDITORIAL

The planned Southall demonstration and the Asian Youth Movement (AYM) long march, both reported in this issue are part of a vitally important growing fightback against state racism. Tory plans to step up repression and introduce second class citizenship are inevitably bringing with it a sharper response. Of course many of those who now want to fight state racism are not reliable. The Trotskyites and the "Communist" Party of Great Britain in particular of Great Britain in particular have only become interested in the issue now, because there is a Tory Government. They only want us to talk about "Tory racism" not "state racism". They would like us to forget that Labour Governments have been just as bad, and that the Tories' present plans were drawn up on the basis of a report by a Parliamentary Committee during the Callaghan Government on which the Labour Party participated equally. The Labour and Tory MPs unanimously agreed on the proposals. But the opportunists want us to forget this because they want to divert the fight against state racism into a band wagon to bring back a Labour Government. We should have our eyes open against this.

Nevertheless it is a good thing that the fight against racist laws and police harassment is becoming a major issue, and that more and more people are taking a stand and want to be actively involved.

## FIGHT THE CUTS

In the same way the Tories are building on the cuts introduced by the Labour Government, and Thatcher is launching a vicious offensive against the working class in an attempt to solve the crisis of Britain's imperialist system. The "solution" is to hit the working people of Britain economically and socially, to load the burden of the crisis onto the backs of the people, and to protect and increase the profits of the capitalists and the wealth of the rich. At the same time laws are being introduced to weaken workers' organisation and to outlaw some of the most effective weapons in the struggle - such as "secondary picketing". Thatcher has gone further than Callaghan, but it is down the same road. If Labour was still in power there would be little difference, but there would be more honeyed words, promises and sugar on the pill. The Labour Government introduced wage cuts through the Social Contract, used deliberate price rises in nationalised industries to claw back some of our wages presided over an increase in unemployment from half million to nearly 1½ million and used inflation to cut the value of wages. They also planned to outlaw "secondary picketing" etc. etc.

## LABOUR'S DILEMMA

Now, however, Labour wants to get back in power. So just as on the question of racism, they are supporting opposition to the Tory attack. However they have a problem. They are afraid of the development of an independent mass movement. They are afraid of widespread direct action. They want a movement that they can bureaucratically control and which again is aimed primarily as a vote catcher. On the one hand they want to appear to militantly oppose cuts now, and they have their eyes very firmly on the coming council elections on the other hand they don't want a movement which will continue to fight cuts and which could pose a long term threat to them and to the system if politics becomes a question of activity for the mass of the people, and not just matter of occasionally voting. Immediately they know that Labour Councils are either implementing cuts in housing, education, health etc themselves, or hitting the people with giant rates rises.

So the TUC has now called a "day of action" on May 14th against Thatcher's economic and social policies. The leaders of NUPE and the NUR wanted a one-day general strike but the TUC backed away. What the TUC has not done is to circulate leaflets through the union structure directly into the factories to expose the national and local cuts and thus to build up any enthusiastic momentum for either a "day of action" or a 1 day-strike. The vast majority of workers probably still haven't heard anything about action on May 14th. Neither has the TUC given any sort of concrete guidance on what action to take. Most union district committees are still sitting on their backsides planning nothing because "we haven't received instruction"

## ALL OUT MAY 14TH

So what should we do? The TUC has had to call for some thing, but is afraid of a developing mass movement. We should take the struggle forward. Despite TUC passivity and sabotage let's make May 14th as effective as possible. Come out and demonstrate on May 14th Make the unions fight for the working class. Do whatever we can to get as many people as possible to take some sort of action to fight the capitalist cuts. Take up the demand for the right to work. Fight the cuts in dole and social security. Hit back to defend and extend the NHS. Keep the schools open. Fight the rent and rates rises. There is indeed a crisis in the system. We should take up our own stand. It's the bosses' system, make them pay for their crisis.

Action on one day - on May 14th - is not in itself the decisive thing. Building a mass movement is. But May 14th can be used to focus on the issues, and the working class must take up the fight. Its no good relying on Labour and union bureaucrats. We know their record. It is the people who suffer, and it is the people who must resist.

## From our postbag

### SOCIAL FASCISM

Dear Editor,

I wish to inform your readers about the Polish Government's social fascist activities towards a worker-militant and Co-editor of Robotnik (The Worker). Edmund Zadrozynski has tried to promote trade unions free from State control and to publicise the grievances of Polish workers. He has behind him working class unrest in his native town over these issues. He has defied state censors and published information on

the fightback of trade unions against a fascist state.

Today however, Zadrozynski is on trial. This is not to face charges related to the above. Instead the authorities are framing him with the non-political act of having master-minded a burglary! In putting the accusation, the State has used the evidence of men already serving criminal offences. These men have already admitted once that their original allegations were false.

In the face of this, it would be useful if trade unionists in

this country could pass protest motions which should be sent to the Ministry of Justice and to the Polish Embassy in London.

Yours with thanks,  
BD

Addresses to write to:

Polish Ambassador in London:  
His Excellency, the Ambassador  
of the Polish People's Republic,  
47, Portland Place, London W 1.

Ministry of Justice:  
Ministerstwo Sprawiedliwosci,  
Warszawa, Poland.

# Sirs blows with the wind A WORKER'S NOTEBOOK

Just a week before Bill Sirs and Co toasted their sell-out of the steelworkers' 13 week strike, a Class Struggle correspondent in South Wales reported an interview with a 60 year old steel worker. The correspondent asked him:

"What do you think of the steel situation at present Bill? Do you think that the strike is being won?"

"Well" he said, "we know that steel is being moved so it will go on for a long time yet". When asked what he thought of Bill Sirs and the leadership of the steel unions he retorted - "Don't mention that ...! to me. He's as changeable as the wind; always has been. He's more of a hindrance than a help to the likes of us". Steel workers like Bill were preparing to stick-out in a long struggle. Without strike pay he was spending his savings. Other steel workers faced harder times but were prepared to fight on especially at a time when the strike was really beginning to bite. But the sell-out came. The Lord Lever three man committee of inquiry into the pay dispute raised the BSC "offer" of 10% on the basic by a measly 1%. And Bill Sirs leapt at it. Content that the strike had won half of the steelworkers claim. Another 5% was geared to productivity giving the green light to the BSC bosses to cut jobs further and increase job mobility.

Angry demonstrations of steel workers took place outside the enquiry and pickets were set up outside several major steel works defying instructions to return to work. They were, however, unable to undo the damage caused by Sirs' rotten leadership. While such faint hearts and opportunists hold their positions of supreme power in the trade unions, they will continue to be a huge millstone around the workers' necks. They must be told either lead our fight or get out!

## NEW ERA BOOKS



NEW ERA BOOKS have just published a Mail Order Catalogue for the first time. It lists hundreds of books and pamphlets, giving a short introduction for many of them to explain what they are about. The list ranges from classical theoretical works to modern political books. It includes cultural and children's books, books from Britain, China and other countries. It also lists periodicals which you can subscribe to.

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### CLASS STRUGGLE AND NEW AGE UNITE

Editorial workers from New Age, the paper of the Communist Workers Movement, will be joining us to form a new editorial committee. The joint editorial committee will be working together from the next issue of Class Struggle. New Age has been known for its lively style and we are confident that by working together we can produce a better newspaper.

We would like you to help too. Send us letters and contribute articles, or maybe you can make yourself a regular Class Struggle correspondent. Why don't you take more copies to sell? Last but by no means least contribute to the RCL/CWM Press Fund by sending cheques and POs to New Era Books.

■AFTER A 14 WEEK WORK-IN BY NURSES AND HEALTH WORKERS the last 12 patients were moved from Etwell Hospital, Derbyshire, despite a strong picket and refusal of ambulancemen to man the vehicles. The ambulances were in fact driven by administrative staff and 120 police were present throughout the hospital and grounds for the whole day. Nurses, ancillary workers and local people picketed the gates but were prevented from even talking to the drivers by the police. The pickets interviewed by local television were outspoken in their newly formed contempt for the police and their determination to continue the battle to re-open the hospital. A nursing sister said the police had behaved "like thugs". She went on to explain that the 12 remaining people were all elderly long stay patients and to them the hospital was their home. Now, despite their written protests, they were being carted away to a new hospital.

■WORKING AND UNEMPLOYED PEOPLE ARE BEING HARRASSED and hounded by an extra 1,000 inspectors from DHSS in an effort to stop an estimated £50 million of petty social security frauds. Meanwhile jobs are being cut in the departments of Inland Revenue and Customs and Excise who deal with income tax and VAT collection. The five civil service unions have recently published a booklet on VAT fiddles and large scale income tax evaders. It estimates that money lost in this way amounts to between £5,000 million and £11,000 million each year, and a 1,000 extra inspectors there would easily collect £500 million of this. There are of course two drawbacks for the ruling class if they did as suggested. Firstly it would be them, their families and friends who would have to pay up; and secondly the present harrassment of claimants is necessary to put a lot of people off from claiming money that they are entitled to.

■ONCE IN A WHILE A TV PROGRAMME EMERGES WHICH ALMOST makes the price of a TV license seem reasonable. Such a programme was the Law and Order series recently repeated by the BBC. This fictionalised trilogy of plays which deals with police corruption and brutality so worried and outraged the police that the BBC was coerced into agreeing never to sell the programmes abroad or repeat them. Unfortunately for the police and fortunately for the viewing public the BBC for copyright reasons did recently repeat the series even though it was tucked away on BBC 2 at 10.30 on Sunday evenings. Following the events of Southall and the murder of Blair Peach and the death while in police custody of Jimmy Kelly what is clear is that the Law and Order programmes if anything underplay the degree of corruption and brutality of the British police!

■AFTER CLOSING THE MECCANO FACTORY IN LIVERPOOL WITH the destruction of 1,000 jobs, Airfix bosses are getting back to business. Ralph Ehrmann, Chairman of Airfix Industries says that the groups has now more orders than ever before. (Daily Telegraph, 8.4.80).

■FIGHTING BACK WAS THE THEME OF THE 2ND NATIONAL Black Women's Conference held at the end of March. Over 200 women from all over the country attended a weekend of summing up the work of the Black Women's Movement since last year's conference. The Organisation of Women of Asian and African Descent coordinated the Conference, and pointed out that "despite obvious ethnic and cultural differences... our joint historical experience as second class citizens in a racist society have created firm bonds between us". Nasira Begum and Anwar Ditta both spoke on their own experience of repressive immigration laws. Institutions such as the NHS were exposed on cases of forced sterilisation and for labelling women depressed by oppression, divided families etc as mentally unstable.

(For information about Black Women's groups contact: OWAAD, 10 Cambridge Terrace Mews, London NW 1).

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### WHY BLACK FREEDOM?

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

#### WHY A MARCH?

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

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

The march itself is a march against racism in general. How-

# BLACK FREEDOM Statement of the Asian Youth Movement

Further details of routes, dates and

ever that generalisation will be broken down to tackle specific areas of racism.

1) The primary objective of the march is opposition to the Immigration Laws. We feel that these laws are of overriding importance to us as they threaten the whole basis of our existence in this country. If we do not act with determination now we will probably be laying the basis for increased harassment and possible expulsion in the coming years. We hope to make it known through this march that "We are Here To Stay, Here To Fight". Our position in principle is quite clear on these laws and is summed up by the slogan "End Racist Immigration Laws, All Immigration Laws are Racist". However from this general position we will be fighting for concrete demands:

Stop detention without trial  
No arrest without warrant  
Release all the deportees  
Stop all deportations  
End sexist and racist laws

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

2) On the economic front we will take up the issue of unemployment especially unemployment of black youth, which at this moment in time is far higher than for white equivalents. It is also an important issue because the present

## Support the Black Freedom March

Black people in Britain are all oppressed by racism. There can be no freedom in this country while equal rights are denied to minorities who come from different nations. Black workers are the most oppressed section of the working class, and the attacks on them are attacks on us all. The Black Freedom March raises correct demands, and will advance the struggle against racism.

All immigration controls are racist in an imperialist country like Britain. Poverty caused by the British bosses' plunder of third world countries forced people from countries like India and Jamaica to come here seeking work. Immigration controls are used to manipulate the labour force in third world countries for the purposes of the British bosses, while British investment and unequal trade with those countries keeps them poor. Immigration controls are also used to con white workers that blacks are responsible for the unemployment they suffer.

Unemployment is caused by the rotting capitalist system. It hits black workers harder than white. Even David Lane, Chairman of the "Commission for Racial Equality", an apologist for state racism, had to admit that "black school leavers find it 3 times as difficult to get a job as their white

contemporaries with comparable school records". (Sunday Times, 6.4.80). Increased unemployment is a planned policy of this Government, as of the Labour Government, and black and white workers must fight it together.

Bad schools, housing etc. for national minority people are part of their special oppression. They need more resources, but Government cuts mean less resources for all, except for the very rich. And national minorities, treated unequally, should have more control over the resources in the areas where they live, in order to fulfil the special needs of their culture and language.

National co-ordination of the fight against racism is crucial. A national black organisation and organisations of particular national minorities, like the Indian, Bangladeshi or Jamaican, all help towards this. The organisation of people from third world countries in this way, and into broad-based organisations like trade unions, tenants' associations and women's groups, strengthens the working class in its unity against the British bosses. It also brings the working class in Britain to support the struggle of third world countries and peoples against imperialism generally, and particularly the 2 superpowers.

# EDOM MARCH

## Youth Movement Bradford

co-ordinating committee in next issue

Tory Government policies are designed to increase unemployment and black workers will take the major brunt of this in proportional terms as the old manufacturing industries requiring unskilled labour decline.

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

Release the political prisoners of Southall

Barnett Trial are Show Trials

Disband the SPG

SPG murdered Blair Peach

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

End the Sus Laws Now

No imprisonment under these laws

5) Bussing: Bussing of black children from the areas they live in to schools in white area continues. This practice is a racist practice, depriving them of hours



of education, forcing them to travel long distances, and taking away their dignity as black children. The only justification for this is that they will learn English better from a school predominantly white. However it is an excuse not to put resources into black areas and build schools there. The question of resources is even more vital now under the present cuts. We say: End Bussing of Black Children Now

More resources for Black Areas

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

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

**SOUTHALL RESISTS** cont'd from page 1  
strength of the national minority community. Thus the mobilisation of 5,000 police in April 1979, supposedly to defend a bunch of 59 fascists drafted in for an NF (National Front) meeting, was a calculated attempt to subdue the Southall community by terror tactics.

When the police are few, as in Bristol 1980, they can be defeated. When they are many, as in Southall 1979, they must be met with still larger numbers. Repression will increase, so must the level of resistance.

### NATIONAL DEMONSTRATION SUNDAY 27 APRIL 1980

REMEMBER BLAIR PEACH - DISBAND THE  
REMEMBER BLAIR PEACH  
DISBAND THE SPG  
AMNESTY FOR THE SOUTHALL DEFENDANTS  
DOWN WITH RACIST LAWS

ASSEMBLE: 1pm SPEAKERS CORNER  
MARCH VIA SCOTLAND YARD AND DOWNING  
STREET TO RALLY IN TRAFALGAR SQUARE.

★ At least 200 women from the Philippines are being deported because they want to bring in their children. These women came here on work-permits, as domestics doing the dirty work like scrubbing floors in hospitals, and the homes of the wealthy. They have had their work-permits for 4 years, and are entitled to settle. But the Home Office has now said people with children are not allowed work-permits, so they are to be chucked out. The number of women affected could go up to 500.

**ANWAR DITTA**  
BRING ANWAR'S CHILDREN HOME!  
Demonstration in support of  
Anwar Ditta  
ON: Saturday April 26th, 12  
twelve o'clock  
Start: from Birley High School  
Chichester Road, Manchester.

## Victims of state racism

★ Ibrahim Ali has lived in Manchester since 1958, and became a British citizen in 1963. In 1972 he applied to bring his wife and 4 children to live with him. In 1974 it was decided to issue entry certificates. Then the Home Office claimed to have received two letters from Bangladesh saying Mr Ali's family were lying. In 1977 entry certificates were granted to Mr Ali's wife and daughter, but refused to his 3 sons. The boys appealed. In the interval between the refusal and the appeal, one of the sons died. Another son is now an adult and barred entry even if he wins the appeal. At the last interview the 3rd son was told that if the interview resulted in refusal, it would take so long to prepare an appeal that he too would be too old to apply again.

★ Nasira Begum was married in England in 1976 under Islamic law and again in a registry office. Her husband later deserted her. In 1979 the Home Office refused her application to stay here. They said her marriage wasn't valid in English law. They gave no reason. They said her marriage was one of "convenience" Again, no evidence. And they said she is to be deported because her husband wasn't living with her. So she is to be punished for being a deserted wife! Nasira has been served with a "leave in 14 days or be deported" notice, and it is only the strong campaign backing her that has prevented the immigration authorities moving against her.

★ Black seamen were taken off the ship recently wrecked on Brighton shore, and held in custody. This shameful treatment was because they might be "illegal immigrants" What kind of state imprisons shipwrecked sailors, instead of giving them all the help and hospitality possible?

★ Rudy Narayan, a Guyana-born barrister who has a good reputation for defending black people, faced disbarment when he appeared before a hearing of the barristers' senate on April 8th. Hundreds of his supporters, mainly black youth, turned up at the hearing to support him. He got off with being reprimanded for "professional misconduct". The bosses' courts clearly want to weed out lawyers who will stand up to the police on behalf of black defendants.

On April 5th the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan entered its 100th day. This provides a good opportunity to review the new trends that have emerged in international life over these turbulent weeks. As an important step in its strategy of moving south in pursuit of warm waters the Soviet action brings it closer towards the Indian Ocean and the Gulf as well as the important Middle East oil producing region. The Soviet action is thus not only barefaced aggression against the people of Afghanistan but also a threat to South Asia and the Middle East, the rest of the third world and the West.

### STORM OF PROTEST

Because of its wider significance the Soviet aggression has met not only with the staunch resistance of the Afghan people but has also called forth unprecedented world wide condemnation. A complex process of realignment is taking place amongst world political forces.

At a press conference held in Paris on March 26th, Mr Mike Barry, representative of the International Federation of Human Rights gave an account of atrocities committed by the Soviet occupation forces in Afghanistan, based on interviews with Afghan refugees conducted during a month spent in Peshawar near the border. He described three types of toxic gas used by the Soviet forces against the Afghan people.

The first is a highly concentrated type of tear gas causing headache and nausea, which is responsible for the death of thirteen people asphyxiated in the village of Shin Korak, Khunar province, on February 29th. The second is a laughing gas which causes fainting. The third is an irritant which induces boils on the skin.

Mr Barry also gave accounts of how the Soviet forces use napalm and wipe out whole villages through bombing.

Firstly, Soviet influence in the third world has decreased noticeably. This is the first occasion that the Soviet Union has directly invaded and occupied an independent and non-aligned country of the third world and this has led many countries to review their relationships with the Soviet Union. Of the 104 countries that voted in the United Nations General Assembly to demand the withdrawal of foreign troops from Afghanistan, 79 were third world countries. In the Arab world, only Syria and South Yemen have been won to a pro-Soviet position and many states in the Arabian peninsula are taking firm measures to defend their national security. They have demanded increased military and other assistance from the United States and other Western Imperialist powers whilst stating their resolution not to allow any foreign military bases on their soil.

The Islamic world - a dynamic force within the broader third world movement - has been particularly resolute in standing side by side with their Moslem brothers and sisters in Afghanistan. The meeting of over 30 Foreign Ministers at the Islamic Conference opposed Soviet aggression not only in Afghanistan but also in the Horn of Africa. The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) took part in this Conference. A number of Islamic countries such as Iran which had formerly taken the United States as their principle target of struggle are now more soberly evaluating the threat posed by the Soviet Union. Iran has cancelled a treaty which the Soviet Union could have used to

# AT THE START OF A

"justify" aggression against Iran and has refused to renew contracts for the supply of natural gas. The new Iranian President, Abolhassan Banisadr has on a number of occasions warned of the danger posed by the Soviet Union to the Iranian revolution.

It has just been announced that Afghanistan is to furnish the Soviet Union with 2,500 million cubic metres of natural gas during the coming year - a 16% increase on last year's figure. The price has not been announced but the puppet minister of petrol called it "absolutely fair"!

For a long time, the Soviet Union had a good deal with the Shah of Iran, drawing on Iranian natural gas while supplying Soviet gas and petroleum to Eastern Europe at ever increasing prices. This supply has now dried up and the Soviet rulers, with typical imperialist logic have used armed force to increase their supply of raw materials.

Within the non-aligned movement, the Soviet action has served to isolate their puppets, Cuba and Vietnam. Shortly after the invasion Cuba's dogged attempt to secure a seat on the UN Security Council collapsed.

### THE IMPERIALIST POWERS

The Soviet aggression has also had widespread repercussions in the United States and the other Western imperialist powers. The cosy and self-deluding talk of "detente" has given way to unconcealed inter-imperialist rivalry. The United States and other countries, such as Britain, have taken a number of retaliatory measures aimed at the Soviet economy (grain embargo) and prestige (call for olympic boycott). At the same time the imperialists have had to review their relations with the third world. The main trend within this movement is a positive one that strengthens the forces fighting the most dangerous superpower and enhances the ability of the third world to play its vanguard role in the struggle. In this sense, it is a blow against that section of Western imperialists who seek to preserve their interests by appeasing the Soviet Union in the hope that by making concessions they can keep the bulk of their empire; a hope more and more exposed as wishful thinking. Of course, when imperialists extend support to the Afghan people and enhance co-operation with the third world they have not "discovered" the right of nations to self determination overnight. But Soviet expansionism threatens both the third world and the Western imperialists; the third world countries and peoples - very few of whom have any illusions about US imperialism - have every right to exploit the contradictions between the different imperialist powers to enhance their own national independence and to secure the best possible conditions to develop their own national economies.

When we support various forms of co-operation between the third world and the anti-Soviet imperialist powers we are not supporting imperialism but the victims of Soviet aggression and their resistance. Not to support a country's right to receive concrete forms of assistance from the Western imperialists - indeed not to demand that they get more on their own terms - would only mean sacrificing the people of that country to Soviet expansionism. For example, Pakistan urgently needs to re-equip its armed forces facing as it does the direct threat of Soviet aggression.

# TURBULENT DECADE....

To this end, it has approached a number of countries including Western Europe, the United States and China for military assistance. The stand of General Zia should be supported insofar as he has criticised the insufficient nature of the US aid offers and steadfastly refused to allow any US troops or bases on Pakistani soil and has continued to support the Iranian peoples' struggle against US imperialism.

## SECOND AND THIRD WORLD UNITY

The realignment of world forces has led to a number of positive developments in unity between the second world (Europe, Japan, Canada etc) and third worlds. Most West European countries have continued to shift their policies on the Middle East in favour of recognising the national rights of the Palestinian people and opening varying forms of relations with the PLO. The successful outcome of the elections in Zimbabwe have lessened the prospects for superpower meddling. The Foreign Ministers' Conference of the 14 countries of the European Common Market and the South East Asian (ASEAN) group was an important meeting of second and third world regional organisations that took a firm stand in favour not only of the national independence of Afghanistan but also of Kampuchea (Cambodia).

We should also give a positive appraisal to US Defence Secretary Harold Brown's visit to China. If China receives military equipment from the US, it will help to defend socialism.

## IMPERIALIST MOTIVES

Whilst supporting certain of the concrete measures taken by the various imperialist powers to counter Soviet aggression we must not forget that they are motivated only to protect their superprofits. In the final analysis, imperialist powers are less interested in safeguarding world peace than in their own imperialist interests.

The United States, in particular, is using the Afghan crisis to initiate a series of reactionary measures aimed at the third world (and as in the case of the draft - its own working people). Thus Carter declared that the Persian Gulf was "a sphere of US interest" and threatened military intervention against any force that "threatened" the USA. It is clear that Carter's "rapid deployment" military strike force and the plan to revamp the CIA are reactionary moves directed against the third world, as are the moves to shore up reactionary regimes in Central America, like that of El Salvador and the intensified threats against Iran. All these moves have not gone unrestricted.

## OPPOSE APPEASEMENT

It is also necessary to oppose continuing Western attempts at appeasement based on profit seeking such as the lack of any real trade boycott or ban on technological aid. The "Carrington Plan" for the neutralisation of Afghanistan under international guarantee could not be a genuine solution to the problem as it

Meanwhile on April 1st, the Guardian printed an exclusive interview with Afghan puppet 'president' Babrak Karmal, in which he affirmed that "in no case does the Soviet Union interfere in our internal or external affairs." Those of us who appreciate the joke items which the Guardian usually publishes on April Fool's Day were busily slapping our thighs when we noticed another joke item on a different page. Then a terrible thought began to dawn - maybe that interview was supposed to be a serious item...

would be a deal done by the imperialist powers over the heads of the Afghan people taking away their right to self determination and to decide their future. It is in complete contrast to genuine independence and non-alignment where the people of a country can decide their own social system and what relations to have with their neighbours and the rest of the world. It has already been rejected by the Islamic Alliance for the liberation of Afghanistan and other patriotic forces.



## OLYMPICS

With regard to the olympics, many people around the world feel that it would be inappropriate to hold the 1980 games in Moscow when the Soviet Union is trampling underfoot the sovereignty of Afghanistan. This is of particular importance because the Soviets will - like the Nazi 1936 Olympics - use the games as a vast propaganda exercise directed both at the Soviet people and the people of the world. A number of countries including Kenya, Uganda and socialist China would like a boycott of the games. However, the most vociferous advocate of a boycott has been President Carter. He has sought to "wave the big stick" and expects other countries to blindly follow the US lead and has resorted to bullying when this has failed. Not surprisingly, many countries have refused to just dutifully fall in line to a US marching song.

Many people have also pointed out that all the fanfare around the Olympic boycott has obscured the fact that no real trade boycott of the Soviet Union has been launched and a great deal of technology with military implications is still being sent to the Soviet Union - some of it even helping in the butchering of the Afghan people. Western multinationals have actually established new offices in Moscow since the Afghan invasion.

Cont'd on p 8



## UDR UNDER PRESSURE

The much hated Ulster Defence Regiment (UDR) is to chop five of its companies under the cover of 'reorganisations'. This follows mass resignations from the force.

The UDR was formed by Parliament in 1970 and claims some 7,500 men and women. Two-thirds are part-time and most were initially recruited from the widely discredited 'B' Specials. Today, the Regiment has been largely infiltrated by extremist Loyalist organisations and the Ulster Defence Association (UDA) claims many of its members to hold dual membership. By their crimes it appears that some forget which hat they are supposed to be wearing at any particular time!

### UDR - SECTARIAN ASSASSINS

All British regiments boast their "heroic" deeds of times gone by and the UDR is no exception. The Miami Showband Massacre is a good example. This 'battle' involved the cold-blooded murder of catholic lads whose only crime was that they entertained people. The culprits would have remained anonymous had not two of the UDR patrol clumsily blown themselves up at the same time!

Two hundred and fifty men have already been convicted in the courts for their savage sectarian attacks. Many others either get away with their deeds or resign and forget to mention their membership of the Regiment at the

time of the offence.

So why are these terrorists resigning? Some will go to become more involved in their own Loyalist para-military groups and others out of fear. To date 114 have been shot or blown up.

What does all this mean? For a start, the UDR men are having to work at less than half their intended strength. Also, more men are resigning than being recruited. This all adds up to extra overtime for the regiment's members who are already thought to be unhappy about pay and hours. Further demoralisation for these imperialist thugs seems to be on the cards!

Contributed

### AFGHANISTAN: cont'd from page 7

#### UNPRECEDENTED ISOLATION

The Soviet aggression against Afghanistan has landed it in unprecedented international isolation. It has even had an effect on its own "fraternal" countries and parties. The East European states have been noticeably lukewarm and many "communist" parties in Western Europe have issued forthright condemnations. The League of Communists of Yugoslavia, the Communist Party of Italy and the Communist Party of Spain have all refused to take part in a Soviet sponsored "detente" jamboree to be held in France.

But Revolutionary communists are the most stalwart opponents of Soviet aggression and the most steadfast defenders of the national independence and interests of the third world countries and peoples. We will work to strengthen the unity of all forces fighting super-power hegemonism and particularly Soviet expansion;

Refugees report that 100 villages have been destroyed along the Afghan-Pakistan border. In a recent move, Russian helicopter gunships and MiG jets pounded the villages to rubble and forced the peasants to join the 650,000 refugees already in Pakistan. This fascist operation was carried out after a guerrilla ambush killed 8 Russian officers including the General commanding the Soviet 9th division. The Soviet response clearly shows that whatever their propaganda about fighting reactionary landlords, they are really attacking the peasants and the mass of people of Afghanistan.

support those in the frontlines as in Kampuchea, Afghanistan and Eritrea and demand that British imperialism accede to the just demands of the third world. We oppose everything that weakens a united struggle and in particular the imperialist acts of our "own" bourgeoisie and appeasement of the war mongers.

#### CORRECTION

It was wrongly stated in the last issue of Class Struggle that the Indian Government has recognised the Heng Samrin puppet regime in Kampuchea (p.7). Mrs. Gandhi pledged, before her election, to recognise Heng Samrin and thus approve the Vietnamese invasion. She has not done so, despite Russian and Vietnamese pressure. The factual error was entirely the fault of the editorial staff of Class Struggle.

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March 29th was the first anniversary of the breakdown and near disaster of the THREE MILE ISLAND nuclear reactor at Harrisburg, USA. Various anti-nuclear forces from all over Britain adopted the occasion to march against the British Government's Nuclear Development Plan which seeks to impose the Harrisburg system on the people of Britain.

The demonstration was a big success with 30,000 people on the march, which ended in a huge rally in Trafalgar Square.

Photo: Class Struggle correspondent.

### Next Issue: Interview with ZANU official

“ In the present period we have four tasks. We have achieved freedom from political oppression.

We still have to achieve military domination.

We have to attain economic independence.

We have to embark on a cultural revolution and

We still have a war in South Africa.

Right now the primary thing is military consolidation. ”

These words are taken from an interview by Class Struggle with comrade Fred Shava, who is the London representative of ZANU and was recently voted in as the MP for Gwelo in the Zimbabwe elections. The interview will be carried in the next issue.