

CLASS STRUGGLE

Paper of the Revolutionary Communist League of Britain. Incorporating

NEW AGE

PAPER OF COMMUNIST WORKERS' MOVEMENT

15p Monthly Volume 5. No. 6. June 1981

FIGHTING FOR A LIVING

Lee Jeans occupation

"There is no way we will take redundancy money. We will only take our jobs, by rights they are not ours to sell. If anyone tries to move us, it will be with great difficulty, as we are determined to win." This was the message of the representatives of the occupation to the South Wales miners who had invited them down to speak about their struggle and collect money to finance it.

The workers of Lee Jeans, Greenock -- almost all of whom are women -- have been occupying their factory since February 5th. Their unity and determination remain high, their understanding of the need to rouse other workers to support them and learn from them is clear, as can be seen by their visits to the South Wales miners, several London factories, the People's March for jobs rally, etc., etc.

But their own union, the National Union of Tailors and Garment Workers, is playing a treacherous role. At its national conference at the beginning of May, it produced no proposals for stepping up the struggle. Instead the union leaders blamed the Lee Jeans workers for taking too militant a stand, and so frightening off potential buyers of the factory! The NUTGW has a much better method of fighting -- you join hands with your bosses and together demand import controls. This wonderful method has enabled the union to let 100,000 jobs go in the industry over the last 10 years.

But, as Eileen Monaghan, the Senior Steward, said of her union leadership, "This is just another way of putting the blame for the situation here on the workforce. If we hadn't taken the action we did we'd all be out the door by now and there would be no chance of saving the jobs."

This important struggle needs moral and financial support from all sections of the working class. Send messages of support, work-place collections, donations to: Treasurer, Lee Jeans Shop Stewards Committee, 45 Brougham St., Greenock, Scotland.



Lee Jeans Striker, Cathy Robertson, speaks on the struggle to the Peoples March For Jobs in Stockport.



Bobby Sands

Raymond McCreesh

Patsy O'Hara

Francis Hughes

MASS UPSURGE AGAINST BRITISH IMPERIALISM

FOUR MURDERS BY BRITISH IMPERIALISM

As the hunger strike in the H-Blocks of the Long Kesh Concentration Camp continues it is taking a steadily rising toll of victims. The prisoners are demanding political status as encapsulated in five basic demands and those dying on hunger strike have been murdered by British imperialism as surely as were the youths recently deliberately run down by Army Saracens in Derry.

The hunger strikers grew up

knowing sectarianism, oppression discrimination and imperialism at first hand. They took the only possible course that was open to them -- they took up arms to fight British imperialism. On being captured they were arrested, held, tried and sentenced under special legislation, in special courts and were given especially harsh sentences. They are political prisoners and prisoners of war. If there was any doubt about this the people of Fermanagh and South Tyrone should have dispelled it when

they defiantly elected Bobby Sands to the British House of Commons.

But British imperialism showed just what it thinks of its own so-called democracy when it goes against them -- they ignored the election result. At 1.17 a.m. on May 5th 1981, Bobby Sands died. So far his death has been followed by those of Francis Hughes Raymond McCreesh and Patsy O'Hara. For each hunger striker that dies, another takes his place.

(cont' on back page)

IMPERIALISM AND UNEMPLOYMENT

3800 vacancies were notified to Careers Offices in March - the lowest March total ever recorded. Even last year, not exactly a high point in jobs being available for youth, there were 18,000. By summer, the Institute of Careers Officers predicts, there will be over 1,000,000 teenagers looking for work, with black youth particularly hard hit.

In the past few years more and more families have suddenly found the ground cut from under their feet, with one, and often both parents cast out of work, and expected to live on a pittance. Even that pittance is being steadily eroded as budgets deliberately keep the rise in social security and unemployment benefits below the increase in the cost of living.

And there is no end in sight.

WHAT IS BEHIND THE CRISIS?

Throughout the world we see a movement developing of the peoples and countries of the third world who are resisting imperialist domination and exploitation. They will not passively accept the grinding poverty on which is based the stark wealth of the giant imperialist combines. At the same time among the imperialists a considerable shift in power has taken place. British imperialism is on the decline. It still makes considerable super-profits in many areas of the world,

Between 1973 and 1976 the recession brought the average profitability of British industry down from over 11% to around 6%.

More recently profitability (excluding North Sea Oil) fell from 6% to under 3%.

The CBI predicts that this year's rate will be 2%.

but it is losing out in the stiff competition among the imperialist plunderers.

Today we are experiencing the results of the general decay of a clapped-out system combined with a recession. To the imperialists as well as to us, it is a real crisis.

On top of a long-term decline in the rate of profit, the competition for markets has become extremely fierce. Factory plant is lying unused, or is under-used, and many companies have gone bankrupt. For

In the first quarter of 1981 there were 567 bankruptcy receiving orders issued in the High Court. There were 836 compulsory liquidations. Last year's figures were 388 and 684.

the imperialists the crisis will be over with a 'return to profitability', which will happen only after many companies have been wiped out and there is less competition for the market. But the crisis for the working class will not have passed. Massive unemployment arising from this process will be added to, as production is expanded again through new technology and less manpower.

There is a solution to unemployment, but that solution is fundamental. It demands the destruction of the anarchic system of exploitation and oppression; it demands that the working people take power into their own hands and plan the economic development of society on the basis of self-reliance, and of eliminating imperialist plunder.

That is the long-term answer that must always be forefront in our minds. But it does not mean that nothing can be done now. We can fight back against every redundancy; we can fight factory closures. In short we can fight for the right to work and resist the strategy of the ruling class of making us pay for the crisis of their system. The unemployed can fight for work or full pay, and organise against the vicious attacks on social security benefits.

But we must fight with no illusions that this will make the system work for us. It never will provide full employment. On the contrary through this immediate resistance struggle, we must build a revolutionary consciousness that the only real solution lies in the destruction of imperialism.

Today there is not such a mass movement. But there is resistance, and it will inevitably grow. The workers at Lee Jeans are occupying to fight closure. Since April 24th 600 workers at Laurence Scott, Manchester, have been occupying their factory, and have been visited by Gardners stewards, who recently fought a similar struggle. It is such militant resistance out of which the struggle against unemployment will grow.

But, there is another trend in this struggle, and it is at present the dominant trend. There is the trend which will call a big march to demonstrate their own 'concern', but who in reality have not the slightest interest in building a genuine independent mass movement. Far from building a revolutionary consciousness in the course of mass struggle, this trend covers up the existence of a real crisis, and attempts to channel resistance into a bandwagon to vote in a Labour government. This is the stand of the TUC. The leadership of the National Union of Tailor and Garment Workers Union will support the "People's March for Jobs", but condemn the militancy of NUTGWU members at Lee Jeans! The TUC organisers of the "People's March for Jobs" claim that unemployment is solely due to "the disastrous policies of the present Tory government". One of the leaflets put out for a mobilising demonstration before the march by full-time trade union officials on Merseyside said, "2,463,294 reasons why you should join... that is the number of people thrown onto the scrapheap by the deliberate policies of the present government." We morons are supposed to be unaware that unemployment rose from 1/2 million to 1 1/2 million during the last Labour government. The TUC and the Labour Party, far from using the march to build a mass resistance struggle, are using it to promote their Alternative Economic Strategy, which is nothing other than an alternative strategy for defending and running British imperialism.

We fully support the unemployed who are demonstrating their anger and bitterness on the People's March for Jobs. We applaud the workers who left their factories to support the march as it passed through their towns. Big demonstrations are necessary to focus attention on the struggle. But we must remember, to be effective they must arise out of local mass struggle, and in turn fuel the grass roots movement. That is the last thing the TUC wants. The rank and file demonstrations and the rest of the unemployed are the only people who can do it.

The following poem was written by a worker in Yeovil. The poem has done the rounds there and has been well received.

A POEM FOR MAY DAY 1981.

In this world of trouble and strife
 For peoples in search of a much better life
 They struggle and fight to regain all their lands
 With men like Steve Biko and young Bobby Sands
 The IRISH, the AFRICAN, they're both the same
 When it comes to oppression they know who to blame
 It's not your old workmate who stands by your side
 It's your boss and his greed for lands far and wide
 The boss who is British
 The boss who's a yank
 For even the Soviets are up to this prank
 From the green hills of Ulster
 To the land of the black
 They plunder and pillage and never go back
 But the day will be born when Black will join White
 And drive the imperialist boss out of sight
 They will join hands together
 And create a new world
 And remember the struggles they both had unfurled
 So when you are listening to jokes about Blacks
 And cheap Irish stories that cause a few laughs
 Think of the men who have made bold demands
 Men like Steve Biko and young Bobby Sands.

WHAT'S BEHIND FORD STRIKE?

By a "Class Struggle" Correspondent at Fords.

On Friday May 8th the night shift in both the Assembly and Body Plants at Fords Halewood estate on Merseyside walked out on indefinite strike against the company's disciplinary code. By the following Monday they had been joined by the day shifts and the three shifts in the Press Shop, making the total out on strike 10,000.

In November Ford told all its workers in Britain, in letters sent to their homes, that they were going over the heads of the unions and unilaterally introducing a new code of discipline.

As they made clear in the letters, the real target of attack was the Halewood Plants where there had been scores of disputes simmering away since production started on the new Ford Escort last summer. Under the code, a worker would be given an instruction and just 10 minutes to decide whether to carry it out. If he refused, then he would be suspended for the remainder of that shift, plus the whole of the following shift. Another worker would then be approached and instructed to do the suspended man's job. If he refused to obey within 10 minutes, then he would be 'double-dosed' as well. After the second suspension the whole of that shift is then laid off for the period of the suspensions.

MORE ROBOTS - LESS WORKERS

Earlier this year Fords told its 70,000 workers in Britain the details of its "After Japan (AJ)" strategy which was adopted by Ford of Europe after the company had fully grasped the real implications of the competition they face from their Japanese rivals. AJ means huge investments in robot technology; £1½ billions to be invested in Britain alone over the next four years, 25% more than the last four years. At Halewood, Ford intend to increase the number of robots from less than one hundred at present, to 476 by 1985.

They will also reduce the workforce in Britain by 40% over the next 4 years - 28,000 jobs. They aim to declare war on the traditional demarcation practices on the shop floor.

For example, at present in a particular area of a plant there may be, say, 30 men operating on machinery producing components. If there is a mechanical breakdown on this area, halting the production of the 30 men, then they all stand aside while maintenance men repair the breakdown. Under AJ, the 30 operators will include 5 or 6 maintenance men. Other ways they intend to increase the rate of exploitation of the workers are to eliminate hundreds of inspectors and janitors. Again, they will expect the operators on the line to inspect the car as it passes them for faults; and sweep up their work area.

Ford's survival plan means building more cars with a lot less workers. Production of the new Escort at Halewood has only been running for nine months. Their main task is to ensure that as all the new operations involved in building the new car are timed, which will take 2 or 3 years, the workers must be forced to accept the lowest manning levels possible. On only occasions that the 'double dosing' code is used is in disputes over manning levels.

Halewood workers have a long history of struggle against Fords attempts to squeeze extra profit out of their labour. The purpose of the code is to crush that traditional resistance. But the workers' struggle to smash the code must not end there. It must be carried forward to fight back against the planned jobs-cuts over the coming period.

A WORKER'S NOTEBOOK

AS THE PEOPLE'S MARCH FOR JOBS advances on London it is drawing wide support from working people of many nationalities who want to fight unemployment. The Indian Workers' Association has given its support and mobilised for the march in the Punjabi section of its paper, "Lalkar". Yet "Socialist Challenge", paper of the Trotskyite IMG, promoted a quote from a young marcher accusing black organisations, and the IWA in particular, of failing to give support. What chauvinist rubbish! On the contrary, the national minorities play their part in the class struggle here in an all-round way, but the trade union movement leaves the national minorities to fight their battles alone -- on April 5th, the huge march against the Nationality Bill was 90% made up of national minority people.

THE SEVENTEEN-WEEK FIGHT by Ansell brewery workers against closure and Job losses has been lost. Effective picketing had cut off beer supplies from a large number of Ansell's pubs in Birmingham. This was despite police harassment on the picket line. The local paper "Evening Mail" had joined Allied management in an attempted smear campaign accusing the strikers of acts of sabotage on lorries and pub windows. Actually it was some of the strikers who were subject to attacks. Windows in some strikers' homes were smashed and slogans daubed on their homes. Despite all this the strikers were solid. At a mass meeting they voted 800 to 7 to extend the dispute to the rest of the Allied plants. Last week the strike finally folded amidst union sabotage. The workers cannot fight the union and the bosses as well.

GLASGOW HUNGER STRIKE ACTION COMMITTEE (GHSAC) attended a May Day demonstration called by Glasgow Trades Council with a banner proclaiming "Victory to the hunger strikers! Political status now!" All other marches had been banned in Glasgow for three months in an attempt to prevent the Glasgow working class from supporting the hunger strikers. The GHSAC contingent went 300 yards before they were attacked by the police who pulled down their banner and arrested one of the marchers. Loyalists then attacked the marchers. All this was approved by the Glasgow Trades Council (dominated by the revisionist (anti-) 'Communist' Party) who stated that the GHSAC was not a part of the Labour Movement. Yet allowed to take part in the march were a Loyalist Flute Band dressed in red, white and blue and wearing caps with the insignia of the fascist UVF murder gang. Such is the consummation of the vile pro-imperialist traditions of the so-called British Labour Movement.

THE LATEST ATTACK ON THE UNEMPLOYED comes from two economists at Liverpool University. In a report published by Lloyds Bank, they claim that 'high' unemployment benefits encourage people not to work. They say that reducing benefits by 15% would save up to £3,000 million and slash unemployment by more than a million people. Supplementary Benefit level is the official breadline. It is the very least the state can get away with paying without actual starvation occurring. As it is, malnutrition among the children of unemployed workers is noticeably increasing. To suggest that people choose the existence is ridiculous. If anybody is 'better off not working' it just goes to show to what extent they were exploited at work!

UNEMPLOYED YOUNG PEOPLE in Winson Green, Birmingham, staged a May Day Exhibition on Saturday May 2nd, on the theme of unemployment. They displayed poems, drawings and paintings (all their own work) describing the bitterness they feel about being on the dole. Young black people wrote about their anger regarding state racism and their struggle to keep alive their own culture. Also on display were the results of a local survey on unemployment, and facts and figures about local job losses.



VETERAN COMMUNIST CELEBRATES 90th BIRTHDAY

Comrade Rose Smith, founder member of the Communist Party of Great Britain, celebrated her 90th birthday on May 10th in Beijing (Peking).

REVISIONISM

Comrade Smith was an active CPGB campaigner and publicist from the 1920s onwards, but eventually came to deplore the "general damping down of the fighting spirit of those who had worked a life-time within the British Party. Slavish submission to the leadership became the order of the day."

"I speak with deep feelings of bitterness," she later wrote, "for I was then working on the Daily Worker, a paper founded on the advice of Lenin, not as a business with large sums of money, but on the pennies of the under-paid, exploited masses who saw in it a political weapon to be used in the struggle to overthrow capitalism. I was much troubled as I saw this paper losing its fighting quality as an agitator, propagandist, and organizer of the masses.

"Still arrogantly proud of being known as a member of the Communist Party, I became submissive and carried out the duties allocated to me by the leadership lest disciplinary action be taken against me, and I suffer ignominious expulsion.

"Occasional outbursts of protest got me nowhere and I consoled myself that the Party would cleanse itself eventually. I had yet to get the opportunity to study Chairman Mao's thought and to really grasp the Marxist-Leninist principle that 'Everything reactionary is the same; if you don't hit it, it won't fall. This is also like sweeping the floor; as a rule, where the broom does not reach, the dust will not vanish of itself.'

"So I continued to passively submit to what in my heart I knew was wrong!

MEMBERSHIP INERT

"Under the revisionist leadership of the Communist Party of Great Britain the Daily Worker became a replica of the capitalist press, seeking to build up a big circulation by displays of sexy pictures, betting tips, fashion and beauty notes and crime stories!

"Finally after 20 years of journalism I left the paper to try and find sanity again by living and working among my own people in the coalfield.

"Born of the British working class, reared among miners and cotton textile workers, daily participating in the hardships and humiliations of their lives it was there that I had early learnt that the only way out for the working class is through proletarian revolution and the overthrow of capitalism.

"In long-drawn out strikes, on picket lines, on hunger marches, and when fighting evictions I had seen the proletarian spirit of rebellion in action, daring to challenge capitalist authorities, openly defying the reactionary forces that stood in the way of progress. The struggle among the masses had been my life-blood.

"It was this that had taken me into the Communist Party when it was established in Britain soon after the Great October Revolution.

"But when I returned to my Party branch after an absence of more than 20 years I saw that my heroic comrades of the days of intense class struggle had taken the same road of blind acceptance of Party organization disciplines. It was eating into the hearts of my old comrades like a cancer. Gone was their former proletarian initiative and daring to take prompt class action. They were now almost completely isolated from the masses. They were inert and had become dependent on instructions handed down from higher-up.

ARRIVAL IN CHINA

"I came to China in 1962. I saw a socialist country thrown to the wolves by leaders of the Soviet Union who were departing from the principles of Marxism-Leninism."

Comrade Smith settled in China, and has since worked there for nearly twenty years. In an article written in 1977, she related how when she first came she still assumed that any opposition to the Soviet Union was a betrayal of Marxism-Leninism. She recalled how Premier Zhou Enlai once approached her table at an official function only to be publicly "blasted by (her) sharp and bitter comments on recent Chinese criticism of Khrushchev."

"The Premier," she wrote, "sensing something of my class background, preferred to regard my behaviour as a contradiction among the people. This attitude of correctly differentiating and handling two different types of contradictions was a salutary lesson to me, one which led me to investigate the strong revisionist trend then shaking the foundations of the international communist movement and to see the Khrushchev doctrine as a negation of Marxism-Leninism. It led me to a closer examination of the Chinese position, a better understanding of Mao Zedong Thought and to recognise its application of Marxism-Leninism to the particular circumstances of China as a development of Marxism-Leninism."

At a birthday reception in her honour in Beijing on May 10th, she said that the twenty years she had spent in China had been the best years of her life, "a period of mixed experience, happy and sad, during which I discovered that the seizure of power by the workers is only the first step in a 10,000 miles march."

"Mao Zedong made a brilliant contribution to Marxist-Leninist thinking despite some grim tragedies which occurred during the proletarian cultural revolution," she said.

"The 20 years' experience has made me greedy to live longer so that I may see China's hopes of modernisation come to fruition," she said. We join with her many friends around the world in wishing her many happy returns, and revolutionary greetings to her in her continuing communist work. ★

No mean fighter

Another notable 90th birthday was celebrated this month. Comrade Harry MacShane, veteran campaigner from the Clydeside, attended a meeting in celebration of his birthday in Glasgow. Still active in his life-long war against unemployment, Comrade Harry's birthday speech took the Thatcher government to task. Alluding to Thatcher's comments on the recent Brixton uprising, he said, "Mrs Thatcher said that there were no riots over unemployment in the 30s. It is not true. There were riots in Birkenhead and Belfast."

Comrade Harry was a close comrade of John Maclean. He has also been a life-long campaigner for solidarity with the Irish people's struggle. ★

Harry MacShane's autobiography, "No mean fighter", is strongly recommended reading. Available from New Era Books, price £3.95 plus 50p postage.)

THIRD WORLD SUPERSTAR

Contributed.



Bob Marley will be mourned by many who saw in him a symbol of the rebellion of youth, particularly black youth not only in the Caribbean but also in the imperialist countries, against the oppressive imperialist culture of the 1970s. The first international pop superstar from the third world, Bob Marley's music and the Rastafarian faith he stood for became a familiar feature of the cultural life of the multi-national working class youth of Britain.

RISE OF A SUPERSTAR

Bob Marley was born in Jamaica 36 years ago, the son of an army captain from Liverpool and a Jamaican mother. His upbringing was poor, if not poverty-stricken. His mother was a singer of spirituals, and his early involvement with music and his intense and sincere religious preoccupations stayed with him throughout his life. As a teenager in the 1960s he released many records in Jamaica in the reggae style which, due largely to him, has since become internationally known.

By the early 1970s, his reputation had spread to the United States, where he moved along with his group, the Wailers. At about the same time, he rejected the values of the Pentecostal Christianity characteristic of much of West Indian society, and turned instead to a religion of a more rebellious and third-world character. He adopted dreadlocks and became a committed Rastafarian. This millenarian faith is reminiscent of many third-world faiths which reject the values of imperialism and express the belief in a better life for the oppressed.

Bob Marley developed a characteristic blend of political and religious themes which had before long won him international superstardom. Here in Britain, the throbbing bass-notes of reggae set the windows rattling and spread the world of Jah and Natty dread from Brixton to Birmingham and from Cardiff to Aberdeen, along with proud political messages such as:

Get up, stand up
Stand up for your rights
Get up, stand up
Stand up for your rights
Get up, stand up
Don't give up the fight.

In 1976, just before appearing in a major political concert in Jamaica, Bob Marley survived an assassination attempt. His involvement with Jamaican politics had since an early age centred on pleas for peace among warring gangs and factions, and after a two-year absence he returned to Jamaica in 1978 and continued his support for this cause. He was an acknowledged force in the struggle of the Jamaican people for communal reconciliation.

In 1980 Bob Marley attended and sang at the independence celebrations in Zimbabwe as a guest of Robert Mugabe. In September, he was found to be suffering from cancer, and the remaining months of his life were spent in the struggle to survive. He died on May 11th, at the age of 36.

BREAKING WITH IMPERIALISM

For anti-imperialists, any cultural or social phenomenon is ultimately to be judged in terms of its standpoint towards imperialist oppression. This is no less true of religious phenomena. In today's reggae music as pioneered and largely shaped by Bob Marley, Rastafarianism has been a religious culture that has broken sharply with imperialism. The Rastafarian mythology of slave revolts and of Salvation in Africa were brought to bear in songs like Bob Marley's "Zimbabwe":

Every man gotta right
To decide his own destiny

And in this judgement
There is no partiality
So arm in arms, with arms
We will fight this little struggle
'Cause that's the only way
We can overcome our little trouble

Brother you're right, you're right
You're right, you're right, you're right
We gonna fight, we'll have to fight
We gonna fight, fight for our rights

Natty Dread it inna Zimbabwe
Set it up inna Zimbabwe
Mash it up inna Zimbabwe
Africans a liberate Zimbabwe

To divide and rule
Could only tear us apart
In everyman chest
There beats a heart
So soon we'd find out
Who is the real revolutionaries
And I don't want my people
To be tricked by mercenaries

Brother you're right, you're right
You're right, you're right, you're so right
We gonna fight, we'll have to fight
We gonna fight, fighting for our rights

A PROGRESSIVE LEGACY

Such anti-imperialist features in one of the major currents in pop culture could not fail to have wide repercussions upon its young audience and the way they perceived the world. On the recent Black People's day of action a black youth who participated in a raid on a jeweller's shop is reported to have remarked, "We are just taking back some of our gold." Such spontaneous identification by militant black youth in Britain with the oppressed countries of the Third World, encouraged by such cultural figures as Bob Marley, is of inestimable significance for the anti-imperialist struggle.

Such spontaneous anti-imperialism is particularly valuable in such an old imperialist country as Britain, where working class movement is effectively hamstrung by its identification with British imperialist rule of subject nations and peoples.

Much black youth culture, whether religious or not, breaks sharply with the imperialist view of the world, and thus represents a potential point of breakthrough for the development of a genuinely internationalist working class culture, that can begin the long, hard task of winning the British working class away from its support of British imperialism.

Throughout much of the 1970s, Bob Marley and his reggae music was a symbol of this great potential. All genuine anti-imperialists will be joining their religious and music-loving friends in mourning his tragic death.

By a "Class Struggle" Correspondent.

On February 18th, the Edmonton police mounted a dawn raid on the Balham Rd. home of Wesley and Adassah Hall. Some 12 officers inflicted a savage beating on their three sons, Raymond (19) Donald (17) and Colin (16). Mrs Hall was also assaulted while trying to defend her sons. Bloodstains still remain on the walls and carpets as evidence of their brutality.

This was the second dawn raid on the Hall family supposedly in search of stolen property. On neither occasion did the police find any stolen property or give any adequate reasons why the family was 'suspected'. The boys were dragged off in handcuffs with Donald wearing only briefs because his bloodstained pyjamas had been ripped from his body. Charges of assault occasioning actual bodily harm and obstruction in their own home have been brought against the boys.

The police continued their harassment campaign against the family. On April 6th, Colin was grabbed by two plain-clothes police and a WPC on his way home from school with his schoolmates. He was accused of an armed robbery at Edmonton Green that day which the police now admit never took place. They have instructed Mr Hall to bring Colin to Edmonton police station on May 20th when he will be charged with assault.

STATE RACISM

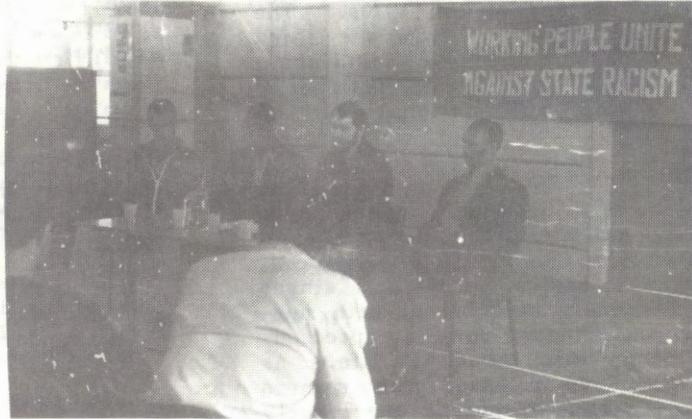
The injustices against the Hall family are further examples of the common police practice of inflicting beatings on black people and then charging them with assault in order to discredit complaints of police brutality. Mounting evidence exposes the racist state's programme of systematic harassment of the black community particularly the youth who already suffer high unemployment.

On May 7th Raymond, Donald and Colin appeared in Tottenham Magistrates Court. Raymond and Colin's cases were adjourned until July 23rd. Donald, who is charged with occasioning actual bodily harm, elected trial by jury and is awaiting a date to appear at Wood Green Crown court. There were many members of the Hall family, the London Campaign Against Racism and Fascism (LCARF) and other friends present in court to show their support for the family. While waiting in the lobby of the court an incident occurred before our very eyes which smashed any illusions we may have had about so-called 'British justice'. All eyes and ears turned to a group at the back of the lobby. A young black man raised his voice in protest against his friend's solicitor and called him "nothing but a cheap 15 quid le-

HALL FAMILY DEFENCE CAMPAIGN

gal aid lawyer." He was obviously dissatisfied with the way her defence was being handled. A plain-clothes policeman grabbed his arm and ordered him outside.

The man brushed away his



Members of the Hall family and the Chairman of LCARF on the platform of the 80 strong founding meeting.

touch and, having voiced his protest, said that he would wait outside. As he left the crowded lobby another plain-clothes policeman rushed after him and, from behind, struck him on the back of the neck with a vicious blow. The man's glasses went flying as he hit the floor and the policeman who had struck him then arrested him for assault and took him down to the cells. The lobby was in an uproar over this brutal attack. Over 20 people gave their names and addresses to the young woman as witnesses to the incident. The solicitors present did not come forward or intervene. But many white and black people voiced their anger at this brazen and arrogant display of racist oppression. Perhaps this is what kept the police from launching a general attack upon all the black people present.

The state's campaign of racist oppression of the black community is aimed at provoking spontaneous rioting such as Brixton and Bristol. This will give the racist state the political justification to bring in even more repressive laws and more widespread police powers. These powers will be used against all working people, black and white, when they fight back against attacks on jobs and living standards, against cuts in health, education and other welfare services, against attacks on democratic and trade union rights.

JOIN THE HALL FAMILY DEFENCE CAMPAIGN

The forces of the state are well organised and at the moment they have the initiative. The only effective response of the people is to organise their superior numbers in their own defence and concentrate their individual efforts into a self-disciplined mass struggle against state racism.

The campaigns to defend George Lindo, Abdul Azad and Anwar Ditta show that only self-reliant mass struggle can frustrate the plans of the racist state and force it to make concessions.

On Sunday, May 17th, LCARF organised a public meeting in

Edmonton to found the Hall Family Defence Campaign. The black youth workers at a local youth club who support the Hall family offered the facilities of their centre for the meeting but once again the state intervened and tried to stop the meeting taking

place. The management committee which controls the youth centre closed down the club for the entire day, locked the doors and padlocked the gate. The Treasurer of the management committee, the local community liaison officer, sat in his panda car across the road watching to see if there would be any trouble while four white members of the committee tried to pretend that they didn't know anything about it. But this didn't stop the meeting going ahead. More than 50 people were transported in cars to another hall which had been arranged in anticipation of this sort of interference.

The link between intensifying state racism, fire bombings, murders and attacks on the black community by fascist organisations protected by the racist state, was strongly made from the platform. The meeting unanimously passed the following resolution: "This meeting of friends and supporters of the Hall family resolves to form the Hall Family Defence Campaign to mobilise the widest possible support from all sectors of the community to organise moral, material and political support for the family in their fightback against police harassment." A collection raised £30. If you would like more information about the campaign, to send a donation become a member of, or affiliate your organisation to, the Hall Family Defence Campaign, write to: Box HFDC, 203 Seven Sisters Rd., London N4 3NG.

STOP JASWINDER'S DEPORTATION

By a 'Class Struggle' Correspondent.

600 MARCH IN SUPPORT

About 600 people marched through the streets of Harehills and Chapeltown, Leeds 7, on Saturday March 16th. They were marching in support of the campaign to stop the deportation of Jaswinder Kaur, a Sikh woman, who has lived and worked in this area for the last six years.

Jaswinder marched at the head of the demonstration with her three-year-old son Manjit who was born here but is threatened with deportation or separation from his mother. Alongside them marched Anwar Ditta who has always made it clear that she will do all she can to support other black people fighting injustice. Nasreen Akhtar, from Rochdale, who is also fighting deportation, was next with people from her campaign and from the campaigns of Nasira Begum and Cynthia Gordon.

Many different groups and individuals took part in the march. The majority were Asian, both young and old. But the campaign to stop Cynthia Gordon's deportation is bringing Caribbean people into the fight against the immigration laws for the first time. Everyone joined in the slogans:-

Jaswinder, Manjit, here to stay! Deportation no way!
Jaswinder Kaur has a right! Here to stay here to fight!
(repeated for Nasira Begum, Cynthia Gordon and Nasreen Akhtar).



The spirit of the march was expressed with the cheers that greeted the announcement by the chairman from Bradford Asian Youth Movement when he said that the Friends of Jaswinder Kaur had decided to ban the slogan "Maggie - out, out, out!" as being irrelevant. A loudspeaker went ahead of the march explaining to local people who came out to watch the reason for the march in English and Indian languages. Some people joined in with the march as it went along.★

UNEMPLOYMENT—We demand work or full maintenance

The myth of people getting more on the dole than at work is clearly contradicted by the facts. The Economist (July 26, 1980) published some figures on benefits received by the unemployed as a percentage of their likely post-tax income at work.

The figures do not come up to date, but there is no reason to suppose the situation has altered greatly.

BENEFITS OF UNEMPLOYMENT AS PERCENTAGE OF LIKELY POST-TAX INCOME AT WORK:

1972 and 1973	37%
1974	45%
1975	not given
1976	36%
1977	37%

This means an unemployed worker's income is a little over one-third of his or her income at work. At 1977 levels, an unemployed worker who would have taken home £60 a week would get benefits of £22.20. Even at the highest 1974 levels benefits would be £27. The figures are hard to believe, but it should be remembered that they are an average, and include women, young people and childless couples. It should also be pointed out that Child Benefit is in addition to take-home wages for those at work, but it is deducted from requirements in calculating Supplementary Benefit.

One thing which affects such figures is the level of wage-rates. If wage increases can be held down, the level of benefit as a percentage of them will go

up. It is then easier for the state to cut benefit. Holding down wages is precisely what governments try to do - the Labour government by the "social contract" and increasing unemployment, the Tories by cash-limits and increasing unemployment still more. Because of the success that the present government is having in forcing workers to accept wage "increases" which in fact lower their standard of living, it is also able to cut back on the level of benefits to the unemployed, the sick, pensioners and single parents.

Two important facts should also be noted about unemployment levels themselves. First, women suffer more than men (which means, of course, that whole families suffer, because most of them depend on two wages). Between 1974 and 1980, unemployment for men doubled; in the same period women's unemployment rose by five times! And that is despite the fact that many women do not register as unemployed, and thus do not appear in the figures. In 1978 the General Household Survey estimated that 56% of unemployed married women and 26% of unmarried women did not register.

The second important fact is the underestimation of unemployment levels. Many young people, especially young blacks, do not register either. And at least 200,000 people are kept off the register by special government schemes which create phoney jobs or training courses. This means

that the scale of unemployment is considerably higher than the government figures of 2½ million, probably higher than 3 million.

To this must be added the number of people underemployed, on short-time working. An estimate for the West Midlands area is that at least as many people are on short-time as are unemployed.

In this situation of increasingly high unemployment levels and dwindling wage-rates, it is certain that harassment of the unemployed and cuts in the real value of benefits will increase. The fightback against these attacks should be focussed above all on the struggle for work or full maintenance. Together with this must go the demand for the abolition of means-testing and an end to the discrimination against couples living together by taking their resources together for Supplementary Benefit purposes. An important method for the movement to build itself will be the creation of facilities for the unemployed, education, sports and leisure, independent of state control. The trade unions, faced with a situation of declining membership, are claiming to speak for and represent the unemployed. They are jealous of any moves to form independent unemployed organisations. The challenge must be made to them. If the unions will not support the unemployed, particularly in the struggle for work or full maintenance, then the unemployed will see them as irrelevant, and will build their movement by themselves.★

BUILD SOLIDARITY! (Contributed)

Whilst British imperialism is exposed and condemned around the world for its brutal persecution of Irish patriots, the chauvinist British left, the revisionists and trotskyites, refuse to build a campaign in support of the Irish people preferring instead to play footsey with the Labour Party and chase after diversions like CND who would happily see the world exposed to Soviet nuclear blackmail. This is despite the open support coming for the hunger strikers from many of the oppressed, in particular the

black people.

After Bobby Sands died, a picket of Downing St mobilised 300 people. And the one national demonstration so far mobilised 500 - from organisations claiming a following of 10,000! In stark contrast to the petty bourgeois cowardice of the British left, Irish patriot political prisoners, who are already subject to brutal persecution, courageously staged roof-top protests in Wormwood Scrubs and Long Lartin prisons.

Meanwhile, Gerry MacLochlainn,

South Wales organiser of Sinn Fein, has been sentenced to six years in prison, another Brit frame-up. Together with Jim Reilly - who was hounded to death before the trial - he was charged under a catch-all conspiracy to commit explosions "at a place unknown and at a time unknown in Great Britain or Northern Ireland." Not a shred of evidence was produced against Gerry.

Send him a postcard with a message of solidarity: Gerry MacLochlainn, D77395, Wormwood Scrubs, Duncan Rd., London W 12.★

BRITAIN CONDEMNED WORLDWIDE ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

After the spectacular and brilliant IRA military operation that killed five British soldiers in South Armagh, the northern Ireland Secretary, Atkins, claimed that Irish Republicanism was a cause disgraced and discredited throughout the world. Nothing could be further from the truth. In fact, British imperialism's brutal murder of Irish patriots has been condemned throughout the world and has landed Britain in unprecedented international isolation.

EUROPE

Throughout Europe practically every country has seen press or parliamentary protests, demonstrations or even armed actions against British targets, as has occurred in France, Switzerland, Italy, Portugal and elsewhere. In Greece several thousand people marched on the British Embassy on three consecutive evenings and in Norway, people defied a government ban on demonstrations to protest Queen Elizabeth's visit and pelt her with missiles. A balloon filled with tomato sauce narrowly missed her. In France, the mayor of Dunkirk has refused to receive British World War 2 veterans in protest at the deaths of the hunger strikers. Opposition members of the Danish and Portuguese parliaments stood in silent homage to Bobby Sands and 60 members of the Portuguese parliament issued a statement describing Bobby Sands as "a patriot and fighter for human and civil rights." Thousands demonstrated in Lisbon. At May Day rallies throughout Italy a statement of solidarity with Irish prisoners from the three national Trade Union Federations was read out.

Particularly significant support came from other small oppressed nations in Europe, such as Brittany, Corsica, Catalonia and Euzkadi (the Basque country).

In Malta, the ruling Labour Party has called for the prisoners' five demands to be granted. Lech Walasa, the leader of Poland's free trade union, Solidarity, described Bobby Sands as "a great man who sacrificed his life for his struggle."

THE THIRD WORLD

Strong support for the struggle of the Irish patriots has come from Iran, which knows at first hand the ruthless barbarism of British imperialism. Iran's charge d'affaires in London, Abdolrahim Gavahi, was sent by his government to attend the funeral of Bobby Sands, "Irish guerilla hero", and a street on the western side of the British Embassy in Tehran has been renamed after Bobby Sands "to honour the heroic death of the IRA freedom fighter." Messages of condolence have come from Iranian factories and from the President, Prime Minister and Parliament. In a statement Ayatollah Khomeini said,

"We are bound to support all the uprisings and struggles against all types of imperialism and oppression throughout the world. If Bobby Sands' life did not fulfill that struggle, we hope his death will contribute towards its fulfilment."

Also expressing condolences was the People's Mojahdeen Organisation of Iran and the revolutionary government in Nicaragua.

The Students Union at the University of Zimbabwe sent a letter to the British High Commissioner de-

manding political status. In Mozambique the semi-official paper, Noticias, commented, "The simple and indisputable fact (is) that he was a political fighter. Sands and the IRA were fighting for a united and independent Ireland."

South Africa's main black newspaper, "The Sowetan", described Bobby Sands as a 'hero'. Newspapers throughout the Arab world have carried material criticising Britain. In India, the Prime Minister Mrs Gandhi has called on Thatcher to make concessions to the prisoners. Opposition members of Parliament stood in silent tribute to Bobby Sands and one compared him to Mahatma Gandhi who often went on hunger strike to force concessions from British colonialism.

In Bangladesh, the leading patriotic newsweekly, "Holiday", carried an article entitled "Bobby Sands' spirit lives on". It said, "No power on earth can thwart nationalist movement. It is about time the British government learnt its lesson from past injustice." It noted that many problems in the world today were a result of "deliberate and indiscriminate geographical division of nations and nationalities by imperialist British government."

The main newspaper of socialist Korea carried an article supporting the Irish people. "What is noteworthy is that the armed struggle is rapidly expanding and developing... The British imperialists' policy of occupation in Ireland for centuries vividly shows that the aggressive nature of the imperialists never changes."

China has extensively reported the hunger strikes on radio and television. An article carried by the official Xinhua News Agency entitled "Northern Irish youth support jailed IRA members" noted that the IRA was determined to achieve national reunification.

A patriotic Chinese newspaper published in Hongkong described Bobby Sands as the "latest martyr of the resistance movement, arousing the fighting will of the young IRA."

There have been many protests throughout the United States and the size and influence of the Irish-American community has forced many politicians to distance themselves from Britain on this issue. Even President Reagan expressed his "deep regret" at the death of Bobby Sands. Black political prisoners, Chicano liberation organisations, the American Indian movement and a Puerto Rican national liberation movement have all expressed their solidarity. "Unity", newspaper of the US League of Revolutionary Struggle (ML), carried the banner headline "Brits out of Northern Ireland" across its front page.

In both Australia and the United States dockers have launched boycotts against British goods and people staged demonstrations during visits by Prince Charles.

In Canada and New Zealand, where there are substantial Irish communities, Marxist-Leninists have been active in developing a solidarity movement. "The Forge", newspaper of the Workers' Communist Party (ML) of Canada, has consistently frontpaged the struggle in Ireland and provided its readers with detailed background.

It is not the Irish patriots, but British imperialism that is disgraced and discredited throughout the world.★

YOUTH AGAINST IMPERIALISM

The following interview is reprinted from the May issue of "Troops Out!" It vividly shows the working class youth in the nationalist ghettos of the north are fully behind the anti-imperialist struggle and their internationalist support for the people of Wales and the black youth. This international solidarity of the oppressed is a dagger pointed to the heart of British imperialism.

INTERVIEW WITH THE CREGGAN "YOUTH AGAINST IMPERIALISM", DERRY.

How did the youth groups get started?

A message was sent out from the H-Blocks to the H-Block Committee outside asking them to get the youth involved. The majority of the prisoners are under 25 years of age, so they wanted us to form our own organisations and take to the streets.



When the hunger strike is over, will you stay together as a group?

When they get their five demands there will be no hunger strike but there will still be prisoners. It's not just we're together because of the hunger strike this year, but it's Youth Against Oppression.

What do you mean by that?

We're being oppressed by another country.

And in what special way are the youth being oppressed?

Mainly the Catholic youth - no work, getting harassed by the police and army, no night life, nowhere to go... We never could get work anyway, it was always the Protestants who get the jobs, the middle class Catholics and the upper class Catholics. For the likes of us it's just plain hard going all the way -- making the best of what we can.

There was a couple of jobs I went for. I was asked where I was from; I said the Creggan (a Catholic estate), and that was it - no job. Look at the houses in the Creggan, and then at the houses in Irish Street (a Protestant area) - it's a lot different. Same with the Protestants when they go to court: if they're up in court and a Catholic goes up on the same charge, they'll get sent away for a longer time than the Protestant. Same all round - the magistrates, the judges, the police force.

What are the prisoners fighting for?

They're fighting to get rid of the border. They're for a united Ireland. They became prisoners because of the political situation, but they're treated as criminals. Your ordinary criminal is a hood, a thief, you know, a person who does something for his own gain. The likes of the men and women inside, they're political. What they're fighting for, they believe in. You cannot class them as criminals, they're fighting for a free Ireland.

And we support them. You see, if we had a united Ireland, there'd be more going into the country. There'd be more jobs. We wouldn't be part of Britain. We'd be living in our own country.

Do you see Paisley as the main problem at the moment?

No, the British government are the main problem. They keep him going. As long as they can wash their hands of Ireland and let Ireland get on with it, they think that's a solution.

What kind of message would you like to send to the black youth in England?

Just tell the black youth that Irish youth know what they're going through, anyway. They're just like us: once they start trying to put the boot into them like the way they try to here - fight back! Like we fought back. Tell them now they're realising they're not going to get their own way with the youth here.

The only difference is that they don't get shot dead. There will come a point when they're going

to get shot in the streets and they're going to have to fight back. They should be prepared.

I'd say to the black youth, get yourself organised and fight back, and don't lie down under them.

And the more support you show for us and our prisoners, we'll show support for you and your prisoners. Not that we don't know what they're going through anyway.

We'll try and get people from different black groups to come over on the delegation (see note below).

Then they can see for themselves.

What would you say to the mainly white youth who join the British Army?

DON'T! It's not worth it! If you're prepared to wear the uniform, you have to be prepared to be shot if you come to this country.

Maybe they don't realise what it's like. As you can see when you go into these army offices, it's very different what you really do and what they tell you. They say they are going to teach you all these things, take you to far away places, skiing, etc. My advice is to walk past the army recruiting office. Join the merchant navy, be a coal miner or something, but don't join the army.

I'd love for the black youth and the blacks to rise up against the British Government. It would be great if they did. We would gain by it anyway, wouldn't we?

England's going to destroy itself, the way they're treating us - they're just a wild oppressive country.

I was in Wales for a holiday - took two years to save up for it. I liked Wales because you were along with nationalists. ★

Note: Last year the Troops Out Movement organised a delegation to Belfast and they will be doing the same this year. It will be on the weekend of August 8th/9th/10th, which is the anniversary of the introduction of internment (imprisonment without charge or trial). If you are interested, write for further details to PO Box 353, London NW5 4NH.

Afghanistan tribunal

The following article is based on material translated by "Class Struggle" from the Swedish Communist paper, "Gnistan". The People's Permanent Tribunal grew out of the Bertrand Russell Tribunal on Vietnam and supports the rights of oppressed peoples. Recently it investigated crimes against the peoples of Eritrea and the Philippines.

The British "expert", Fred Halliday, who attempted to justify Soviet aggression is also one of that strange breed, a so-called socialist who supports the reactionary, orangeite 'two nations' line on Ireland.

SOVIET UNION IN THE DOCK

The People's Permanent Tribunal took evidence from Afghan eyewitnesses and foreign experts on the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan at a session in Stockholm 1-3 May 1981. The session opened with a speech by Vladimir Dedijer from Yugoslavia, who pointed out that the 'Brezhnev doctrine' justifying Soviet invasion for the 'defence of socialism' is now incorporated in Article 30 of the Soviet Constitution of 1977.

Witnesses told of the bombing of villages and destruction of crops, attacks with napalm, fragmentation bombs and poison gas, torture, mass executions of prisoners (including their burial alive with bulldozers) and massacres of the civilian population.

The legal questions to which the panel of fourteen judges - lawyers, diplomats and other intellectuals from various countries - had to address itself were:

(a) Has the Soviet Union broken international law by invading Afghanistan?

(b) Has the Soviet Union broken the laws on human rights in war (and particularly those relating to the civilian population) by its military methods in Afghanistan?

One of the foreign 'experts' who gave evidence was Fred Halliday of Britain who defended the Soviet Union against allegations of particular brutality. "If the Mujahideen come to power," he said, "they will kill more people every week than the present government does." Many of the million-and-a-half refugees, he suggested, could be nomadic Pathans on their normal migrations. His statement was listened to politely but there was no mistaking the anger among the Afghans in the audience. One of the judges rebuked Halliday for departing from the main issues and for treating major and secondary matters as of equal importance.



Afghan Freedom Fighters.

After hearing the evidence for three days the Tribunal spent a day summing it up and then issued a report on May 5th. On the first issue, (a), it concluded that the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan constituted aggression under Article 2 Paragraph 24 of the United Nations Charter. The Soviet government is guilty of a breach of international peace according to resolutions 3314 and 2625 of the UN General Assembly. It has also broken Article 5 of the 'Universal Declaration on the rights of Peoples' (adopted by the Tribunal in Algiers on July 4th 1976) with respect to the right of the Afghan people to self-determination.

On the second issue, (b), the Tribunal stated that it had gathered evidence pointing to serious and repeated failure by the Soviet Union to observe the laws governing human rights in war in Afghanistan but that it wished to obtain more complete and detailed information before making a final judgement. It would therefore appoint a special investigating commission with the task of collecting such information in Afghanistan and elsewhere. Such further documentation may be considered at a future session of the Tribunal, possibly in Paris. ★

INTERNATIONAL EDITOR IN CHINA

The International Editor of "Class Struggle" has recently returned from a one-month visit to the People's Republic of China during which he visited Guangzhou, Shanghai, various places in Anhui Province and Beijing (Peking).

Whilst in Beijing, our International Editor held extensive discussions with the International Liaison Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China. Subjects covered included the situation in China, the class struggle in Britain and various other questions of mutual interest, including certain problems in the international communist movement. The International Editor also had a meeting at the Embassy of Democratic Kampuchea.

The International Editor presented to the International Liaison Department a signed copy of "Portrait of a Rebel Father" by Nora Connolly O'Brien, the daughter of James Connolly, in which she had also dictated a message to the people of China. The Chinese comrades asked us to "please convey our sincere thanks to the daughter of James Connolly."

The next issue of our paper will contain a full interview with the International Editor taking up questions like:

Workers democracy.
Does China have "Free trade unions"?
New rural policies.
Unemployment.
Womens' liberation.
Is China going back to capitalism?
What does China think of Mao?
And Mao Zedong Thought?
Does China still support revolution?
What about the Eurocommunists?

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Saturday June 6th.
Demonstration to support Nasira Begum and Cynthia Gordon.

Assemble at junction of Moss Lane East and Princess rd., Moss Side, Manchester.

To confirm time ring 0532 - 689882 between 5 and 7 p.m.

Saturday June 13th.
Support for the hunger-strikers!
National H - Block march and rally. Departs 1 p.m. from Finsbury Park, London. (Nearest Tube Finsbury Park)
Political Status Now!
Implement the 5 demands!

Monday June 15th.
Defend Nasira Begum!
Picket of the Home Office Adjudicators, Thanet House, The Strand, London. 2 p.m.

Friday June 19th.
Street collection for Eritrea.
Organised by Eritrean Relief Association.
Assemble by St. Paul's Cathedral, London.
Time - 9 a.m.

Ireland Solidarity Events
Continuous developments. For up to date information ring 01 - 267 - 2004.

Ireland

(con't from front page)

Bobby Sands, Francis Hughes Raymond McCreesh and Patsy O'Hara were committed revolutionaries, fearless soldiers and devoted servants of the people. They are the beloved martyrs of the Irish people.

The Thatcher government is afraid to give the Irish prisoners political status because it would thereby be admitting to the world that Britain is fighting a reactionary, colonial war in Ireland.

But the heroic endurance and sacrifice of the hunger strikers and the staunch support given them by the Irish people have already exposed this fact. The vindictiveness, brutality and intransigence of British imperialism has been condemned around the world and has landed it in unprecedented isolation.

THE STRUGGLE ADVANCES

The hunger strikers do not die in vain. Their sacrifice is inspiring a whole generation of anti-imperialists. They devoted their lives to the struggle against British imperialism. They laid down their lives in the course of that struggle and in death as in life they are a thorn in the side of British imperialism. There has been a great up-turn in the struggle against British imperialism - in industrial action, demonstrations and the armed struggle.

WORKING CLASS STRUGGLE

Either with the backing of the trade union movement, or in defiance of it the Irish working class is giving strong support to the hunger strikers. All over Ireland - in Dublin, Belfast, Cork Limerick, Waterford, Donegal, Dundalk and many other places, workers came out on strike and demonstrated as their contribution to a National Day of Mourning for Bobby Sands. This also affected the Irish national minority in Britain. On the afternoon of Bobby Sands' funeral a number of building sites in Britain closed down, including two of the largest in London - Thames Barrier and Kyle Stewart.

Throughout Ireland - north and south - massive demonstrations have taken place. Arming themselves with paving stones and petrol bombs the nationalist working class youth - with the support of the community - have attacked the hated Army and Police and defied their murderous plastic bullets. In Dublin, the working class youth more and more identify with the struggle in the north and have demonstrated and attacked symbols of British imperialism and neo-colonialism, like "British Home Stores".

"An Phoblacht/Republican News" commented, "In Belfast, the British Army and RUC who daily taunt and stamp on nationalist working class youth are stoned and petrol bombed. In Dublin, a new unity is formed. The Mercedes cars, the high-class fashion shops, the five-star hotel, the banks and insurance companies, which with all their wealth daily taunt and stamp on working class youth have windows smashed. A car is burned, two more are overturned, and one glorious target contains two members of the brutal Special Branch unceremoniously tipped on their ears, car and all."

FUNERAL OF BOBBY SANDS

The funeral of Bobby Sands, IRA volunteer, political prisoner and MP, took place on Thursday May 7th in Milltown Cemetery, Belfast. An estimated 100,000 people took part in the funeral march where Bobby Sands was accorded full IRA military honours. This was the most massive demonstration northern Ireland has seen for a long time and here were the revolutionary forces in open defiance of the British state - uniformed and armed IRA men!

A moving oration was delivered by Bobby's election agent, Owen Carron. Excerpts follow:

"Bobby has gone to join the ranks of Ireland's patriotic dead. I have no doubt that the name of Bobby Sands will mark a watershed in Irish history and will be a turning point in the struggle for Irish freedom. Bobby Sands was the bravest man I ever met. He faced death calmly and with confidence."

"So he joined the IRA and embarked on a life of hardship and suffering and in the end made the supreme sacrifice of his life for the cause he believed in."

"Bobby Sands is a symbol of hope for the unemployed, for the poor and oppressed, for the homeless, for those divided by partition, for those trying to unite our people. He symbolises a new beginning and I recall the words of his manifesto to the Protestant people: 'The Protestant people have nothing to fear from me.' They too have their part to play in building a new future, a new Ireland."

"Bobby Sands has not died in vain. His hunger strike and the sacrifice of his life is a cameo of the entire resistance movement. He symbolises the true Irish nation which never has surrendered and never will. Let us picture him lying all alone in his cell, his body tortured and twisted in pain, surrounded by his enemies and isolated from his comrades and nothing to fight with but his will and determination."

"Bobby Sands, your sacrifice will not be in vain. We re-dedicate ourselves and our struggle and pledge ourselves not only to win the five demands but to drive England out of our country once and for all."

"Victory to the Irish Republican Army!", he concluded.

Similarly, tens of thousands attended the funeral of Francis Hughes in his home village of Bellaghy despite Brit/RUC intimidation and sabotage.

ARMED STRUGGLE DEVELOPING

The revolutionary armed struggle against British imperialism in Ireland is vigorously developing. Since the death of Bobby Sands there has hardly been a single night when the Army and Police have not come under fire from the guns of Irish patriots. On 19th May in a spectacular and brilliant military operation an IRA Active Service Unit in South Armagh destroyed an armoured car by landmine, killing five soldiers. In a statement, the IRA told the British Army, "You are fighting a war you cannot win."

The armed actions so far are just a small taste of the price British imperialism will surely be made to pay for its cruel and cynical murder of Irish patriots. Blood debts shall be paid in blood! Holding high the banner of their revolutionary martyrs, the Irish people will surely be victorious in overthrowing partition, driving out British imperialism, winning national independence and reunification and building a bright new People's Ireland.

ETERNAL GLORY TO BOBBY SANDS,
FRANCIS HUGHES, RAYMOND
MCCREESH AND PATSY O'HARA !

DEATH TO BRITISH IMPERIALISM!

"Like the lark, I too have fought for my freedom, not only in captivity where I now languish, but also while on the outside, where my country is held captive." Bobby Sands.

"Life springs from death and from the graves of patriot men and women spring living nations... The 'defenders' of this realm have worked well in secret and the open. They think they have pacified Ireland. They think that they have purchased half of us and intimidated the other half. They think they have forseen everything, think that they have provided against everything, but the fools, the fools, the fools, they have left us our Fenian dead and while Ireland holds these graves, Ireland unfree shall never be at peace." Padraic Pearse.

"All men must die, but death can vary in its significance... To die for the people is weightier than Mount Tai, but to work for the fascists and die for the exploiters and oppressors is lighter than a feather." Chairman Mao.