

FIGHT RACISM! FIGHT IMPERIALISM!

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MALIK

NO TO BOTHA! full report page 3

AN IRISH SIEGE FOR REAGAN

President Reagan's 1 June arrival at Shannon airport was greeted by demonstrators denouncing the 'Butcher of El Salvador' and 'Reagan Warmonger'. All police leave was cancelled for the duration of his Irish visit, the army was placed on standby alert, the President was whisked about in helicopters and convoys of police and armoured vehicles. Trees and bushes were strategically planted to provide security screens around Dublin's Leinster House where the President was due to speak. Batteries of ground-to-air missiles were installed as a final defence for the criminal head of US imperialism.

For weeks preceding the so-called return to his 'ancestral homeland' Irish people showed their bitter resentment at being used as part of Reagan's electoral circus. They despise his claim to their heritage, which is one of a just struggle against foreign oppression. Meetings and demonstrations denouncing US imperialism, its policies in Latin America, Lebanon and the Philippines, its war preparations against the socialist countries, its support for British imperialism in the North of Ireland, its harassment of Republicans and their sympathisers in the USA were daily events in Irish cities. Posters and slogans filled the

walls of Dublin's streets. Two hundred nuns and many priests marched to demand that US imperialism cease its barbarous policies in Central America. They have witnessed first-hand through their work in these lands the carnage that Reagan brings to these oppressed people.

Reagan will have been relieved to escape the siege that the Irish people have put him under, and to move on to shake the hand of Thatcher, still warm from the clasp of apartheid's Botha: cementing their brotherhood of international crime.

Trevor Rayne

Imperialist banks tremble

Shock waves spread through the international banking system in the middle of May. Continental Illinois, Chicago's biggest bank and the eighth largest in the United States, had to be bailed out to the tune of \$7.5bn by the US Federal Reserve Board (the Fed) and the large US banks. Some \$8bn had been withdrawn by large investors from the bank's deposits.

Even this massive injection of funds into Continental Illinois failed to stem the tide of rumour and speculation against the US banking system. A week later the speculators turned on other major US banks, particularly those with large funds tied up in the heavily indebted Latin American countries. Bank shares tumbled with Manufacturers Hanover Trust, the fourth biggest bank in America being worse affected losing a dramatic 11% of its stockmarket value in a single day. Once again the Fed stepped in to calm down the scent of terror running through the US banking system.

The Fed's chairman stated, in tones barely concealing the deep panic running through ruling class circles, that it was prepared to 'lend, lend boldly and keep on lending', should any more big banks run into liquidity problems. This deep panic rippled round the world with share prices falling on Wall Street, in Tokyo and London.

While the threat of imminent collapse of the international banking system has receded, the fundamental problems remain. Massive borrowing to finance the biggest military build-up in the US since the Korean War has fuelled the rise

POLICE RIOT MINERS FIGHT ON KINNOCK SCABS

As the twelfth week of the miners' strike draws to a close it is clear that all the lying propaganda, the massive police operation and the sabotage by sections of the trade union movement have failed to undermine the determination of the striking miners. The ruling class has responded to this with a systematic escalation of police violence. Every day that the strike continues it exposes more and more openly the real character of imperialist 'democracy' and political power. Police, laws, courts and prisons – not the ballot box – are the real weapons with which the ruling class seeks to impose its will. Ruling class power rests on 'special bodies of armed men' and a state apparatus answerable only to the class which employs and controls them.

State violence escalates

'The police are everywhere. It's just like Belfast' (Ollerton miner, quoted in The Observer)

Nearly 3,200 arrests have now been made – over one thousand in the ten days up to 31 May. The most dramatic confrontation between miners and police took place on 29/30/31 May at the Orgreave coke depot near Sheffield. For the first time, police riot gear, developed in Ireland and used in the 1981 uprisings, was deployed in an industrial dispute. Mounted police wielding truncheons and batons have charged picket lines and hounded miners over fields. Police wearing full riot gear and using dogs have viciously attacked pickets.

In Nottinghamshire police operations have been particularly intense in order to intimidate and prevent pickets from Yorkshire and elsewhere from reinforcing the Notts miners out on strike. Pit villages have been flooded with police, including special squads of plain clothes police thugs, under the guise of investigating 'intimidation' of scab miners. Thatcher knows that as the strike proceeds large scale production of coal from the Nottinghamshire mines will be

more and more vital to maintain power supplies. That is why Nottinghamshire is virtually under police occupation.

On 17 May police laid siege for seventeen hours to Blidworth, a mining village in Nottinghamshire. People were prevented from leaving their homes, phones were cut off and the entire area was sealed off by police roadblocks. Yorkshire pickets being put up in the homes and gardens of striking Notts miners found police searching their tents and belongings. When they protes-

ted a miner was punched to the ground and arrested and others were threatened with arrest if they left their homes. Squads of police conducted searches of homes demanding proof of identity of the occupants.

The NUM has gathered together a catalogue of police crimes, cowardly beatings of pickets, phone tapping and of plain clothes police acting as *agents provocateurs*. One Scottish miner, Robert Malone, was kidnapped by plain clothes police in Ollerton, Nottinghamshire on his way to picket duty, driven miles into the countryside, beaten up with a cosh or truncheon and then abandoned with his injuries and told 'you have found your way down here and you will find your fucking way home'. One new development has been the sighting by miners of relatives known to be in the army, dressed up as police – for example a miner saw his brother, supposedly on active service in the North of Ireland, dressed as a policeman at Harworth colliery in Notts.

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Riot police at Orgreave

**REAGAN'S
AMERICA**

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David Reed

MINERS FIGHT ON

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In line with the government's overall strategy, legitimate trade union activity the right to picket, demonstrate and protest is being criminalised. For the first time, 5 miners were charged with 'conspiracy', and, more seriously, 50 were charged with 'riot' after police attacked miners after the massive Mansfield rally on 14 May where they beat a man unconscious. Riot charges, which must be tried in the Crown Court, carry unlimited fines or gaol sentences. On 31 May and 1 June, 29 miners were arrested at Orgreave and charged with 'unlawful assembly' - a charge used in Liverpool 8 in 1981, carrying unlimited penalties.

The courts have continued this criminalisation process by imposing, in nearly every case, bail conditions which make further picketing a criminal offence. Even miners facing trivial charges such as obstruction have had these bail conditions imposed. In some cases the conditions virtually amount to house arrest. The Kent NUM leader, Malcolm Pitt, is at present imprisoned in Canterbury gaol after defying such bail conditions. He has spent 11 days in prison and been remanded for a further 8 days - merely for the charge of obstruction. When he appeared in court he was handcuffed to a prison screw. Scargill, himself arrested for obstruction on his third day at the Orgreave coke depot on 30 May, has called the police a 'Nazi gestapo' and accused them of using 'open terror tactics' akin to those in a 'Latin American police state'.

Scab miners have been able to use the courts to intervene directly in the affairs of the NUM. No election or ballot was involved here, just a couple of reactionary parasite judges working for the government. Three miners from Sherwood Colliery have actually succeeded in getting the courts to declare the Notts area strike as unofficial. As Scargill said, such a decision by the court was 'consistent with over a century of anti-working class judgements'. 1,500 Lancashire miners, suspended from the Union for five years by their area leaders, have continued to cross picket lines and have succeeded in getting the High Court to declare their suspension illegal.

New forms of resistance

'The scene was as dramatic as almost any during the Toxteth and Brixton rioting' (The Guardian report on Orgreave)

At the start of the strike (FRFI 38), we argued that 'only by going beyond legal,

ORGREAVE

When we arrived we spoke to three young miners. They described the day before as 'just like Belfast'. When we approached the depot we saw across the bottom of the hill in front of the depot were mass ranks of police, some with horses, some with dogs. Bricks began flying. Some miners tried to roll a telegraph pole down the hill to loud cheers. A wire was strung across the road to stop the mounted police. Then the mounted police charged and everyone ran. A barricade was erected consisting of telegraph poles, bricks, rocks, stones, fencing and barbed wire was added to loud cheers. A Portakabin was rolled from a nearby field into the road and set alight. Stones were gathered at the barricade. Soon we heard the sound of horses charging. The horses appeared at the top of the hill but did not advance any further.
Chas and David

constitutional and traditional methods of trade union struggle can such a fight be won.' In the face of massive police violence the miners have been quick to show this in practice. Mass picketing has been maintained in spite of police road blocks and the sealing off of whole areas. Police attacks are now being forcefully resisted. After the arrest of Arthur Scargill at Orgreave on 30 May a Portakabin was dragged across the road as a barricade and set alight. Telegraph

poles and torn-up paving stones were used by miners to attack police lines. Wire was strung at neck height between lamp posts in the path of a mounted police charge. Kent miners from Betts-hanger colliery occupied the NCB headquarters at Hobart House in London in protest at Scargill's arrest and the continued detention of Malcolm Pitt. Among their demands broadcast from the first floor window was a call to 'smash the police state'.

The arrest of Anne Scargill on 16 May highlighted what has been a very significant development in the strike: the increasingly militant role of women - not just in providing back-up services but in organising and participating in pickets. Organised groups of women are multi-



Miners build a barricade and set fire to a Portakabin at Orgreave

MANSFIELD MARCH AND RALLY

The march on 14 May was enormous - 45,000. The marchers were firmly behind the strike chanting against MacGregor and a national ballot. There was general hostility to the police for the attacks they have inflicted on the miners. The march ended in a rally. As soon as the rally finished the stewards disappeared and the police took over, organising bringing miners coaches to the carpark where the rally had been held. After an hour, the confrontation with the police began. Two police attempted to arrest a miner and were attacked by others who freed their comrade. Young miners then began to attack the police who were unprepared for this. The police regrouped and were showered with bottles and sticks. At the front of the fighting were two black youths.

The police got organised and used snatch squads. The young miners were urging others to get off their coaches and help but it was too late. There were skirmishes and the police beat up a miner next to our coach. They held our coach until almost all the others had gone and arrested someone from our coach.

The future could be seen in the determination of the young miners to defend themselves from the police and fight back.
Bob

plying rapidly - 10,000 women marched through Barnsley on 12 May. Groups of women go out picketing regularly - often to replace men restricted by bail conditions. All-women mass pickets have been held. The women state they are determined to show they are shoulder to shoulder with the men - in standing up to the police and in their willingness to be arrested. At the same time, the organisation of food parcels and kitchens, collections and advice centres are now the mining communities' means of survival as the government squeezes strikers' families harder and harder. The vicious Rhodes Boyson has made it clear that even firewood and food parcels can be deducted from benefits.

The courage and determination of the Greenham Common women is regarded by these women as an inspiration. A group of Barnsley women against pit closures said that it would be worthwhile to go to Greenham to see how they have learnt to handle the police - 'we could learn a lot'.

Divisions deepen

'They are hiding behind the ballot call. Many of them are spineless gits. They've got big cars, videos and freezers. They own their own homes and want to live in Nob Row' (Young miner from Ollerton, Notts about the scabs, in The Observer)

Despite the continuing mass pickets and pickets by Notts strikers, the greater proportion of Notts miners, where seams are rich and the miners feel that their jobs are relatively secure, continue to cross picket lines. Support for the miners' struggle has also failed to materialise in any sustained form from the trade union movement. Rather, as we

found, ie he feels he may still be needed to sabotage the miners' struggle. Despite Murray's intervention, large numbers of workers struck on the Day of Action - buses in Barnsley and Doncaster stopped; all trains were stopped through Sheffield and Doncaster; many NALGO and hospital ancillary workers came out and firemen and ambulance workers answered 999 calls only; 1,000 dockers took some action and a few factories closed. The Scottish TUC, which had passed a motion for a day of action on 9 May with many fine words spoken in support of the miners, then proceeded to try and sabotage it by calling for 'individual action'. A large march still took place in Glasgow. In fact the miners have received more significant solidarity action from the official trade union movement abroad than they have from the TUC. In Australia, which provides the biggest share of Britain's coal imports, mining and dockers unions have refused to send any coal to Britain. At a meeting in Paris on 29 May of the newly-formed Miners International, to which the NUM belongs, composed largely of unions from socialist countries, 49 countries agreed to stop coal exports while the strike continues.

Leading Labour MPs are still refusing to openly side with striking miners - only 60 signed a recent motion of support. Don Concannon, Labour MP for Mansfield, Notts - who went to visit Bobby Sands dying on hunger strike to tell him that the Labour Party did not

PICKET FOR MALCOLM PITT

FRFI supporters went to Ramsgate court on 30 May where 250 miners and their supporters were picketing to demand the release of Malcolm Pitt, Kent miners leader who was appearing in court after being remanded in custody for 'breaching' his bail conditions. No miners were allowed into the court despite seats being empty and when they protested about this secret trial they were thrown out of the court building.

Many of the miners at the picket spoke about the police brutality they have been suffering and the solidarity and support they have been getting from the Kent Miners Wives Committee. Elizabeth Pitt announced that Malcolm had been remanded in custody for a further nine days and told the picket he could hear the chants and singing.

We passed round our petition condemning the visit of Botha to Britain and everybody signed it and took leaflets. We also spoke to the picket giving solidarity and condemning the imprisonment of Malcolm Pitt and drawing the links between the miners struggle against police violence and the struggles in South Africa, Ireland, Palestine and Central America. FRFI donated £10 to the striking miners and sent a message and copies of FRFI to Malcolm Pitt.

Lorna
Send messages of support to Malcolm Pitt, HM Prison Canterbury, Longport, Canterbury, Kent CT1 1PJ.

support him - sided with Leon Brittan when he condemned so-called 'intimidation' of scab miners. Dennis Skinner aptly called him a 'coppers nark'! Jimmy Reid, former leader of the Upper Clyde Shipyard occupation, ex-CPGB and now member of the Labour Party, appearing on Union World on Channel 4, compared young miners to the NF and attacked Arthur Scargill. As the strike has deepened Kinnock and Stan Orme have made every effort to pressurise Scargill into a compromise. Kinnock has constantly begged Thatcher to intervene in the strike (!), talking of the 'continuing agony' of the strike. Certainly he is in 'continuing agony' as increased repression has brought about an increased willingness on the part of miners to fight the police and go beyond constitutional methods of struggle. Kinnock is still whithering on about democracy and a national ballot when police are batoning pickets from horseback, forcing their way into miners' homes, and sealing off whole areas.

After the miners forcefully resisted police attacks at Orgreave, Kinnock quickly condemned them. He said that there was no place in any industrial dispute for missiles, battering rams or other acts of violence. He went on:

'The miners, like all other British

trade unionists, understand that their real strength comes from peaceful organisation, peaceful protest and peaceful picketing.'

On the contrary! The miners have seen their peaceful methods of struggle met by huge attacks by the police and courts. Many have seen that they can only defend their rights and pursue their struggle by going beyond peaceful, constitutional means. Kinnock and the Labour Party are now attempting to isolate these militant miners by raising the spectre of 'violence'. The press and TV are aiding this by concentrating on interviewing miners opposed to 'violence'. In the face of this, Scargill, to his credit, has refused to be drawn in to any condemnation of the miners' methods of struggle and has consistently attacked police repression and brutality.

Hard lessons from the miners strike

'There's quiet lads in this village now that hate the police and are thinking of joining revolutionary groups' (Five miner, quoted in Financial Times)

When FRFI is sold to striking miners they often ask what has Ireland, South Africa, imperialism and racism to do with us. The answers to these questions are already being thrown up in the course of the miners' struggle. It is miners themselves who have made the connection between their own bail conditions and house arrest of political activists in apartheid South Africa. It is they who compared police stopping miners travelling outside their own areas with the pass law system in South Africa. They have realised that coal produced under slave labour conditions in South Africa will be used to undermine their struggle here. In other words, they are being forced to learn the lesson that they have an interest in common with the black miners in South Africa to destroy the British imperialist-backed racist apartheid state.

It is miners themselves who talk of a growing police state. Some are drawing comparisons between the police operation against the miners and that against the nationalist minority in the Six Counties of Ireland. Some recognise that the lessons the police learned from putting down the 1981 uprisings of black and white youth on the streets of British cities are being used against them today. They have yet to draw the political conclusion that to defend themselves they must stand in solidarity with these struggles against the British imperialist state. But the more state repression against the miners escalates the more they will have no choice but to turn to methods of struggle used on the streets of Belfast and in the 1981 uprisings.

Finally, and most importantly, the miners' struggle has shown up those forces in the working class which will not support them. They are seeing in practice that imperialism splits the working class movement and creates privileged layers within it. These layers have no interest in taking any action which will undermine the system in any way. That is why the Labour Party, the TUC and major trade unions have failed to give active support to the miners.

The ruling class and its allies are now becoming increasingly concerned that if the miners' struggle goes on a whole section of workers will begin to see the need for rebuilding the working class movement in Britain on a revolutionary basis. It is this fact that is making sections of the ruling class less certain of the wisdom of starving the miners back to work and more open to finding a compromise. The National Coal Board has been forced to begin talks with the miners' executive to see if an 'acceptable' compromise can be found.

As we go to press we do not know what the outcome of these talks will be. However any concessions made by the Coal Board will result from the determination of the striking miners and the mining communities to carry this struggle through to the bitter end.

Victory to the miners!

Olivia Adamson, David Reed, Maxine Williams

ISLINGTON RALLY

A massive rally in support of the striking miners was held in Islington Town Hall on 31 May. The speakers, who included Arthur Scargill, were frequently interrupted by shouts in support of the strike and totally condemning the brutal role of the police. After the rally a young miner approached an FRFI seller and made clear what the strike had taught him about where the British state learned its brutal skills and where he stood against British imperialism. He said 'They learned it all in Ireland. That's what I want to know about - how the IRA fight'.
Aileen

Step up fight against apartheid

P W Botha left Britain gloating over his success in cementing open collaboration between fascist South Africa and British imperialism. That Botha's visit was allowed to take place at all bolsters the alliance of reaction between Thatcher, Reagan and apartheid. Let there be no doubt, his success spells even greater repression for the black majority in South Africa and Namibia.

Namibia was the main item in the talks. Botha claimed, 'Both sides expressed their strong desire to help Namibia achieve its independence as soon as possible' - a stupendous lie left to go unchallenged by the British media. Britain and South Africa have been 'helping' Namibia to independence ever since they occupied it at gun point in 1915! Botha added, 'We also considered it of the highest importance that all foreign forces should be withdrawn from the area without delay'. In other words, Britain is conniving with South Africa and the US against the People's Republic of Angola and the assistance given to it by 20,000 Cuban internationalist troops and technicians. Botha had already called in Portugal and Switzerland. In a disgusting display of social democratic grovelling the Portuguese Prime Minister Soares held a banquet to honour Botha 'given our long history as good neighbours'. Portugal looks to South Africa to help it regain an economic stranglehold over its former colonial possession Mozambique.

The failure of the anti-apartheid forces to stop the Thatcher-Botha talks will strengthen reaction in South Africa and Britain. It comes after two serious

setbacks. Zola Budd, British citizen in ten days, has been hailed as a fine young woman running for Britain, and the English Rugby Union tour has been used to cover up for apartheid.

Faced with its biggest challenge for 25 years the Anti-Apartheid Movement's protests have been low key. South African rugby players were met by storms of protest to stop the 1969/70 tour and in 1981 New Zealand society polarised for and against racism with street battles to stop apartheid rugby. Peter Hain, veteran of stop the 70 tour, declared that to stop Botha anti-apartheid activists would ignore the distinction between legal and illegal forms of protest. But the AAM's formal protest against Botha began and ended with windy rhetoric. The demonstration on 2 June was not the culmination of a campaign to stop the visit - it was the only activity of the campaign excepting a few poorly advertised delegations and pickets of the Portuguese and Swiss embassies. There was no national rally, or even a rally in London except that organised by the City of London Anti-Apartheid Group. When 2 June came around it was already too little, too late and in the wrong place. Botha was al-

ready well into his five hours of talks with Thatcher at Chequers.

With its national network of local AA groups what was required of the AAM was a campaign to stop the visit from taking place at all. City of London AA Group showed what is possible - it attracted 300 to its rally against the visit and mobilised thousands in its six day non-stop picket of the South African embassy. FRFI mobilised throughout Britain, working in alliance with anybody who was willing to unite and fight British collaboration with apartheid. This work and the 2 June demonstration showed the potential for building a massive anti-imperialist, anti-apartheid movement in Britain when between 20-30,000 people came out to oppose Botha's visit. The leadership of the AAM is holding back this development.

The 2 June march was kept well away from the South African embassy, it was split up by the police who confined it to a tiny gap between barriers in Whitehall. Most of the demonstrators had hardly begun marching when speeches at the end began, excluding a large section of the march from participation, and without even being informed of the situation by National AAM stewards. The AAM leadership had made concession after concession to the police, turning the march into a mere gesture.

The Greenham women carried out the day's most effective protest. Three women got inside the police cordon at Chequers and nearly got to Botha before his helicopter flew out.

It is 23 years since a South African prime minister came to Britain. After Botha's visit we can expect more open collaboration. It is time to build now a massive campaigning movement against all British collaboration with apartheid.



City AA rally against Botha

City of London Anti-Apartheid Group held a mass rally on Wednesday 30 May at the Camden Centre as part of its mobilisation for the 2 June demonstration. Over 300 people attended to listen to Talal from the Lebanese National Movement, Jerry Caliste of the New Jewel Movement - Grenada, Ruby Khan for Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism!, Stanley Clinton Davis, Tony Benn MP, Richard Baife MEP, Jeremy Corbyn MP, Chris Smith MP, Wilmette Brown, Gerry Pocock CPGB, David Ross Liberal Party, and Barbara from the National Federation of Aboriginal Land Councils Australia.

The rally was chaired by David Reed, who said Botha's visit was a victory for

the pro-South African forces in Britain. We had not done enough he added to stop the visit. Charine John spoke for City Group 'we are here tonight because we hate apartheid, if you don't support the struggle against apartheid, you are supporting it'. The rally was also addressed by Adelaide Tambo, a founder member of City Group. She warned against the growing threat of fascism in South Africa 'which could spread and affect everyone'. Ruby speaking for FRFI stressed the links between the struggle in this country, and the struggle in South Africa. We have to see Botha's visit in its political context, the ending of the isolation of South Africa internationally, and the attack on the African National Congress in Britain and in southern Africa. The rally ended with a recorded message from David Kitson who paid tribute to City Group, and with Norma Kitson emphasising that our task is to build a principled solidarity movement here in Britain.

Nomsa and Graham

FRFI CAMPAIGN AGAINST BOTHA'S VISIT

When Botha's visit was announced on 4 May FRFI embarked on a nationwide campaign to mobilise opposition to it. Specially organised street meetings, pickets, open air rallies and public meetings were held to build for the 2 June demonstration and to campaign for an end to British collaboration with apartheid. Thousands of specially produced FRFI leaflets headed 'Botha - Thatcher Wanted for Crimes Against Humanity' were distributed and thousands signed our petition 'No Budds! No Bothas! No British Collaboration with Apartheid!'

In Edinburgh FRFI helped organise daily pickets in the week leading up to Botha's visit, culminating in two open air rallies on Friday 1 June. Organised in conjunction with the students and town group of Edinburgh AAM, over 150 people attended these. FRFI also supported the 200 strong public meeting on Friday 1 June hosted by Edinburgh City Council and organised by Edinburgh AAM. Addressed by the ANC and SWAPO, the meeting took messages of solidarity from FRFI, the Edinburgh ISC, Iran Solidarity and others. In Dundee street activities were held using our petition and leaflet.

FRFI supporters in Liverpool org-

anised and filled 3 coaches from the city, one which was paid for by the local trades council. Intensive activity took place in Leeds and Bradford when FRFI supporters joined efforts to organise leafletting and petitioning as well as an FRFI public meeting in Leeds. The Wednesday 30 May public meeting held in the Leeds Trades Club was addressed by FRFI, Councillor Frankland and a representative of the newly formed Park Lane College Anti-Apartheid Group. In Manchester 2 pickets were put on South African Airways in addition to 3 street meetings held by our supporters. FRFI played a central role in filling 2 coaches and 2 buses from Manchester.

FRFI supporters from Middlesex Poly not only worked to fill a coach, but also came to support the City AA 6 day non-stop picket. London FRFI, as well as participating in City AA's picket and mass rally organised special events every day in Wood Green, Brixton, Finsbury Park, Dalston and elsewhere. In London we sold 1,000 FRFIs during the week and in Brixton in particular people queued up to take away stocks of leaflets for the 2 June demonstration.

The work done by FRFI showed massive opposition to Botha's visit. Thousands of people donated money which helped subsidise transport to the demonstration. In its campaign FRFI emphasised the vital importance of continuing the struggle after Botha's visit until all British collaboration with apartheid is smashed.

NO TO BOTHA! FREE MANDELA!



30,000 march against Botha

2,500 people joined a section of the demonstration against Botha led by FRFI and City Group AA. Following our mass rally at Hyde Park we were joined by the Big Red Marching Band, Park Lane Students Union (Leeds), Middlesex Poly SU, the National Convention of Black Teachers, the Gay Black Group, Young Liberals and Young Social Democrats, Irish Solidarity Committees, Bradford Anti-Apartheid Group, Bow and Poplar Labour Party and East End News. Attracted by the militant spirit of our contingents chanting and singing, scores of youth joined. Approaching Trafalgar Square and the South African embassy the contingents exploded into the angry chant: **THATCHER, BOTHA: YOU'RE WANTED FOR MURDER!**

The demonstration passed 200 yards away from the embassy. Two rows of mounted police, two sets of barriers and rows of foot police stood between us and the fascist nest of spies. As we passed a Barclays Bank in Whitehall we chanted 'Barclays Bank! Racist Bank!' followed by singing 'Burn it down! Burn it down!'

Burn it down! Burn it down!

On the march far ahead of us the police had waded into the contingent next to the Caribbean Times lorry. When we heard of the arrests of black comrades we chanted 'Release all those arrested! Drop the charges now!'. In Whitehall the police funnelled the march into half

a traffic lane. All around massed ranks of police stood guard over Downing Street - thousands of uniformed thugs are needed to protect Thatcher from the people. The SWP contingent of the march sat down, the police brought up a banner which read, 'You are causing an obstruction on the street', and after a few minutes the contingent moved on.

The police had split up the demonstration into three sections with big gaps for traffic to get through, yet another insult to the anti-apartheid protestors.

This demonstration was the first national AA march for over two years. Our contingents, the most lively on the march, were not there just to let off steam. We are determined to build a movement to end British collaboration with apartheid.

Andy Goddard



CHARLES FLETCHER

A scene from the City of London Anti-Apartheid Group's 6 Day Non-Stop Picket. Organised under the banner 'No Talks With Botha While Mandela is in Gaol', the picket was held to mobilise for the 2 June demonstration. It began on Saturday 26 May and ended on Friday 1 June (for report see p14).

South Africa

ARMS EMBARGO VIOLATIONS

On 2 April, four South Africans and three British businessmen appeared before Coventry Magistrates Court charged with illegally exporting strategic military equipment from Britain to South Africa, in violation of the United Nations Arms Embargo. Following a week in custody the South Africans were released on payment of £25,000 bail on each of them by a South African Embassy official!! They then appeared in court again on May 14, having been accommodated at a Thames-side complex of luxury flats at the expense of the South African government. Meanwhile, not content with making life easy for the defendants, the court then agreed to alter their bail conditions totally, allowing the four South African defendants to return to South Africa. This is no isolated case. An engineering company, Redman Heenan International, paid secretly £193,000 penalties to Customs authorities in 1981 for illegally exporting arms manufacturing equipment worth £2m to South Africa. One of the directors of Redman Heenan International in 1981 was Eldon Griffiths MP, a Tory MP, and paid adviser to the Police Federation.

In yet another case which has been brought to light, a subsidiary of Plessey, Tellurometer, has been fined the maximum £10,000 for disguising the South African origin of a distance measuring instrument which it sells to a number of oppressed countries. The device, MRAS, developed primarily for military purposes, has nevertheless evaded the arms embargo as it has been classified as having both civil and military use.

These violations of the UN arms embargo are but the tip of the iceberg. Ruby Khan

NAMIBIA TALKS

The break-down of the Lusaka talks to negotiate independence for Namibia were entirely due to South Africa's sabotage. South Africa insisted that the Multi-Party Conference puppets were included in the talks, although this grouping are stooges of apartheid who have no standing with the Namibian people.

By the end of three days it was clear that the regime had no intention of signing a ceasefire with SWAPO. During the conference the South Africans tried to divide the parties that were supporting SWAPO.

The apartheid regime intended all along to side-step the United Nations plan for Namibia's independence. The meeting broke up without a final declaration because the South African delegation would not agree to a text which called for the early implementation of Resolution 435 and which rejected the so called 'linkage' theory. Instead South Africa repeated its outrageous demand, calling for the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola. The only way that the apartheid regime wish to achieve a ceasefire is by forcing SWAPO to abandon the armed struggle.

Even though the apartheid regime continues its repression and refuses to negotiate for a ceasefire, SWAPO will continue to fight until South Africa is prepared to accept that SWAPO will lead an independent Namibia.

Hands Off Namibia!
End British Collaboration with Apartheid!
Victory to SWAPO!
Nomsa Langa

ANC ATTACKS

Since the signing of the Nkomati accord between South Africa and Mozambique on 13 March, there have been a number of successful bombing attacks by Umkhonto we Sizwe, ANC freedom fighters. On 15 May, three rocket-propelled grenades were fired at the Mobil refinery on the south side of Durban harbour, and a rocket hit one of the smaller storage tanks which then burst into flames. Tragically, the 4 freedom fighters were killed following a high speed car chase and a massive 4-hour gun battle with security police. Four days later, two railway lines south of Johannesburg were bombed, and other attacks in the Durban area include tax offices and the offices of the railway police. Ruby Khan

NELSON MANDELA

'Between the anvil of united mass action and the hammer of the armed struggle we shall crush apartheid and white minority racist rule.'

On 12 June 1964, Nelson Mandela and seven of his co-defendants in the so-called Rivonia trial were sentenced to life imprisonment. They had been convicted for their leading role in the establishment and organisation of Umkhonto we Sizwe, the armed wing of the ANC. Twenty years later, Mandela remains in gaol, a symbol of unyielding resistance, not just to apartheid in South Africa, but to imperialist oppression throughout the world.

From his years as a student lawyer, Mandela played a leading role in the South African freedom struggle. In 1944, he joined the ANC, and along with Walter Sisulu, Oliver Tambo and others, formed its Youth League. Its Manifesto was a challenge to the existing ANC leadership, in its call for direct action against racist oppression. This 'direct action' expressed itself in the 1952 Defiance Campaign, when thousands of black people went to gaol in protest against apartheid laws. In the same year, Mandela received his first banning order. As he stated later one of the reasons for the banning was the internationalism of the ANC:

'We have been gagged because we have emphatically and openly condemned the criminal attacks by the imperialists against the people of Malaya, Vietnam, Indonesia, Tunisia and Tanganyika and called upon our people to identify themselves unreservedly with the cause of world peace and to fight against the war policies of America and her satellites. We are being shadowed, hounded and trailed because we fearlessly voiced our horror and indignation at the slaughter

of the people of Korea and Kenya, because we expressed our solidarity with the cause of the Kenyan people.'

In 1956, the year following the adoption of the Freedom Charter as the programme of national liberation, Mandela was one of 156 defendants in the so-called Treason Trial. The trial dragged on for over four years, and all the defendants were acquitted. But naked repression was now the only response of apartheid to the growing strength of the ANC. 1960 was the year of Sharpeville, when 69 black people were shot dead by the apartheid police on a peaceful demonstration and another 188 injured. The ANC, and the Pan-Africanist Congress which had organised the demonstration, were banned. The turn to armed struggle was now inevitable. Mandela went underground to lay the political basis for the formation of Umkhonto we Sizwe; its first campaign took place in December 1961.

For nearly 18 months Mandela was on the run, evading capture until August 1962. He was tried, convicted and sentenced to five years for inciting strikes and travelling abroad without proper documents. In July 1963 came the raid



on Rivonia, the arrest of the Umkhonto we Sizwe leadership, and eventually his life sentence.

'The struggle is my life', he once wrote, 'I will continue fighting for freedom until the end of my days'. Little wonder then that when he was recently offered his release on condition that he took up residence in a bantustan, he refused. It would be to exchange one form of prison for another. The truth is that the apartheid state cannot afford to release him because of what he represents—the aspirations of the dispossessed and oppressed majority. The white racist state will give up Mandela only when it risks losing everything.

R Johnstone

Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism! pledges itself to the continuing struggle for the release of not just Nelson Mandela, but of all South African political prisoners. There are tens of thousands of people in Britain who will join in such a struggle. Those people can only be reached if we are out on the streets. That is why Liverpool FRFI is organising another 24-hour picket calling for the release of Nelson Mandela and all South African political prisoners. The picket will be on Friday 29 June to Saturday 30 June starting at 5.30pm, in Williamson Square. We intend to make it even more successful than the picket in June 1983. Already it has been sponsored by Peter Heathfield (General Secretary NUM), and by local MPs Bob Waring, Allan Roberts, Bob Parry and Eddy Loyden. **HELP US BUILD FOR THE PICKET! CONTACT US BY WRITING TO: LIVERPOOL FRFI, PO BOX 94, LIVERPOOL L69 8AY.**

BRITAIN BACKS UNITA

A recent report in the *Daily Telegraph* showed that British imperialism was directly involved in the planning of the capture of 16 British hostages in Angola and their subsequent 'release' by the counter-revolutionary gang, UNITA. This is yet another part of a general strategy of promoting right wing forces in Southern Africa with the aim of ever increasing imperialism's stake in the region.

On 13 February a Tory MP proposed to *Daily Telegraph* correspondent, Stephen Glover, that, together with a senior director of the Lonrho company, they should fly in a Lonrho plane to UNITA's headquarters in Southern Angola to 'preside over the return of "the British hostages"'. This proposal came 10 days before UNITA raided an Angolan diamond mine taking 106 hostages, 16 of whom were British. Interestingly 3 of the British hostages were ex-members of the SAS!

Their capture was followed by a farcical public request by UNITA that a senior British politician fly to Angola to secure the release of the hostages. In May the most senior British diplomat for African affairs, Sir John Leahy, went: he is a former British Ambassador to South Africa! Carefully managed news programmes in Britain showed Leahy addressing a mass rally in Angola of UNITA supporters praising the leader of UNITA, Jonas Savimbi. Shortly after, on 15 May, the hostages returned to London also praising UNITA.

Lonrho has investments in 24 African countries, but nothing in Angola. With an eye to Angola's enormous mineral reserves, Lonrho frequently pays the expenses of UNITA representatives around the world.

Apartheid could not exist without the support of imperialism. The same is true of all the forces of reaction in Southern Africa. UNITA has never had the support of the Angolan people. It only developed with the aid, first of the CIA, and for the last 10 years of South Africa. Now Britain, although officially still recognising the revolutionary popular government of the MPLA, is quite openly trying to bring UNITA onto the world scene at the same time as welcoming Botha to London.

Chris Fraser



DAVID KITSON FREED

On 11 May 1984 David Kitson was released from prison without conditions after serving 20 years in apartheid jails for the 'offence' of taking part in the struggle to overthrow apartheid. The news of his release, safe and well, filled all progressive people with joy.

Born in 1919 David Kitson was part of the privileged white elite in South Africa but he became one of the handful of whites who could not turn their backs on the oppression of the black majority. As he explained at his trial:

'...it became difficult for me to reconcile the oppression of the black people here with the philosophical outlook of the Western civilisation we white purport to defend... I came to accept the Marxist standpoint that mankind can only achieve its complete liberation with the achievement of communism.'

David Kitson returned to South Africa in 1959—the period leading up to the Sharpeville massacre and the formation of Umkhonto we Sizwe (see article on Nelson Mandela in this issue). David Kitson said at his trial: 'I could run or stand. So I stood.' In 1962 he joined Umkhonto we Sizwe. On 22 June 1964 he was detained under the '90 day' law. During this time he was interrogated for 36 hours continuously, beaten and

'revived' with cold water drenchings. Like his comrades, he was kept in solitary confinement, denied reading and writing materials, denied access to lawyers and forced to lie on a freezing floor wrapped in a blanket. Norma Kitson was also detained in solitary for four weeks and released into hospital.

In October 1964 he was brought to trial with four comrades. In December all five were convicted and sentenced: David Kitson 20 years; Laloo Chiba 18 years; Wilton Mkwazi life; John Matthews 15 years; and Mac Maharaj 12 years. The five comrades gave clenched fist salutes and chanted freedom slogans as they were sentenced.

Inside apartheid prisons

Apartheid extends its poisoned racism into the prison system itself. Black political prisoners are subjected to even greater barbarity than white political prisoners. Black political prisoners are consigned to the infamous Robben Island; white prisoners to Pretoria.

David Kitson and his comrades were held in Pretoria Central where they rapidly began to influence other prisoners and break down the 'control' system of tobacco trading and informing. They were moved to the specially built maximum security Pretoria Local.

In 1979, however, the racist regime was shaken by the escape of three political prisoners from Pretoria Local. The other prisoners were transferred to the section for the criminally insane in the maximum security wing of Pretoria Central—the hanging gaol where over 100 are hanged every year. Here they were kept without heating, hot water or adequate exercise. David Kitson began to suffer from bronchitis.

This was the stimulus for the historic non-stop picket of South Africa House London from 25 August 1982. The picket was called by the Kitson family and City AA and demanded transfer to better conditions for David and his comrades as well as the release of all political prisoners. After 86 days the picket ended in victory: the 'mighty' racist regime had been forced to transfer the prisoners. This victory was gained by the militant and determined struggle of the picketers: driven forward by the black and white youth who rallied to it and fought off police harassment. A new revolutionary trend in anti-apartheid campaigning had been born. As David Kitson has said, the non-stop picket was 'a landmark' in solidarity work in Britain.

Family attacked

The fascist rulers of South Africa direct their hatred not only against the political prisoners but also their families and supporters. Norma Kitson, during the 70s, was interrogated in Compol police

building Pretoria and hung by the legs out of a seventh floor window. On 7 January 1982 Steven Kitson was arrested whilst visiting his father. He was made to stand upright for 24 hours, slapped, threatened and given cold water drenchings. Only the quick and efficient response of the Free Steven Kitson Campaign—supported by the Kitson family, FRFI, AUEW/TASS and others—forced his release on 12 January. On 13 January the racist regime got its revenge for this defeat by brutally murdering David Kitson's main link with the outside world, Joan Weinberg. In January 1984 another of David Kitson's main contacts, Lynne Goldstein, was found murdered.

Free Nelson Mandela

Despite the murders and brutality, David Kitson emerged free on 11 May. The regime claims that he was released 7 months 'early' for 'good behaviour'. This is a sordid lie. David Kitson served 20 years from June 1964. His release has nothing to do with 'good behaviour'—what is the 'bad behaviour' which prevents the release of Nelson Mandela?—it was cynically timed to coincide with P W Botha's visit to London.

These manoeuvres of apartheid fool only those who want to be fooled. We rejoice in the release of David Kitson but we do not forget that the true leaders of the South African people—Nelson Mandela and his comrades—are still inside. And so we say:

**Welcome David Kitson!
Free Nelson Mandela!
Free All South African Political Prisoners!**

Terry O'Halloran

Fight Racism



fascists out of education

On 22 May, National Front student organiser, Patrick Harrington finally managed to gain access to North London Polytechnic and attend a lecture. Continual protests have been mounted by students determined to keep this fascist out of the college. However Harrington and the National Front have had two powerful allies – the police and the courts. On the day that Harrington finally got into a lecture several hundred police laid siege to the Polytechnic having occupied it the night before. They erected barricades around demonstrators outside and made 7 arrests as Harrington left the building.

Harrington has also had the continuous backing of the courts. The High Court has granted an injunction that nobody should prevent Harrington's access to the college; ordered that anybody inter-

fering with Harrington's entrance to the college, or even shouting at him would be liable to immediate imprisonment. On 25 May 'Justice' Mars Jones ordered lecturers to identify 18 students photo-

graphed picketing Harrington. If they refuse they face the threat of imprisonment. The students if identified, also face imprisonment.

The students, before the intervention of the courts and police, had successfully kept Harrington out. However, in the face of the court actions, they decided to blockade the entrance on 17 May. Their barricades were smashed by police and court officials. 500 police were said to be there in a massive show of strength. Harrington having gained his point merely entered for 5 minutes.

On 22 May he pressed home his advantage. The High Court refused the Polytechnic authorities' offer to tutor him separately and ordered that he be allowed into a lecture. The students mounted a demonstration outside the Polytechnic whilst inside they had decided they would line the corridors silently as Harrington passed. Inside the lecture students were prevented from leaving by court officials who also took notes of the discussion and warned against 'provocative' remarks.

The police and the courts have always supported the fascists, protecting their racist marches whilst arresting those protesting against them. When black and Asian people are attacked by fascist thugs the police do not investigate or prosecute their attackers. The police and courts are themselves racist weapons against black people.

As hundreds of police seize control of North London Polytechnic to allow one fascist in – it is clear that the students have to confront the British state – its police and courts – if they are to keep Harrington out.

Maxine Williams

deportations continue

Gail and Rodney Pereira have won a two year long battle against deportation. They live in the Hampshire village of Bishop's Waltham with their three year old daughter. They have lived in Britain for six years and their daughter was born here. Rodney was first threatened with deportation to India after being made redundant despite the fact that he found another job immediately. The Pereira family won their struggle because of the support they got from their middle-class village and because they themselves are middle class. While their victory is welcome, thousands of black working class families are being broken up by the racist British state using its immigration controls.

Rashida Abedi from Pakistan is being threatened with deportation. Supported by her brother in Croydon, she is totally deaf and none of her relatives in Pakistan are able to support her and she is unable to support herself. Kenyan born, Jyoti Raithatha became a Kenyan citizen at 'independence'. She has been refused permission to join her mother and sister (both British citizens) here in Britain by immigration minister David

Waddington who is not satisfied that her circumstances of an incurable, disfiguring skin disease which makes her emotionally dependent on her mother and sister are exceptional enough to allow him to exercise his discretion in allowing her entry. Josephine Thomas lost her final appeal against deportation on 24 May.

She came to Britain from Grenada in 1962, a British citizen not subject to immigration control. She lost her citizenship when Grenada became independent in 1964 and was not informed of her right to claim automatic citizenship. When her mother fell ill in Grenada she left her 4 British born children here and went to care for her mother until she died in 1979. When she subsequently returned she was refused permission to stay. She had at no time been informed of the 'returning residents rule' which means permanent right of residence is lost after two years away. Afia Begum was deported on 5 May with her two year old daughter after a long campaign led by the Sari Squad, a group of Asian women opposed to Britain's racist, sexist immigration laws. Over two hundred people picketed Heathrow airport when Afia was put on the plane to Bangladesh. There were 21 arrests. David Waddington, ignoring the fact that most of Afia's family live here, said that it would be wrong to imagine Afia would have a hard life in Bangladesh as she received a small sum of insurance money from her husband's death and, with typical racist, imperialist arrogance 'that is a lot of money where she comes from'.

Such oppression is common to all im-

NO DEPORTATION FOR ESTHER ANKELI

Esther was married in Nigeria in 1972, and came to England in 1977. The marriage broke down in 1980. She has 2 children, Angela aged 9+, and Felix aged 3. Like many other women Esther faces the racist/sexist English legal system which makes women dependent on the status and the goodwill of their husbands for their right to live in this country. They are denied the basic right to live as independent citizens.

On 21 November 1983 David Waddington, Minister of State for Immigration, turned down Esther's appeal to stay in this country. The hardship she would face in Nigeria would leave the children with no chance of obtaining any form of education. They would be reduced to street trading in order to survive.

FRFI has supported the campaign against her deportation including most recently a demonstration in Moss Side on 19 May. Messages of support and donations should be sent to: Esther Ankeli Committee Against Deportation, Abasindi Co-operative, Moss Side People's Centre, St Mary's St Moss Side, Manchester M15, Anwar

perialist countries. In France 40 black people have been murdered by racists in 18 months. In West Germany more than 40,000 have been forced to accept 'voluntary repatriation'. In Holland a 13 year old Surinamese boy was held in police custody for two weeks while the police looked for his parents so they could deport them. In Britain, Scotland Yard's immigration unit conducted passport raids on 60 Asian homes in Luton in only 3 days. No black person is free from intimidation and the threat of deportation as people are being hunted down more ruthlessly than before.

No to racist deportations!
Smash all immigration controls!
Sarah Moore

terror law

The Police Bill has now only to pass through parliamentary formalities before it becomes law. From July the Police and Criminal Evidence Act will provide the legal framework for systematic police repression. The Act will empower the police to:

Stop and search on 'reasonable grounds for suspecting' that they will find prohibited or stolen articles. The police will be able to use the 'reasonable force' necessary to detain and search a person. They will not need to give a reason for the search if the officer judges that the person, or anyone with them, is incapable of understanding the reason.

Arrest anyone who fails to give the police a satisfactory address on demand. Arrest to prevent 'an affront to public decency'. Arrest a person with previous convictions for the purpose of taking fingerprints. The police will be able to search the home of an arrested person even before taking them to the police station.

Detain incommunicado a person suspected of committing a 'serious arrestable offence' for 36 hours for questioning or to obtain evidence, without bringing a charge. (The very wide definition of a serious arrestable offence includes an offence which the police believe will be consequentially of 'serious harm to the security of the State or public order'). The police can then get authority from a magistrates court to continue the detention without charge for a further 60 hours, i.e. for four days in all.

Enforce on detainees in police custody a strip search and a search of bodily orifices – ears, nose, mouth and private parts – if the search is for an article which 'might cause physical injury'.

Fingerprint anyone in police custody over 10 years old without their, or their parents, consent.

Raid any premises without a warrant and use 'reasonable force' if the police have 'reasonable grounds' to believe that they will find a person who is suspected of committing an offence. The

police will have the power, on the authority of a justice of the peace, to search the home or workplace of a person for evidence even though that person is not suspected of an offence. Where a search warrant for evidence has been issued the police may, on entry, seize any other material relating to any other offences not specified in the warrant.

The Police Act will codify in law what is already common police practice in relation to oppressed sections of the working class. Yet it does go further. It removes the legal basis for resistance to police terrorism. To take a current example, the police would no longer be obliged to justify turning back miners on the motorway by a legally dubious reference to the law on public order. Under the Police Act the police will have the power to erect roadblocks whenever the police decide that 'the pattern of crime in an area' requires roadblocks. The powers of the police are so extensive under the Police Act that they will be able to put the vast majority of people outside the law as and when the police decide.

The Labour Party has failed to mount an effective opposition to the profoundly anti-democratic Police Bill. Once Leon Brittan conceded some safeguards for the middle-class professional groups of doctors, lawyers and journalists, there was no further protest from the Labour Party. As police repression escalates and the British state seeks to further undermine democratic rights, the defence of these will include smashing the Police Act.

Andy Goddard

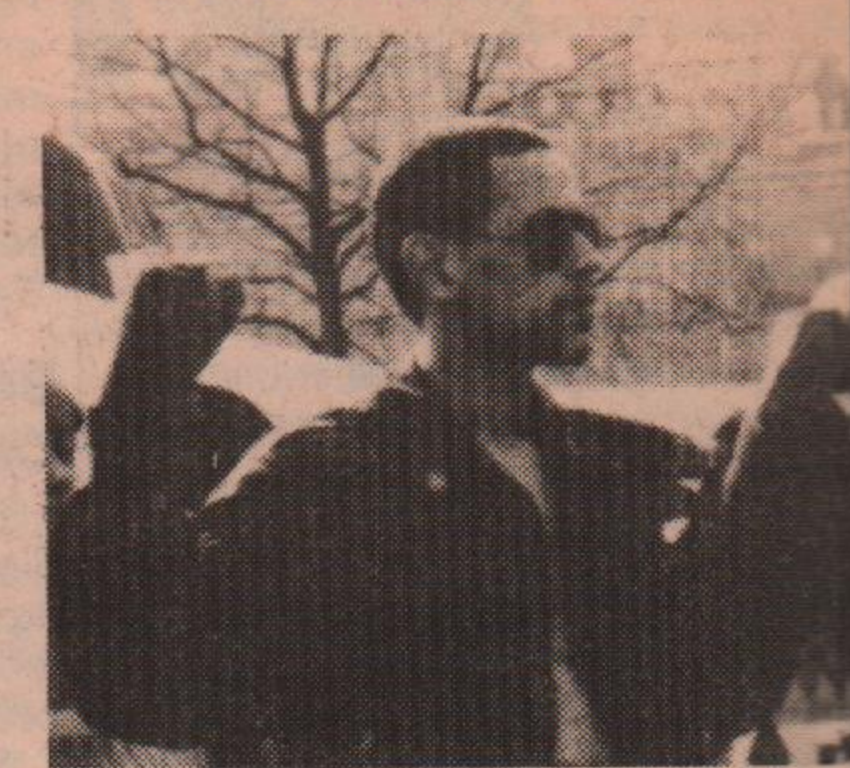
CIRUS NOOR: HOME OFFICE RETREATS

The rapid response to the news that black prisoner Cirus Noor had been certified (see FRFI 39) has forced the Home Office and Wandsworth prison authorities to retreat and cover their retreat with lies.

Wandsworth prison authorities now claim that the Home Office statement that Cirus Noor had been certified on 25 April was a 'misunderstanding'. They say that a recommendation for transfer to a mental hospital was made and that it was sent to the Home Office. Such a recommendation requires the agreement of the Home Secretary before a prisoner can actually be certified and transferred. The Home Secretary has not yet, in fact, approved the recommendation. It is clear that Wandsworth's plans for certifying Cirus Noor were rudely interrupted by the publicity, legal and medical defence organised by FRFI and SNHDC supporters.

Initially Wandsworth prison authorities refused to give information to Cirus Noor's solicitor Brian Raymond and refused his request for an independent psychiatrist to examine Cirus. Brian Raymond threatened legal action. The Wandsworth authorities retreated. Cirus will now be seen by Professor Russell Davies on Friday 8 June. The Home Office has guaranteed that no further steps will be taken against Cirus until after the independent examination.

Home Office lies and misinformation about Cirus also included telling journalists that Cirus had been convicted of arson. The arson charges were dropped.



Cirus Noor

Kenneth Newman, has also joined in by giving DC William Brown, who arrested Cirus, a bravery award and £50 for a 'struggle' which never took place!

Solidarity with Cirus Noor has also come from inside the prisons. Black prisoner Shujaa Moshesh in solitary confinement in the notorious F Wing at Wakefield prison went on a three day hunger strike in solidarity with Cirus.

The rapid and effective response to Home Office and prison machinations has forced this retreat but the battle is far from over. SNHDC have called a picket of the Home Office Prison Department which all readers of FRFI are urged to attend.

Picket: Prison Department, 89 Eccleston Square SW1 Monday 11 June, 12 noon to 2pm.
Hands off Cirus Noor!
No Mental Health Act!
Terry O'Halloran

MANJIT KAUR DEFENCE CAMPAIGN

Manjit Kaur and her daughter Palbinder aged 3 in July, live in Ardwick, Manchester. Manjit came to England in 1979 to join her husband, yet the marriage broke down in 1981. The Home Office have told Manjit that she must leave because she did not have the correct papers on entry to England. However under the inhumane practice of the Home Office Palbinder is a British citizen and thus is allowed to stay. If Manjit is deported to India her position would be impossible. Her family would not support her, her husband's family would make life very difficult for her. She would not be able to get work and thus would have no way of supporting her daughter: thus she has decided that if she is deported she will leave Palbinder here who thus faces a childhood in care. FRFI has supported pickets and protests organised by the Manjit Kaur Defence Campaign which can be contacted at: c/o Sikh Family History, North Hulme Centre, Jackson Crescent, Manchester 15

Anwar



Notes and Comments

'DOLLAR OLYMPICS'

On 8 May the Soviet Union announced its decision to pull out of the 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles. No one can doubt that their action is totally justified.

Right from the start, clearly on orders from Washington, the US mass media mounted a campaign designed to sow the seeds of hostility and suspicion towards the Soviet Union and other socialist countries. Groups like 'Ban the Soviets', and other ultra-right groups made no bones about what they intended to do to sports people from socialist countries. William Clark, former national security adviser to President Reagan, had called upon right-wing leaders to 'step up pressure for the imposition of new anti-Soviet sanctions'. In Los Angeles preparations were under way for pro-imperialist demos and meetings - posters hostile to socialism are plastered on the walls. Meanwhile all anti-imperialist demonstrations were banned.

During the period of the Olympics, more than 300 FBI agents will be added to the 400 hundred normally stationed in Los Angeles, and more than 600 Secret Service personnel will be on hand. The National Security Agency, the FBI and CIA have been busy collecting so-called anti-terrorist intelligence and contingency planning has prepared the Justice Department to handle mass arrests and the Federal Emergency Management Agency to deal with anything from earthquake to a bomb blast.

\$55 million is being spent on preparation and security for the Games, with \$17 million in reserve for the armed forces should there be a major outbreak of violence!

It is easy to see why the 'Dollar Olympics' have caused revulsion in the socialist countries: they are expected to net Californian businessmen \$3.3 million. LA businessmen paid \$350,000 to secure the city's bid - thereby winning the right to hold the first ever 'Businessmen's Olympics'. It is estimated that the takings will exceed \$500 million.

Up and coming athletes, who have trained for years, did not have the chance to carry the Olympic torch because the LA organising committee sold off the Olympic flame at \$3,000 per kilometre. The Greek Olympic Committee protested strongly against this, and for the first time the traditional ceremony of lighting the Olympic torch from the sun's rays was dispensed with. It was lit electronically in NY, and in the stadium in LA the flame will burn in front of a massive Coca-Cola advert.

The traditional theme of the Olympics is to bring together all countries under an international banner of peace and friendship, where sports people from all over the world can meet and compete against each other in a friendly atmosphere. This does not fit in with US plans for its build-up of nuclear arms and international terror. The US rubs its hands in blood money, and sickeningly smiles because it has managed to force the Soviet Union and other socialist countries not to attend. I for one won't be watching these games on television!

Fred Stevens

BOYSON ATTACKS CLAIMANTS

Since 1979, more than £2 billion has been cut from social security payments. Several recent moves continue this vicious process.

Social Security Minister Rhodes Boyson is considering the DHSS Review of Benefit Visiting. This report advises that most social security claims should be postal, and that home visits by benefit officers be cut. The DHSS could thus reduce staff and save millions, while the elderly, the disabled and other claimants would be less able to apply for full entitlements. Further, the report suggests that the home visiting service should become a 'fraud' unit, doing random checks on 60,000 claimants a year. This is in addition to the Department of Employment Regional Benefit Investigation Teams and the DHSS Specialist Claims Control Unit, whose specific aim is to intimidate people into withdrawing claims. The myths of 'fraud' and 'scrounging' are of course vital if the ruling class is to legitimise benefit reductions, and to harass and stigmatise claimants. But in fact, latest figures show that £760m in Supplementary Benefit alone goes unclaimed each year.

The odious Boyson is also responsible for new attacks on claimants which expose the sham of British democracy. Emergency

social security regulations laid before Parliament become effective immediately, only being voted on 40 days later: the government majority then rubber-stamps them. Boyson has used this tactic to overturn, within days, a series of successful appeals against DHSS regulations. Victories on benefits for children, students, the sick, the homeless and the unemployed have thus been blocked. Boyson is further guilty of covering up illegal acts by DHSS staff, whose secret 'L Code' tells officials to pass on confidential information from legal aid applications. This contravenes the 1974 Legal Aid Act.

The Health and Social Security Bill, currently at report stage, will 'simplify' benefit for the disabled by introducing the Severe Disablement Allowance. Minister for the Disabled, Tony Newton, freely admits that the point is to limit claims. By introducing an 80% disablement criterion, the Bill will eventually disqualify over 50,000 disabled people from benefit.

Behind this systematic erosion of rights lies a cuts package proposed by Thatcher's ultra-right think tank, the Institute of Economic Affairs. This suggests £43 billion public expenditure savings by privatising education, health, all nationalised industries and by reducing welfare benefits.

Dave Burton

GREENHAM: ALIVE AND KICKING!

The peace camps around Greenham Common USAF base have not been destroyed despite the impression given by the media. On the contrary, the recent actions of a handful of women show how they continue to outwit and outmanoeuvre the large forces of British soldiers and police ever present all around the base. On 12 May, 22 women were arrested having cut through the fence. They have been remanded in custody following their refusal to accept the bail conditions not to return within 5 miles of the base. They will remain in custody until their trial which is set for 20 June. Five women taking photographs of them were also arrested. The police and soldiers, angry at not being able to prevent these actions then proceeded to beat the women up. They were then held for many hours in a USAF bus.

The viciousness of police actions against the Greenham women can best be illustrated in what happened to Janet, who spoke on behalf of the Greenham women at the rally after the recent Police Bill demonstration. That evening her flat was wrecked and personal belongings such as letters were torn up and destroyed. At Greenham, personnel inside the base have taken to throwing lumps of iron with nails sticking out of them and stones at the women during the night. It is their similar experience at the hands of these racist, sexist thugs that brought a delegation of Kent Miners' Wives to Greenham on 20 May. The Greenham women have shown their solidarity with the miners' struggle: they have sent £500 to Miners' Wives Support Groups. At the Police Bill rally it was announced that the Kent Miners' Wives were going to Greenham and that Greenham women would join them on the picket lines!

The tremendous resilience of the Greenham women and their determination to fight on in the face of increasing brutality continues while they are in prison. Millie, an older Greenham woman, has recently spent 13 weeks in Bullwood Hall and Holloway womens' prisons, 4 weeks of which was spent on hungerstrike. Millie described to FRFI the conditions which forced her to go on hungerstrike: the appalling food, the terrible sanitary conditions, the lack of exercise (often the women spent 23 hours a day in their cells, only leaving them to fetch their food), that cell lights were often kept on deliberately late into the night. Also, Millie had been repeatedly denied a daily paper. Racism, Millie said, is rampant among the screws who were contemptuous of her demand for toilet rolls, one of them saying that Millie was making an unnecessary fuss because: 'A hell of a lot of these African women don't even use toilet rolls'.

Bullwood, like Holloway, has a large proportion of black, working class women and Millie told us that most of the offences they had committed were petty, such as shoplifting. Tremendous solidarity was shown by fellow prisoners while Millie was on hunger-strike. While she was in the hospital wing they sent her a beautifully made card addressed to their 'Millie'. Support the Greenham women!

Ruby Khan

FASLANE PROTESTS

The Ministry of Defence (MoD) have recently outlined plans for an expansion of the Clyde submarine base at Faslane in Dumbarton and its missile-handling station at nearby Couplart. They are to be more than doubled in size in a £350 million construction programme for Trident nuclear submarines between 1986 and 1992.

At a meeting between the MoD and Labour controlled Dumbarton District Council and Strathclyde Regional Council, the plans for development were outlined by a team of naval officers from London. Outside the meeting ten Faslane peace campers were arrested in a protest in opposition to the proposed expansion.

Councillor Ian Leitch, Convenor of Dumbarton District Council, threatened to clear the naval officers out of the building unless the police undertook to stop further arrests and that they would refuse to let the navy continue using the building for their meeting.

Later Mr Leitch walked out of the meeting along with other Labour Councillors stating that the meeting was farcical, and that although they could not stop the expansion they would try and delay it as long as possible. The recent revelation that a radioactive submarine sailed into Holy Loch - people wearing safety clothing were seen decontaminating it - and the discovery of further abnormal clusters of children's deaths in the '70s from myeloid leukaemia on Scotland's West coast, have only served to harden peoples' opposition to the siting of further weapons of mass destruction.

This year's defence budget will be £17,033 million. This is more than any other European member of NATO, both in absolute terms and per head of population. The defence budget has been rising since Thatcher came to power: Britain now spends a fifth more on the armed forces (even after allowing for inflation) than in 1979. This ties in with the government's policy of increased spending on police, courts and prisons, while cutting back services such as health and education.

RJ Edinburgh

LIBYAN BUREAU SIEGE: THE TRUTH

The inquest into the death of WPC Fletcher, who was shot dead outside the Libyan Bureau in London on 17 April, exposed the lies and manoeuvres of the British government and the police.

Commander Hucklesby of the Anti-Terrorist Squad, the body responsible for the framing of the Maguire family and countless others, described the incident at the Bureau as 'totally unforeseen'. Hucklesby is a liar.

On 9 May John Sullivan told the inquest that he had been told that there would be 'fighting' involving guns. He passed this on to the police who knew of this warning by 9.15am - more than an hour before the shooting. Why did the Metropolitan Police - never loath to interfere with Irish demonstrations or anti-apartheid demonstrations outside South Africa House - ignore this warning? Because they wanted an incident outside the Bureau as a pretext both for attacking Libya and for increased repression here in Britain.

At 9.15am the police arrested two members of the Bureau staff - Dr Omar Sodani and Salem Ibrahim Mabruk. The two were held for 17 hours and released without charge at 2.24am the following morning. Both were deported. The harassment of Bureau staff began more than an hour before the incident.

Just to add to the lies, Mad Dog Leon Brittan told Parliament that the police had narrowed down the 'suspects' to two. At the inquest Hucklesby denied this claim pointblank.

The revelations from the inquest show clearly that the police knew in advance that there would be an incident and that the police were harassing and illegally arresting Bureau staff before the incident. The incident then became a cynically staged piece of street theatre on behalf of the police. A naked exhibition of police force complete with guns, snipers, roadblocks and carefully managed 'news'. The purpose being to accustom people to such displays in the heart of London. It also served as an admirable basis for isolating Libya and attacking Libyan nationals in Britain. An entire national group, the Libyans, are now to be subjected to close police control and surveillance.

Terry Marlowe

BLINDING ASSAULT BY PC

On 29 April 1983, Barry Carliell, aged 36, and three friends were enjoying an evening out at an Indian restaurant in the Holloway Road. At another table there were three off-duty police, one of whom, PC Brian Renton, kept looking at the four men. A comment about his squint annoyed Renton who went over and told them to 'shut up' or he'd nick them. Barry tried to calm the situation down - a fact verified by the waiter. A while later uniformed police arrived and arrested the four men for being drunk and disorderly, although the restaurant manager said there had been no disturbance.

On the way to Islington police station the PC driving the van put on a glove puppet and mimicking Harry Corbett of Sooty and Sweep said 'Who's been naughty boys then? Who's going to find out what happens to naughty boys.' At the station Barry was alone in the charge room with PC Renton and a sergeant. Renton called him a 'lanky bastard' told him to remove his glasses and then ferociously punched his left eye. Barry's screams could be heard by his friends and the sergeant shouted at Renton, 'You bastard - look what you've fucking done now'. A WPC who had been at the restaurant told Barry whose eye was pouring blood, 'that'll teach you to mess with police officers'.

In court Renton (an ex RAF boxer) said the blow had been an accident! He maintained that Barry had raised his fist at him and in protecting himself his right hand had accidentally struck Barry's face. An obvious lie - the force of the blow ruptured Barry's eye which had to be removed a few weeks later. It also emerged in court that Renton had tried to cover up the attack and had said to the sergeant on duty, 'I'm sorry sarge, I caught him with my ring - can't we sort something out?'

Barry Carliell is now blind, he has lost his garage business and is living on £23 a week social security. PC Renton was given a two-year prison sentence, six months of which has been suspended.

This incident has shown once again the perverse brutality of the police. When asked in court if he had behaved improperly, Renton replied, 'I followed the normal procedures'. Normal procedures being savage attacks causing permanent injuries.

Alexa Byrne



Arrest on picket line at Barking Hospital

BARKING HOSPITAL CLEANERS STRIKE

Ninety cleaners are on strike at Barking Hospital and a 24 hour a day, 7 day a week picket has been going for 12 weeks now. They are employed by a private contractor who is attempting to reduce their hours by 41%, to reduce their holidays by a third and to stop all sick pay. The cleaners are on strike for direct labour, for an increase in their hours and the restoration of sick and holiday entitlements.

Sixteen women have been arrested on the picket. Bail conditions are being used to prevent them going within half a mile of the hospital. The hospital is in a disgusting state - cockroaches are everywhere. And yet the Health Authority say that the dispute is between the domestics and the contractors!

The strikers have supported the miners on pickets at West Drayton and miners have supported their pickets at the hospital. On 5 June the Health Authority is seeking a court injunction to evict the picket line shelters from the grounds of the hospital. If this succeeds it will leave them prey to arrest by the police for obstruction. They are calling for support to join the picket line and also they will be picketing Barking Magistrates Court, Barking at 10am on 11 June.

Andy Goddard

TURKEY

Nato's fascist ally

Throughout the '60s and '70s the Turkish working class had resisted the effects of the burgeoning imperialist crisis. The struggles of Turkish workers had gone beyond narrow economic demands—a revolutionary situation began to develop.

The 1980 military coup restored 'order' for the Turkish ruling class and 'stability' for imperialism. It would guarantee the continued super-exploitation of the Turkish working class and also keep Turkey as a link in the imperialist chain.

NATO's policeman

For imperialism, Turkey lies in a vital strategic position—close to the Middle East and Gulf and having borders with the Soviet Union. The imperialists therefore welcomed the 1980 coup, welding Turkey into an even firmer alliance with imperialism. Turkey, being both a member of NATO and CENTO, is being groomed as a forward bastion for both speedy action against popular movements in the region and for nuclear war plans against the socialist countries. Turkey is now effectively the successor to the role played by the Shah's Iran.

US military aid to Turkey has quadrupled since 1981 and now stands at \$1bn per year. The US already has numerous bases in Turkey and is establishing more. They were used by the US most recently to ferry men and materials to the US forces in Lebanon. It is likely that Cruise and Pershing missiles will be stationed in Turkey in the near future.

Annihilation of democratic rights

The military junta's earliest moves were to dismantle all of Turkey's democratic institutions, ban strikes, disband political parties and begin the mass arrests of democrats and progressives. The Revolutionary Trade Union Confederation of Turkey (DISK) was disbanded and its assets seized without compensation. 68 of the leading members of DISK face the death sentence and 200 more DISK activists and shop stewards are still awaiting trial.

A fake referendum and recent farcical 'elections' in which the people were compelled to vote for a selection of fascist candidates hand-picked by the military junta, have been used to provide a veneer for the removal of all basic democratic rights.

A series of mass political show trials have been used against the Communist Party of Turkey (TKP), Dev Yol (Revolutionary Way), Dev Sol (Revolutionary Left), DISK, Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) and supporters of Iscinin Sesi (Workers Voice). These trials, presided over by military judges, are a legal farce. The accused cannot speak to their lawyers during the trial and cannot represent themselves. Many have not even been allowed to read the indictments against them. Lawyers themselves have been harassed, beaten and tortured for what they have said in court.

These assaults upon democratic rights have paved the way to an imperialist-directed attack upon living standards. Real wages are now half of the 1979 levels. More than 8m of the total population in the three largest cities are now living in shanty towns. Meanwhile the imperialist bankers and businessmen are gleefully surveying their prospects—investment opportunities and a debt of \$23bn to be collected.

The barbarous fascist repression and torture ushered in by the 12 September 1980 military takeover in Turkey continues without respite. As Britain, the United States and other imperialist 'defenders of freedom and democracy' maintain military and economic aid for the regime, the Turkish working class and peasantry and the Kurdish people have suffered rampant persecution. The fascist regime has detained some 200,000 people since the coup, most of whom have been subjected to horrifying tortures. Over 150 Turkish communists and revolutionaries have died under torture and almost 50 hanged, including a 16-year-old boy Erdel Eren. In the continuing mass show trials taking place throughout Turkey, over 6,000 death sentences have been demanded by military prosecutors.

Cyprus-fascist threat

The Turkish bourgeoisie harbours very real expansionist aims in the region. Since 1974 the Turkish army has illegally occupied 40% of Cyprus with some 25,000 troops. The 1974 invasion caused 200,000 Greek Cypriots to flee to the south as refugees. Since 1974 Turkish finance capital has attempted to integrate Cyprus into the Turkish economy, despite this partition being opposed by 80% of Cypriots. British colonial rule in Cyprus fostered divisions between the Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities in order to thwart the independence struggle. Before the British imperialists 'left' in 1960 they forced Cyprus to give Britain sovereignty over two military bases, which are maintained to this day. 10,000 British troops and dependents are permanently stationed on Cyprus to protect British imperialist interests in the region. These bases supplied British, French and Italian troops in Lebanon.

Last November the Turkish puppet in Cyprus, Rauf Denktaş, declared an independent state in the part of Cyprus controlled by Turkey, in a move which clearly fits in with imperialist plans. A massive air base is now being built at a cost of \$500m at Lefkoniko for use by the US Rapid Deployment Force.

Genocide in Kurdistan

The regime's most savage repressions and tortures have been reserved for the Kurdish people who form 24% of the population of Turkey. The Kurds are denied the right to self-determination—indeed it is a crime for Kurds to read, write or talk in their own language. The regime militarily occupies Kurdistan, bombs Kurdish villages and co-operates with the Ba'ath dictatorship of Saddam Hussein in Iraq against the Kurdish people.

In Diyarbakir military prison over 3,000 militants of the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) are incarcerated and tortured. In 1981 38 PKK prisoners were massacred in their cells. In January 1984 a mass hunger strike was restarted by the political prisoners against torture. 15 prisoners died and 200 were injured when the prison authorities set fire to a section of the prison to break the resistance.

Torture and resistance

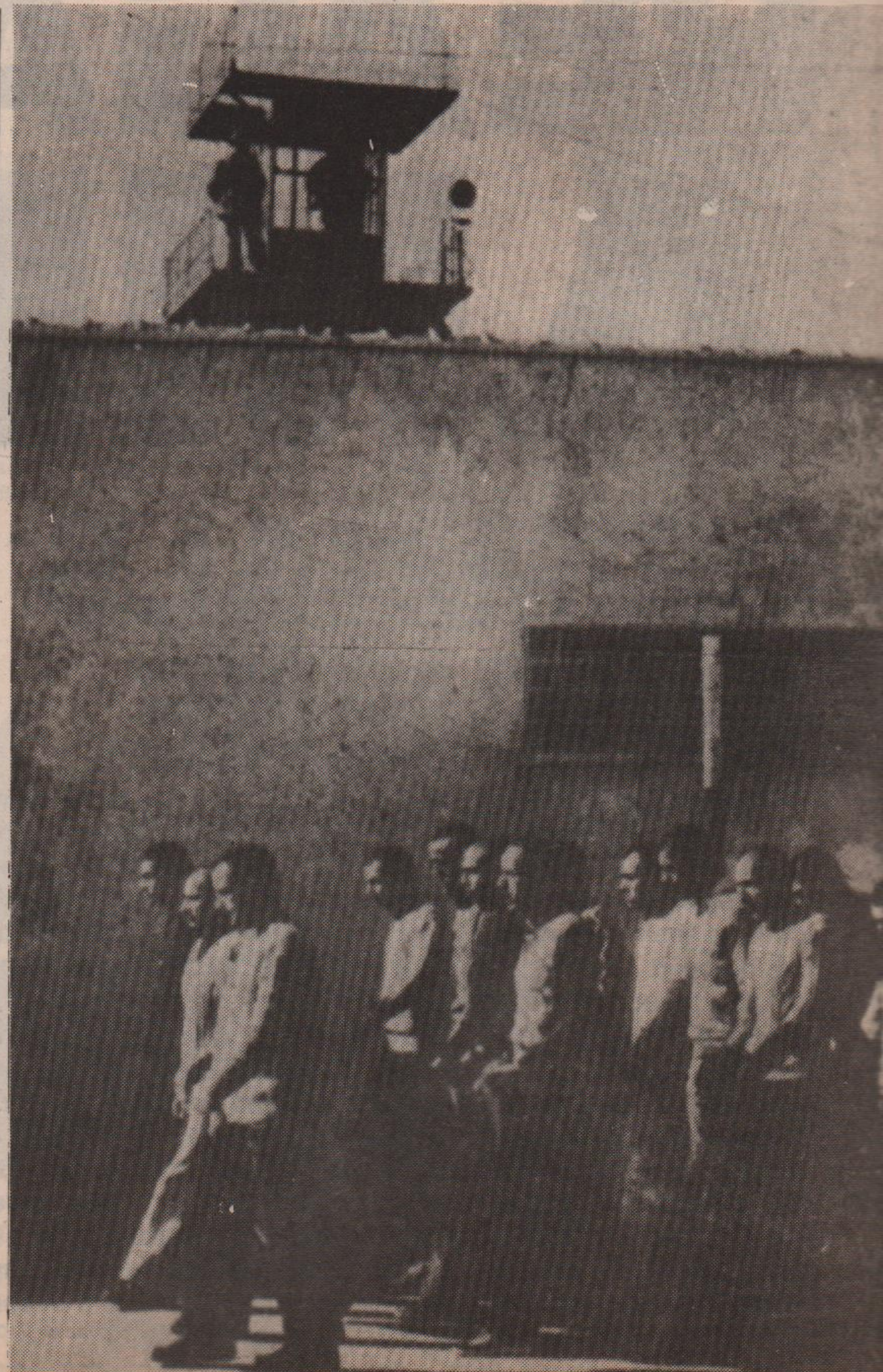
Turkish political prisoners are constantly tortured—many have died or have been permanently disabled as a result. With inspiring determination the imprisoned Turkish and Kurdish revolutionaries have courageously mounted hunger strikes and protests against torture and prison conditions. Between July and September 1983 hunger strikes were started in Istanbul, Erzurum and Diyarbakir prisons. The protests were met with outright barbarity and more

torture—in Metris prison in Istanbul the screams of tortured prisoners were broadcast over the prison PA system.

During 1984 the prisoners have continued to organise hunger strikes. Recent reports have described a hunger strike by hundreds of prisoners at Mamak Special Military Prison against prison uniforms and repression in the prison. The protest has received widespread support from relatives and the people.

British support for the fascist regime

British imperialism seizes every attempt to legitimise and give support to the regime. The Tory government has the blood of thousands of Turkish and Kurdish revolutionaries on its hands. In August 1983 the Tories gave £15m in military aid to the junta and continues to give economic aid through the OECD. It has been Britain above all which has blocked attempts to condemn the Turkish regime in the Council of Europe. After the recent 'elections' the Foreign Office welcomed the victory of the fascist Motherland Party:



'Turkey is an important and valued NATO ally of the UK. We look forward to working with the new government when it assumes office.'

British communists and revolutionaries have a duty to expose and condemn all British support for the fascist Turkish regime. FRFI extends its solidarity to all

the Turkish and Kurdish revolutionaries and democrats resisting oppression and barbarism.

Bill Hughes

Those wishing to know more of the struggle for democratic rights in Turkey should contact CDDRT, 29 Parkfield St, London N1 0PS

SOUTH LEBANON

Zionists in crisis

Two years after the invasion of Lebanon, the Israeli occupation forces have totally failed to break the resistance of the south Lebanese masses. The continuing high casualties sustained at the hands of the armed Lebanese National Resistance Front (LNRF) is generating widespread discontent in Israel itself. With the approaching Israeli elections and the deep economic crisis, the opposition Labour Party is exploiting this situation in an attempt to unseat Prime Minister Shamir's Likud coalition. In the interests of Zionist expansionism and the survival of his own government, Shamir is desperate to crush the resistance and reduce Israeli casualties. He is now brutally stepping up repression and placing greater reliance on its local collaborators.

To withdraw Israeli soldiers out of LNRF targetting range, the Israelis are handing over frontline security tasks to the 2500 South Lebanese Army (SLA). Led by Phalangist Major General Antoine Lahad, it is created, armed and trained by the Zionists. Under its previous leader Haddad, it was responsible for the arrest, murder and torture of countless Lebanese and Palestinian people. The SLA has now taken over security duties in Sidon, manning road blocks and patrolling streets. These puppets, no different from UNITA and the MNR in Angola and Mozambique, are not escaping the blows of the people. Neither is the Israeli army. The relentless guerilla war continues.

In response the Israeli army has stepped up its mass terrorism. On 15 May it

blew up a house in Nabatiyeh used in a grenade attack which killed an army officer. On 14 May, Israeli troops in a search and destroy operation entered the UN-supervised Ain al Hilweh Palestinian camp, blew up 20 houses, wounded 4 and arrested another 150 people. When the inhabitants rose in anger and protest, Israeli troops opened fire on 17 May, killing one woman and wounding another 60. The attacks on the camp continue with the death toll now at 20. In Sidon, Zionists shot and killed a Lebanese civilian after an Israeli patrol was attacked in the town. Preparing for systematic use of this shoot-to-kill strategy against civilian protestors, Israeli British-made Centurion tanks guarding road blocks have had their turrets replaced by heavy machine guns.

The recent arrest and charging of two Israeli army officers on the West Bank for their involvement with unofficial terror squads is no evidence that Israeli occupation policy is anything but brutal repression and terror. Their involvement in the bombing and maiming of the Palestinian mayors of Nablus and Ramallah in 1980 and their assistance to 'underground' terrorist squads has been exposed too widely for no action to take place. Furthermore the Zionist regime has deemed it necessary to control the actions of its unofficial terrorists lest their indiscriminate activity sparks off massive popular explosion against the occupation. Collaboration much the same as that between the RUC and the loyalist death squads of the UVF in the Six Counties of northern Ireland, will inevitably continue and so will repression. Home raids, shootings, imprisonment, torture and house arrests continue unabated. Meanwhile it has been confirmed that 2 Palestinians captured after a military operation of 12 April were clubbed to death in the presence of Israeli defence Minister Moshe Arons.

The elections in Israel will change nothing for the people of South Lebanon, or the West Bank. Their struggle against Zionist occupation will continue.

Eddie Abrahams

REAGAN'S AMERICA

CRIMINALS CONVENE

The figureheads of the leading imperialist powers assembled in London to survey the global estate of capitalism. Putting on a show of vain and lordly confidence, they are trying to disguise the fissures which are opening up between themselves, and to gloss over the deepening crisis of their system. Well over 30m in the imperialist nations are unemployed – productive potential 1½ times the British workforce is left idle, to rot. In the oppressed nations over 500m are without work, leaving 800m people in chronic hunger. The scale of human suffering and destruction is unprecedented. As many people die from hunger every year as died during the whole of the Second World War. This mountainous suffering can be preserved only by the force of arms. The past year has witnessed defiance and resistance in every corner of the world. Imperialism received a bloody nose in Lebanon, Central America is driving it into a frenzy, the masses are taking to the streets throughout Latin America. In Africa, the feeble hold of its puppets requires a more direct intervention by imperialism, and deepening collaboration with racist South Africa. From the Gulf, to the Philippines, to Korea, imperialism is bracing itself to reassert control.

The ruling classes of each imperialist country are begging and praying for a solution to their problems.

First and foremost is the world debt crisis. The oppressed nations have a millstone of \$810bn of debt hanging round their necks. This is a vast investment by imperialism. In Brazil, the biggest of these debtor nations, in 1983 the world's biggest bank – Citicorp – made 19.5% of all its profits, Chase Manhattan made \$70-80m (16-19% of its worldwide total profit) and Bank of America about half as much. In return the banks only offer increasing impoverishment. In Latin America, which holds half the world's debt, 110m people, ½ of the population, live in sub-human poverty and malnutrition.

What has suddenly turned the debt burden into a potentially cataclysmic political issue is the combination of increasing interest rates levied by the banks and the resistance put up by the masses to this financial plunder. The masses are transforming the economic problem into a clearly political struggle against the imperialist system and its local agents. The foundations of the system are under threat.

Thoughts of Reagan: on South Africa

'Can we again take that other course, can we abandon a country that has stood by us in every war we ever fought, a country that is essential to the free world, that has minerals?'

In Chile the armed and militant struggle of the people is rising, isolating the middle class 'opposition'. In Brazil, millions have rallied to the call for a directly elected President. General strikes have gripped Bolivia and Uruguay; uprisings have shaken Peru and the Dominican Republic. Wherever the IMF debt collectors go with their austerity plans, they are met with the anger of the people.

The debt crisis is compounded by the deficit crisis in the United States. To

This is the backdrop to this gathering of thieves, these are the problems they have to resolve. What are the options open to them?

The imperialists would dearly like to destroy the socialist countries. Yet a military confrontation is fraught with danger for the imperialists themselves, and would be a rash gamble, threatening the destruction of their own system. However, they will continue to sponsor subversion in Poland, Afghanistan, Nicaragua and elsewhere, hoping to undermine from within.

They will all agree on the need to reassert imperialism's grip in Southern Africa. It is no accident that Botha is being hawked around Europe just at this point in time. A total package for the intensified exploitation of the people of Southern Africa is being put together.

US imperialism is chafing at the bit in the Gulf, seeking to hold the ring, to ensure the dependence and compliance of its imperialist partners such as Japan and Europe who depend upon Arabian oil – and US guns to protect it.

They will be egging one another on to attack the living standards of their own



working people, and to bite away deeper into democratic rights.

Amongst this fraternity of capitalists, some must be losers in the face of the debt crisis and growing protectionism. The stronger imperialists will try to offload their losses onto weaker ones and squeeze them out of markets. Oaf Reagan will deny that his interest rates are to blame, wave his guns in the air, stare round the table and ask 'who else is going to protect your interests around the world?'

There is a price to be paid for this protection racket. We saw in Chad that US imperialism was prepared to force the pace of direct armed intervention and threaten French imperialist interests in the region. In Grenada US imperialism barged British imperialism out of its way to assert its domination over the Caribbean. The imperialists will soon turn upon one another. This summit will solve nothing. The problems can only be overcome by the masses uniting to destroy imperialism forever.

Thoughts of Reagan: on the ecology problem

'Ninety per cent of all air pollution is caused by flowers and trees'

finance its massive war machine the US government has been forced to borrow money on a record scale. The borrowing has forced up interest rates, sucking even more money out of the oppressed nations. In a single month in spring, a 1% rise in interest rates has added \$3bn to the annual payment by Latin America to the banks. Such increases can never be paid.

These rises also force up interest rates in other imperialist countries, competing for capital and choking off any recuperation. The British CBI has squealed that a ½% rise in interest rates will cost British industrial capitalists £135m a year. Vast sums of capital are being sucked out of Europe and Japan, pushing up the dollar exchange rate and aggravating the US trade deficit. This in turn has provoked a clamour from US capitalists for increasing trade protection, particularly against Japan and the Third World. Even favoured Chile finds the door to its copper exports being slammed shut in its face. As the exports of debtor countries are shut out of the market, so the possibility of repayment grows ever more remote and the dreaded day of default looms ever closer.

Inside the US, the crippling interest rates have driven up bankruptcy – last year saw more than 28,200 corporate bankruptcies. Most recently, the US banking system itself has started to shudder. Continental Illinois, rocked by unpaid debts at home and abroad, has been dragged back from the brink by an injection of £7.5bn. Alarm bells are ringing in the financial capitals of the world as bank shares slide and rumours abound. All talk of recovery is just a sedative for the people.

Inside the glittering rubbish heap

THE HIDDEN FACE OF US SOCIETY

Karl Marx once observed of capitalism that 'the general leaning towards barbarity acquires a certain method, immorality becomes a system, lawlessness gets its lawgivers and club law its law books.' By March of this year at least twenty two of Reagan's administrative staff, many of them his personal friends, had resigned over corruption, bribery and other scandals.

Organised crime, headed by the Mafia which now mingles at the highest levels of state office, intelligence organisations and corporate ownership, reaped an annual profit of \$40 billion through the 1970s, greater than the combined profits of the five largest US corporations. Its turnover is exceeded only by that of the US war industry. The right claimed by the US ruling class to rob and loot at will draws villains to its side and spreads the disease throughout US society: every two seconds there is a crime; each year one in three US families are the victims of crime. One in ten US women can now expect to be raped and the figure is rising!

Under capitalism where the sale of one's labour is the sole means of livelihood for the working class, unemployment is a devastating blow. Each single percentage rise in US unemployment

produces a 3.4% increase in mental illness, a 4% increase in serious crimes, a 4.1% increase in suicides and a 5.7% increase in murders. Reagan is known as the 'Teflon-coated President' – nothing sticks: for those with eyes to see, this is the scabrous reality of Reagan's society.

MANUFACTURING MADNESS

Watching US TV, children learn how to kill people before they can read and write. On seven evenings' viewing one study showed 81 killings and 210 other violent incidents. With imperialism thriving upon ignorance, Reagan declared that 13% of US seventeen-year-olds are 'functionally illiterate', and that the figure for black and Hispanic youth of this age is 40%. Being a fervent believer in the blind leading the blind,

Reagan said the answer was not to put more resources into education, but that the remedy was the responsibility of the family. Hypnotised by a cult of violence, preached at by a Comic Book President, US children ten years old and under gunned down and killed, in a single year of Reagan's rule, as many people as were murdered in Britain!

Reagan may not favour education, but souls are much more to his liking: they cost less. Thus, as he parades around his demand that school prayers be made compulsory, children are being damned into pornography and prostitution. This is big business in the USA. The Justice Department estimates that 1.4 million children service this market. One Californian child pornography ring prospered to the extent of needing two computers to keep track of all its customers.

Capitalism presents everything that is real as an illusion, and everything illusory as real (witness Reagan); it invests vast sums and networks into sowing delusions in the masses, and separating them, as people with shared interests, one from another. Not surprisingly one in ten US citizens seek psychiatric help each year. Vermont University revealed that between 32 and 34 million people,

DEATH TO IM

ECONOMIC PLUNDER

The US President's difficulties with sums, like his problems with telling the truth, are well known. But his instinct as a capitalist cannot be faulted. As waves of havoc sweep through the US economy Reagan and his class revel in unparalleled luxury, clawing up ever more of the national wealth for themselves, leaving millions of lives wracked by anxiety and destitution.

Reagan came to office in 1980 promising economic growth: today there are three million more unemployed than when he began his Presidency, the rate of bankruptcies has trebled under Reagan. Reagan promised a balanced federal budget: the deficit has tripled to a record \$200bn. Reagan dangled the promise of tax cuts before the electorate: in 1982 he rushed through emergency legislation which will take a further \$100bn in taxes by 1985, this was followed up in 1983 by measures designed to grab a further \$250bn 'if necessary'.

CALCULATED FORAYS

These forays are calculatingly aimed at dispossessing the poorest people to further the accumulation of the richest elite. Those families with incomes below \$10,000 a year have been robbed of an additional \$390 a year through the Reagan administration's tax and benefit changes, while those with incomes over \$80,000 have added an average of \$8,270 a year. Reagan himself, with an income for 1982-83 of \$¾ million, cheerfully pockets over \$40,000 extra each year as a result of the tax changes he flourished his signature to. The US Congress contains more than 100 millionaires and a quarter of Reagan's top government officials are also millionaires. Secretary of State Shultz creamed over \$200,000 from speculative dealings and dividends alone on top of his \$80,000 salary last year. The government officials rotate their careers of wanton plunder through corporate directorships, government posts and chairmanships of banks. They personify the fusion of industrial capitalism, banking and the military which stands at the heart of imperialism. While the largest 100 US monopolies account for 61% of total US production they pay but 8% of the taxes. 0.2% of the US population own half the wealth. Like vultures, this elite are gorging themselves on the high interest rates paid to their savings which are swelled by their tax cuts. These interest rates have raised the annual income of the US ruling class to \$374bn, a quarter again more than the entire wage bill of the private sector in the USA!

suffer severe 'emotional disturbances'. Reagan's government has slashed spending on all forms of health care. The average length of stay in a US mental hospital has been reduced to three weeks, not because of any enlightened understanding of psychological problems or quick cures, but because funds are denied the suffering. 'Deranged people can be seen rummaging through bins, mumbling, and wandering the streets, often pushing a supermarket trolley containing all their worldly possessions. In Chicago, hundreds at the Mantero State Hospital were loaded on buses and simply dumped at street corners' (*Sunday Times*). Mental hospitals are used as a means of repressing black and Hispanic people. For a black person the rate of incarceration is twice that for a white person.

BEHIND THE MASK

Drug peddling is second only to arms manufacture as US capitalism's major trade. Detroit has 50,000 heroin addicts. Cocaine is snorted on Wall Street and traded across the floor of the House of Representatives. Marijuana is now the USA's major cash crop, ahead of maize. Thus, the Reagan administration pre-

THE WASTELAND

Fear and misery are spreading among the US people as the clamour for profits is dinned into their ears by the US ruling class. In 1982, as in 1981, about one in five US workers were forced into unemployment at some time in the year. Youth unemployment now stands at its highest ever level of 25%, but within the USA it is among the black and Hispanic people that US imperialism takes the kind of toll it dishes out to the oppressed nations of the world. Over 50% of black youth are unemployed; a similar figure afflicts Hispanic youth. The official unemployment figures show that black people of all ages are twice as likely to be unemployed as white people.

Buildings, like the poor who live in them, are condemned to rot. In its insane pursuit of profits US capitalism

is allowing its infrastructure to disintegrate. One quarter of inter-state highways are worn out and need resurfacing, a fifth of US bridges are so dangerous that traffic is either restricted or forbidden. A rising tide of disease runs through the decomposing ghettos. An estimated three trillion dollars is required for repairs to US cities.

Six million more people under Reagan's administration have plunged below the poverty line in the USA, to bring the total up towards 36m. Of these 22m are children for whom Reagan obligingly reclassified ketchup as a vegetable in order to cut down the costs of school meals. The US, whose ruling class throw food away by the ton every day, where farmers have accumulated staggering debts of \$218bn and are being bankrupted at the rate of two thousand a week can boast of twelve million people in hunger and malnutrition.

The horror is endless: the removal of allowances for heating, the forty thousand

and homeless New Yorkers clinging for warmth to hotel ventilation grills; the outlawing of scavenging through rubbish bins in city after city across the country, and the tender mercy of the St Louis city council which granted its citizens the right to rummage, but only during daylight! No wonder that US cities are humming with the tension which will soon snap within them.

Above the squalor, in the comfortable world of TV chat shows, a throw away comment triggers rumours that swirl through the banking and industrial monopolies, taking with them billions of dollars in share prices. Through the mayhem the White House and the Federal Reserve central bank squabble at the helm of the US economy. Something is happening and they do not know what it is. Reagan and Thatcher cannot tell them, but their instincts are filling them with dread.

Trevor Rayne



THE US WAR MACHINE

'We are not going to spend all this money on the military only to keep it parked in the garage'

US military expert 1983

sent a draft budget that recommends cutting from \$31m to \$17m the amount allocated to customs interception of narcotics from Latin America and the Caribbean, the major supply route, and reducing customs staff by one thousand.

When the technicolor film is over and the numbness fades there is suicide. Twenty seven thousand US citizens commit suicide each year. One hundred US youngsters will kill themselves this week, a further thousand will attempt it. For the 15-19 age group suicide is second only to traffic as a cause of death. Each week three hundred more people in the US go to gaol than leave. The *New York Times* reports that the USA 'is now in the midst of a prison building boom'. Fifty nine percent of all those waiting on Death Row are black or Hispanic people, though these groups constitute less than a fifth of the US population. This is the model of a capitalist society that Thatcher and Reagan would hold up to the world to follow, at gunpoint if necessary: a madhouse where the rich pleasure in the torment of children, racially oppressed people and the poor.

Trevor Rayne

The United States has the largest, the most powerful, most expensive, most vicious military machine in the world. There are nearly 2,500 US bases and military installations in 114 countries, with over half a million servicemen stationed there. Including the organised reserve, US armed forces' total strength is 3,934,200 - greater than the entire population of Ireland. The backbone of the US war machine is its strategic offensive forces, which include intercontinental missiles, strategic aircraft and submarine based missiles - some 2,120 nuclear delivery vehicles in combat service. The nuclear armoury exceeds 10,000 warheads. Just one of the 40 US missile submarines is capable of destroying the whole of the USSR. In addition there are 1,053 land based missiles and 637 strategic bombers. This so-called 'strategic triad' is being modernised with Trident and MX missiles, radar-invisible Stealth bombers, a super-accurate navigational satellite system, cruise missiles and sophisticated anti-submarine weapons to enable the US imperialists to launch a successful and devastating first-strike against the socialist countries.

In addition to the strategic forces are the US General Purpose forces. Although nuclear armed, these forces are the main agent by which the US ruling class attempts to dominate the world. One third of the US army - 337,400 men - are stationed in Europe in 150 large bases. In East Asia, 135,000 servicemen are stationed in 130 large scale bases, mainly in Japan and South Korea. The US Navy has 479 battle-force ships, projected to reach 525 by the end of this summer. They include 21 aircraft carriers. There are four operational fleets stationed in the Pacific, the Atlantic and Mediterranean. In addition there is a task force stationed in the Indian Ocean. Three flotillas of nuclear-powered submarines are on continuous patrol. These forces are primarily designed to combat the national liberation movements and defend reactionary regimes, while helping to threaten the socialist countries.

A particularly important part of the General Purpose forces is the so-called

Rapid Deployment Force, originally designed for intervention in the Gulf, but now under the US Central Command which is responsible for the area stretching from Iraq to Kenya, from Egypt to Afghanistan. Its commander is US Marine Major General Paul X Kelley, who is a graduate of the Army Airborne Pathfinder School in Britain and has served with British forces in Singapore, Malaya and Borneo. The RDF has 300,000 men available, supported by several hundred aircraft, AWACS reconnaissance planes, 3 carrier task forces, and Marine amphibious forces. A key role in US operations in the Indian Ocean is played by the British-occupied island of Diego Garcia, whose inhabitants were expelled by a British Labour government to make way for a vast US base, which includes 17 'pre-positioning' ships stocked with equipment and weaponry for the RDF, and an airfield expanded to accommodate B-52 strategic bombers.

The Pentagon is asking \$305bn for

this vast death machine in 1985. For the fiscal years 1985-89, US war spending will be \$1.9 trillion (million million) - enough to give every man, woman and child in the world a video recorder. Weapons procurement is \$107bn - up 25% from last year. Funding ranges from billions for procurement of the notorious MX strategic missile, down to some \$6m on 'psychic warfare' research - hoping to use 'psychic powers' to penetrate secret files, locate submarines, jam computers and blow up guided missiles in flight.

One of the most threatening aspects of the US war build-up is the attempt to turn outer space into a battlefield. One third of all space shuttle flights have been reserved for Pentagon use. The first of these will blast off from the new US space warfare base at Vandenberg in October 1985. The director of the much publicised space shuttle programme is in fact a military man - Lieutenant General James A Abrahamson of the US Air Force. He has now been put in charge of the Pentagon's Star Wars programme, which envisages spending \$27bn on research. The programme envisages using high energy X-ray lasers, directed microwaves and high-energy particle beams to destroy Soviet missiles and weapons, leaving the US free to launch a nuclear-first-strike, without fear of retaliation.

In order to preserve Reagan's few surviving brain cells, a sophisticated 'crisis management' system has been installed in the White House. Six Digital Equipment VAX computers scan reports from the CIA, the National Security Agency, spy satellites, and other intelligence gathering sources. This information is used to identify, automatically, potential crises for imperialism, and to propose diplomatic, economic and military options available to US imperialism and evaluate their consequences. The system received its first live test last year when it helped suggest the US intervention in Grenada, and 'managed' the invasion and its aftermath.

Steve Palmer

IMPERIALISM!

Reviews

BEATING THE FASCISTS?

Eve Rosenhaft, Beating the Fascists? The German Communists and Political Violence 1929-1933. Cambridge University Press 1983 ISBN 0 521 23638 X £24

The worldwide collapse of capitalism which began in October 1929 struck particularly hard in Germany. German capitalism had had a brief period of relative stability buoyed up by US loans, but when prices on the New York Stock Exchange plummeted, the German economy immediately fell to pieces. Within a year, the number of registered unemployed rose from 1.32m to 3m.

Every year saw an increase of about 50% in the number of unemployed, reaching a highpoint of 6m in the first two months of 1932, and again in the same period in 1933. This meant an overall unemployment rate of 20%, in some areas heavily dependent upon one type of industry it reached 80% and upwards. In the worst period, 17.5m Germans, almost one-third of the population, were living on the dole. After paying the usual rent, the money left for food was just about enough for one poor meal a day. After 13 weeks of unemployment dole, a person was transferred to another category where the benefits were even smaller and based on a kind of state charity. Under these conditions, many workers found that they could not afford the rent even for a slum flat. In Berlin, for example, workers who could no longer pay their rent moved out into the woods and founded tent colonies. Many of the employed only worked part time as production ground to a halt. By 1932, output was only 40% of what it had been at the beginning of the crisis, thousands of factories lay idle, a whole year's output of coal was heaped at the pitheads, while

working class families died of cold. Wages fell dramatically – on an average, hourly pay fell by between one third and one quarter.

Yet despite these conditions, the outcome in Germany was not a communist revolution, but the victory of fascism which destroyed working class organisations and re-armed Germany for an inter-imperialist war and attempted to destroy the Soviet state. This was perhaps the greatest defeat ever suffered by the working class movement. How did it happen?

The crucial battles for power centred around Berlin – the political capital of Germany, and a manufacturing centre second in importance only to the heavy iron, steel and coal industry of the Ruhr. 'Red Berlin' was a working class stronghold – in the poorest districts the Communist Party of Germany (KPD) had massive support, registering up to 60% of the vote in some areas. Together with the Social Democrats (SPD), whose support came mainly from the better off workers, they constituted a solid core of opposition to the capitalist class strategy of making the workers pay for the crisis. Eve Rosenhaft's book gives a vivid account of working class resistance in this period. The KPD led numerous marches on the welfare offices – the situation became so threatening that in March 1931 the employees of the welfare bureaux were armed with clubs! Detachments of the unemployed were organised to attempt to prevent the increasing number of evictions. Above all, local communists organised the defence of their areas against Nazi invasion. The Nazi tactics included marches (under police protection) into communist areas; and they bought up pubs in such areas, turning them into fortresses which were used as bases for attacks on local workers. It is clear from Rosenhaft's account that it was especially the young workers who took the lead in the physical defence of the neighbourhoods.

NEW ZEALAND AGAINST THE TOUR

PATU, a 110 min film by Merata Mita about the demonstrations against the South African rugby tour in New Zealand

With stills from Soweto and a sound track of 'Amandla Ngawethu, Remember Soweto, Sharpeville, Nelson Mandela', we are plunged straight into PATU, meaning 'Strike' or 'hand-weapon' in Maori. The people of New Zealand almost faced civil war when an anti-apartheid campaign built up against the Springboks Tour of 1981 and soon recognised their enemy at home.

In September 1980 Merata Mita the producer and director follows the people: a 4 year old child leaflets on the street, near a huge banner headed 'Mobilise – Stop the Tour', a campaign that took a year to organise. We march with people, we join their chanting at meetings, in a violent year of baton beatings by the police.

Merata, a Maori woman, is refused a camera, faces constant threats by the government and the police and abusive phone calls when she gets a voluntary crew and starts the filming; some of the material disappears, she is forced to smuggle the negative abroad.

In this powerful documentary, Merata records the history of a day-to-day mobilisation of a popular movement which soon learns to face the repression imposed by the Muldoon government collaborating with apartheid. Everything is in the open: the vicious beatings, the courageous resistance of the people. Half the population is finally mobilised, devising new tactics as the fight intensifies: street theatre, sit-ins, direct confrontation with the police – even a plane dropping flour bombs on the last rugby field. The Union Jack and the French Tricolour are burnt at a street rally... a shack is built next to a post for the control of passes... Molot-sane, a banned trade-unionist, inspires enthusiastic youth and old folk alike. Fearless Maoris and Australian Aborigines are in the frontline. John Osmer, a priest who worked in South Africa, exposes the \$3bn profit made from the price of gold, the blood money that kills starving black children. Ordinary pub regulars join a demo, holding their beer mugs. The police are caught 'blood'

handed, by the frontline cameras: they twist arms, kick people and beat them up.

People and police fall in muddy mêlées, in barbed wire and in rugby fields. The protesters break fences, destroy barbed wire to face nearer to the enemy, shouting 'the whole world is watching!'. A bomb explodes at the airport. The Hamilton game is called off! First victory! 'Solidarity for ever'.

In Palmerston North, the army is called in to discredit the stand against apartheid; Police and army move in. 'Remember Soweto', it's now 12 September 1981. Demonstrators now wear helmets and wooden shields. 'Shame' is their war cry. They face the riot squads in a kind of war dance. Heavy fighting follows. Casualties are many. The flowers are thrown at the police with the words: 'we are not fighting you, we are fighting racism, come and join us'. A bloody battle is their answer.

In Wellington fences and barbed wire are sent flying. Violence breaks out.

In Auckland people are viciously attacked and fall onto the barbed wire. 2,000 are arrested, many are injured, some are maimed for life.

The morality of the story is drawn by one of the people's marshalls: 'We are in contempt of the government. We do not fear them. History is always on the side of the people. Fight South Africa, but remember, it's happening here too'. Beware of the 1985 Tour!

A film not to be missed, for it's a film of the people for the people, who fought a serious battle against an apartheid rugby game.

Colette Levy

(at the preview 21/5/84)
The British Premiere is on 22 June 1984 at The Phoenix, East Finchley N2.
Further information: 01-434 2623

Eye witness

From the Soweto Day re-enactment (16 June 1981) by my school to the final test match on 12 September 1981 – the anniversary of Biko's death – I took part in demonstrations against apartheid in New Zealand which are recorded in Patu! The cost to the people was great but we stood strong and our struggle was watched by the world.

Kia kaha! ka whauwhai tonu matsu, ake ake ake! (Be strong. We fight on for ever.)

Anna McMillan

IRISH REPUBLICAN POW CAMPAIGN IN BRITAIN

Irish Republican POW Campaign in Britain, 16 pages. 60p + 25p p&p, 20 or more at 40p per copy. Available from BM Box 6196, London WC1N 3XX. Cheques payable to O Bruen

On 8 February 1984 Sinn Fein-Britain announced that it was starting a new campaign for Irish POWs in English gaols. It has now published a short pamphlet, *Irish Republican POW Campaign in Britain*. The pamphlet outlines the five demands of the campaign:

1. Repatriation, on demand, to gaols in Ireland

The fascists received considerable support from the capitalist class, and were protected by the state whenever the oppressed seemed about to destroy their organisations. Legislation which was supposedly even-handed against fascism and communism always came down heaviest against the communists. For example, in the 3 months following the Emergency Decree for Combating Excesses in 1931, two-thirds of the cases were brought against the KPD and its supporters. This aspect of the political struggle lies somewhat outside the scope of Rosenhaft's book, but what it does provide is some interesting insights into the relationship between the KPD and the Social Democrats.

Social Democrats and Trotskyists usually argue that it was because the working class was split between Communist and Socialist parties that Hitler was enabled to come to power. The KPD's attitude towards co-operation with the socialists was defined at the Sixth Congress of the Communist International, held in July 1928. The Congress correctly predicted that the period of gradual and partial stabilisation of the capitalist economy was about to give way to a period of capitalist crisis, imperialist wars, wars of national liberation and gigantic class battles. In the decisive battles to come, the Social-Democratic parties would fight on the side of the ruling class: 'In splitting and disrupting the united front of the proletarian struggle against capital, Social Democracy serves as the mainstay of imperialism in the working class.' The Congress reaffirmed its support for Lenin's argument that the leading element in the Social-Democratic parties consisted of the upper stratum of the working class, the labour aristocracy. It correctly assessed the 'difference' between the two wings of the Social Democracy: '... the right wing of Social Democracy, avowedly counter-revolutionary, is essentially for negotiating and maintaining direct contact with the bourgeoisie; the left wing is essential for the subtle deception of the workers. While playing with pacifist and at times even with revolutionary phrases, "left wing" Social Democracy, in practice, acts against the workers, particularly in acute and critical situations... and is therefore the most dangerous faction in the Social

2. Release of prisoners framed by the British police
3. An end to solitary confinement and special control units
4. Release of Patrick Hackett on medical grounds
5. Abolition of the Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA)

The pamphlet provides basic facts on these five important demands. FRFI gives its wholehearted support to these demands. The introduction explains Britain's strategy of criminalisation of the POWs – by denying that they are political prisoners, the government seeks to criminalise the Irish freedom struggle itself. So it is true to say on the question of repatriation more than any other single demand 'any victory of the prisoners will be a step forward towards the day when Britain is forced once and for all to withdraw, politically, militarily and economically, from Ireland'.

Democratic parties.' The Congress Manifesto listed a whole series of cases showing the treachery of the Social Democrats: it had aligned itself with militarists and armed fascists in the bloody suppression of the proletarian uprising in Berlin in 1919 in which 1,200 workers were killed; it conducted armed warfare against the Soviet Union; it openly supported the imperialist slave-owners against the colonial slaves (the British Labour Party); it betrayed the general strike of the British proletariat; and it helped and was still helping to strangle India and China. The basic truth of the Congress Manifesto, the treacherous nature of the Social Democrats, and their counter-revolutionary role, was soon vindicated in Germany.



On 13 December 1928, the Social Democrat chief of police in Berlin, Zörgiebel, banned open-air demonstrations in the city; in March 1929, the ban was extended to the whole of Prussia. On May Day 1929, the KPD called the workers onto the streets, while the Social Democrats organised their celebrations in closed halls. Rosenhaft describes the response by the Social Democratic police: '... demonstrating groups were confronted by specially drafted riot-police who used baton charges and pistol shots to beat them up... towards evening... there developed running battles between police and crowds all over the city. Dozens of people were arrested simply because they found themselves on the wrong side of a people line or as they attempted to flee a charge; in the aftermath there were numerous complaints of people having been beaten in police vans and at the station-houses to which

A short pamphlet such as this cannot cover the incredible story of the bravery and unbroken resolve of the Irish POWs and their treatment in full – the five who have died since 1974, the relentless beatings, the constant 'ghostings' to other prisons; nor does it expose the treacherous role of the Labour because which killed four out of the five POWs in its term of office, '74-79, and which introduced the PTA, the abolition of which is one of the five demands. The pamphlet contains the important message that 'the Irish political prisoners in English gaols are in the vanguard of that resistance' (to British rule in Ireland). They are also in the vanguard of the struggle for democratic rights of all prisoners in this country. For this they have won wide admiration and respect amongst English prisoners, many of whom have been won to Ireland's cause.
Tony Sheridan

they were taken' (p33). In the three days of rioting which followed, the police employed armoured personnel carriers and armoured cars; whole streets of apartment blocks were sealed off and arrests made on a large scale. Up to 40 people were killed and hundreds injured. This was by far the most serious incident, but only typical of the SPD-administered police action against the communists and their supporters. The Communist International had, therefore, quite correctly predicted that the SPD leaders would play as critical a role as the fascists in disrupting the militant struggle of the working class. In this sense, therefore, it was justified in terming the SPD 'social-fascist'. However, given that large numbers of rank-and-file supporters of the SPD were opposed to the fascists and to the policy of their own leaders, the KPD made a number of serious mistakes in applying this policy. Rosenhaft's book is especially valuable in suggesting two main failures in applying the policy.

Firstly, the policies were orientated towards the better-off section of the workers which supported the SPD, in particular the workers still employed in the factories and members of the Free Trade Unions. Even in relation to this section of workers, it put forward demands, in particular for mass strikes, which were utopian in a period of mass unemployment.

It failed, therefore, to consistently organise a united defence by socialist and communist workers against fascist aggression. Secondly, the KPD appears to have adopted a somewhat equivocal position towards the actions of its own members in physically opposing fascism, in particular from June 1930 onwards. At this point it seems to have adopted a policy aiming at 'work of differentiation and subversion within the camp of the labouring followers of the fascist organizations', while still adopting a sectarian attitude to the rank-and-file social democrat worker.

Rosenhaft's book is of great value in depicting the struggle of German workers against fascism at a street and neighbourhood level and contains many lessons for the anti-fascist struggle today.

Patrick Newman

MOSCOW WOMEN

Moscow Women, Carola Hansson and Karen Linden. Alison & Busby 1984, 191pp £3.95

The Bolshevik revolution of 1917 established full political and civil rights for women – at a stroke placing the new Soviet state far ahead of the bourgeois democracies. But, as Lenin pointed out in a frank speech to a conference of non-party women in 1919, this, the first part of the task, was 'relatively simple and easy'. The real problem however, remained to be solved: '... even when women have full rights, they still remain downtrodden because all housework is left to them...'. The solution, he said, would take 'many, many years'. Even as Lenin spoke of the new model workers' restaurants, creches and laundries, the imperialist powers were tightening their grip around the first workers' state – all resources now had to be directed to the life and death defence of the revolution.

Moscow Women is a collection of 13 interviews, held secretly with women in Moscow, which, interspersed with factual observations, attempts to give a picture of the present position of Soviet women. The interviews (all except 3 are with women either working in or studying for what would in capitalist countries be considered middle class professions) are concerned mainly with the problems of contraception (mainly achieved by abortion, which is free on demand), the accommodation shortage, the burden of shopping and collecting children outside work hours – all of which place burdens on Soviet women. However, rather dishonestly, the enormous gains achieved in the face of enormous odds are consigned to a chapter at the end of the book. There, the authors admit that 'it's taken for granted that a woman should be educated and have a profession... there is also guaranteed employment.' There are also day care facilities for 60% of the children who need them. And, the authors go on to say, Soviet women

'aren't exploited by the same ruthless and alienating commercialism as in the West, and they escape being used as sex objects for commercial and pornographic purposes'. In the absence of a serious attempt to provide a political and economic context for the problems raised in the interviews, the authors seem content to imply that a simple change of ideas, a change in political consciousness, could bring about social change for Soviet women – along the lines argued by sections of the women's movement in capitalist countries. What they do not mention, significantly, is that the material and social position of Soviet women is still constrained by the continuing imperialist encirclement of the Soviet Union and the continuing need to devote massive resources to defence. Bourgeois feminist authors may not like it, but the fight to destroy imperialism is the first step towards the full liberation of women everywhere!

Olivia Adamson

Nicaragua



CIA offensive

While the Sandinista government prepares for Nicaragua's first free and democratic elections, the Reagan Administration is continuing to lay the groundwork for direct military intervention against the revolution. Having transformed Honduras, to Nicaragua's north, into a US military base, it is doing the same with Costa Rica to the south. Stage-managed attacks on Costa Rican border posts have been blamed on the Sandinistas, giving the US ambassador the opportunity to claim that the Sandinistas are 'a threat to Costa Rican democracy'.

On 4 May, the Ambassador offered US military assistance to Costa Rica's Monge regime 'to defend itself against Nicaraguan aggression'. When the Sandinista envoy in the country tried to put advertisements in local papers exposing the set up he was promptly expelled. Within days US patrol boats, jeeps and other military equipment were being unloaded at the port of Liman. Then on 8 May the Costa Rican government submitted a request for \$7.6m US military aid. Plans are already under way to post 1,000 US troops in Costa Rica on the pretext that they will build roads! Costa Rica has a large debt to international banks and the IMF. US imperialism has used these to force the Monge government to accept the 'Honduranisation' of Costa Rica in exchange for assistance in dealing with its debts. Already dozens of CIA agents are operating in the country directing the intensified ARDE attacks against Nicaragua. The CIA is trying to unify ARDE based in Costa Rica and the FDN in Honduras. This has led to splits in the ARDE with an assassination attempt on the life of Eden Pastora, ARDE's military commander.

Simultaneously, US naval and ground manoeuvres with Honduran and El Salvadoran troops are in full swing in Honduras, the Caribbean and the Pacific. In the Northern province of Jinotega fierce fighting continues as the Nicaraguan people fight against ravaging FDN units who have been joined by Honduran troops in assault against towns and villages. This offensive, combined with the world economic crisis is taking a heavy toll of Nicaragua's economy. In 1983

the contras caused \$128m damage, equal to 31% of annual exports. Added to the collapse of coffee prices, Nicaragua has a \$900m debt, causing severe hardship for the people.

Military aggression against Nicaragua runs parallel with the attempts by the pro-imperialist bourgeois forces within the country to undermine and sabotage the 4 November elections. Despite election laws guaranteeing the opposition funding, access to the media and freedom to demonstrate, the bourgeois opposition is calling for a boycott. Their excuse—the state of war is not conducive to free elections!

US imperialism is preparing for war and is seeking to undermine the Nicaraguan masses. Its attitude to democracy was demonstrated by former US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, who said about Allende in Chile 'We cannot allow a country to go communist just because of the irresponsibility of its people.'

President Reagan, who will be visiting London on 9 June, will not need to urge Thatcher to support the US stand in Central America. British imperialism has consistently supported the counter-revolution there—in Grenada, El Salvador, Nicaragua and elsewhere. Doubtless they will issue statements couched in phrases about 'democracy' and the 'free world' as they plan further offensives against liberation movements and socialist countries. FRFI urges all readers and supporters to join the demonstrations being organised against Reagan's visit.

Eddie Abrahams

France

'Communist' dilemma

The outcome will depend not on politicians' whims but on the way the struggle develops in the working class movement throughout France.

The CP has remained for three years in the coalition government with four ministers in the Cabinet, in spite of its 'opposition' to France's role in the war in Chad and its 'opposition' to Mitterrand's nuclear policy and hostility to the USSR. These disagreements with France's imperialist stance were seen by neither the CP nor the Socialists in government as crucial. Mauroy, the Prime Minister, referring to the rhetorical criticisms said they 'had not been over essentials'.

Could he seriously mean that questions of war and peace were unimportant? No—but the CP's views were irrelevant because they were not backed up by any movement. There has been no serious opposition to the French military intervention in Chad, nor has a

Over the past weeks the French newspapers have enjoyed speculating over the potential split in the government. Would the Communist Party take their criticisms of government policy to their logical conclusion and leave the coalition? Would Mitterrand force them out?

peace movement developed of any size. There has been no pressure on the CP to turn rhetoric into a serious struggle.

The same rhetoric could have been expected again. We saw earlier in the year how the CP used its influence in Talbot to try to defuse and defeat the heroic militancy of the immigrant workers. However, faced with the death of the steel industry and massive cutbacks in coal and other sectors, the anger of thousands of traditional CP supporters has forced the CP to do more than simply mutter protests.

Over the past year unemployment has risen by 11% to 2½ million. Living standards have been cut back by 'auster-

ity plans'. The plan to cut 25,000 jobs in steel was the last straw.

At the beginning of April 50 hooded masked steelworkers armed with pickaxes stormed the SP's offices in Metz. 200 others cut the Paris-Luxembourg railway line with blowtorches. Thousands held protest demonstrations in Lorraine, Marseille and finally a 30,000-strong turnout in Paris.

Faced with this organised anger the CP could no longer trail along passively behind Mitterrand. However, when their leader, Georges Marchais, joined the mass demonstration but not at its head and after much hesitation, he showed their reluctance to provide a clear lead to the protests.

The CP's criticisms of Mitterrand's policy grew to such a degree that by mid-April the Socialists forced a vote of confidence, trying to oblige the CP either to back down or to leave the government. The Communists gave the government their vote of confidence, still waiting to see how far workers' opposition would develop. They are in a dilemma. Should they continue as part of a government of the 'Left', even though this government promotes 'rightwing' attacks on the working class? Or should they leave the government and give a lead to the protest movement on the ground, building up their militant working class support again?

This is really only a dilemma for those wedded to the idea of managing capitalism and turning it gently in a 'socialist' direction. Such an idea has never had any chance of succeeding, as Labour governments, German Social-Democratic governments and Mitterrand's government have proved every time.

The CP long ago threw in its lot with the fortunes of French capitalism. Their policy is based on building up a strong French economy, with stringent import and immigration controls. Their present protests have no basis in a commitment to communism, but aims to divert the anger and militancy of their traditional supporters, about to be thrown on the social rubbish-heap.

Sheila Marston

IRAN-IRAQ WAR

The Iran airstrike on 16 May which destroyed the 215,000 tonne Saudi Arabian oil tanker Yanbu Pride just north of the Saudi Arabian oil terminal Ras Tanura, has served as a pretext for increased imperialist intervention in the area.

Last October, US President Reagan threatened to use the Rapid Deployment Force in order to 'protect' 'Western' oil supplies through the Gulf. Since 16 May Reagan has redoubled pressure on his main Gulf ally—Saudi Arabia—to grant military and naval base facilities. In recent weeks US imperialism has supplied 2 KC-135 aerial tankers and 400 Stinger anti-aircraft missiles to Saudi Arabia and is presently discussing similar supplies with Kuwait. A group of 5 US destroyers plus at least 7 other warships are stationed in the area. There are also 2 British warships and French forces on standby in Djibouti. This military presence is aimed at asserting imperialist control over the area. Oil supplies are merely an excuse for this.

Only 14% of OECD oil supplies come through the Gulf of Hormuz. Only 4% of North American supplies come from the Gulf. Some of US imperialism's allies are heavily dependent on Gulf oil: Japan/Australia/New Zealand get 55% of their oil from the Gulf; Western Europe as a whole gets 28% from there. Thus establishing US control in the region would also strengthen US imperialism vis a vis its 'allies'. US imperialist domination of the region through manipulation of the Iran-Iraq war is the real aim of US policy.

Its immediate aim is to secure new base facilities in Saudi Arabia. British imperialism is supporting this policy.

The US, in fact, directly and indirectly, is supplying both sides in the war. US military supplies to Saudi Arabia find their way to Iraq. US military supplies to Israel find their way to Iran. Saudi Arabia—guardian of US interests—is Iraq's main ally in the war yet simultaneously Saudi Arabia finances Syria which is Iran's main ally. Britain and the US supply spare parts to Iran via the covert international arms market. The continuation of this reactionary war is therefore fuelled by US imperialism.

The Iran-Iraq war is being fought between two reactionary regimes to consolidate the rule of the respective leaders: Saddam Hussein in Iraq and Ayatollah Khomeini in Iran. The war is kept going—enriching arms-dealers, oil companies and other imperialist parasites—by the callous manoeuvres and intrigues of imperialism. It serves only the interests of domestic and foreign reaction.

At least 500,000 Iranian and Iraqi people have been killed and wounded. Poverty, inflation and unemployment mount in both countries as necessary resources are poured into maintaining the slaughter. On land the war is mainly fought in Kurdistan where the Kurdish people are denied their right to self-determination by both regimes. The peoples of Iran and Iraq are being sacrificed on the altar of imperialist reaction. Terry Marlowe

Imperialist Israel in Africa and Latin America

Imperialist Israel, with only 3½ m people, is in a grave economic crisis: in 1983, inflation was 200%, foreign debt US\$23,000m, balance of payments deficit US\$5.5m. It is now trying to widen its expansionist programme in Africa and Latin America as a means of resolving its crisis, and as repayment for its imperialist backers.

Israel was never on the side of liberation movements. As early as 1917, Chaim Weizmann, President of the British Zionist Federation, had established friendly relations with South Africa to secure a Zionist state in Palestine. Mossad, its intelligence service, has been very active in Africa with bases in Kenya, Zaire, Liberia, Malawi and South Africa. They co-operate with the South African intelligence agencies.

In 1973, most African states severed their ties with Israel over its aggressive wars against the Palestinians and neighbouring Arab states. By 1975, only 3 African countries had retained diplomatic relations, and Afro-Israeli trade nearly stopped.

Today, 10 years after the Yom Kippur War, Israel is trying to return to Africa. Within the last few years, Zaire, Liberia, the Central African Republic and Egypt

have agreed to renew their links.

South Africa, like Israel, was founded by British imperialism. South Africa was the first state to grant Israel diplomatic recognition. In 1948, Israel's love affair with South Africa had developed with the shaping of the diamonds industry. De Beers had been very generous with the Israeli diamond cutters and polishers. By 1973, South Africa and Israel were sharing the profits of their steel industry. The Iskoor factory in Israel is owned by Koor Industries and the South African Steel Corporation; Koor in turn is owned by Histadrut (Israel's TUC), which pretends opposition to apartheid. During that year, Pretoria allowed South African Zionists to finance Israeli organisations up to US\$30m a year and 1,500 volunteers went to Israel. In 1976, Vorster visited Israel, with military co-operation on the

agenda. Today, there are over 35,000 Israelis in Africa (25,000 in South Africa, 4,000 in Nigeria).

In 1981, Israeli exports amounted to US\$98m to South Africa. Next is Nigeria, with a total intake of US\$62m, followed by Kenya with US\$10.1m. Soleh Boneh, a civil engineer contract firm, won a US\$500m Nigerian order. It provides a cover for Israeli officers in Kenya. Another major export market is Zaire where Israel is trying to secure a strategic base for the US near the Angolan border.

South Africa is Israel's leading arms market, and 60% of Israeli arms go abroad. It is a channel for NATO supplies. One third of the Israeli workforce is concerned with the weapons industry. Israeli Aircraft Industries (IAI) and Israeli Military Industries (IMI) coproduced (with FN Herstal of Belgium and NWM Kruijthorn of Holland) Uzi sub-machine guns and Galil automatic rifles. Israel now produces the Gabriel surface-to-surface missile, similar to the French Exocet, but at half the price. In 1971, Israel sold a licence to South

Africa to build Uzi sub-machine guns. At present South Africa buys Gabriel missiles, Resker and Dvora patrol boats, Aliya missile carrying vessels, IAI's Kfir fighter bombers, and is partly financing the Lavi fighter bomber. Israeli military experts train South African troops in the use of these weapons and, drawing upon their experiences of counter-revolutionary war against Palestinian, Lebanese and other Arab peoples, direct the apartheid forces against the Namibian and Angolan revolutions.

Most alarming is the collaboration for a nuclear shell and since 1981 the construction of a 850-ton guided missile Corvette (the 09). Israel recognises the South African 'bantustans', supplying them with aircraft, training pilots and police.

The Zionists also deal with fascist governments in Latin America. Argentina has been its second major client after South Africa. Moreover, in the past 5 years supplies went to Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Peru and Venezuela. Imperialism uses Israel to supplement

its military support to fascism in Central America. By cycling funds through Israel imperialism provides itself with a convenient cover.

Between 1976 and 1983 Israel provided 98% of the Somoza dictatorship's military equipment in Nicaragua until the great victory of the Sandinistas. Guatemala is similarly equipped with the Uzi sub-machine gun being the major weapon of the Guatemalan Army. It supplied 25 Arava aircraft to El Salvador, and trained counter-revolutionary teams. With the connivance of the CIA, it supplies the contras of the ARDE based in Costa Rica with captured PLO weapons and US\$1,500,000 worth of assault rifles. Israeli military advisers are stationed with ARDE bands.

Today the PLO are helping the Sandinistas with pilots, technicians and advisors. Resistance is growing. The days of fascist aggression are numbered. The comprador-bourgeois puppets will not survive either. Zimbabwe has closed its doors to the Israelis and solidarity for liberation is spreading across frontiers.

Colette

Prisoners Fightback

NO CHANGE FOR WOMEN IN 'H' WING

On 2 February women in the maximum security 'H' wing at Durham gaol went on hunger strike to protest at the barbaric conditions they suffer, particularly regarding the food. (See FRFI 37).

23 out of the 35 women on the wing took part in the strike which lasted 35 days and ended with promises from the Home Office of improved food conditions. These promises have not been kept. Women in 'H' wing are still not allowed their own cooking facilities although this is one of the standard recommendations for long term prisoners. When the wing was used as a maximum security unit for men in the 1960s they were allowed these facilities which one ex-prisoner said 'at least made life a little more bearable, it was one of the few pleasures that we had.' The women's food comes over from the main prison and arrives cold and often tampered with.

The restrictive conditions for the women in 'H' wing contribute to a marked deterioration in their health. Women suffer loss of hair, loss of memory and energy, eye problems because of the fluorescent lights and lack of daylight, changes in skin colour and texture etc. The women have one small exercise yard surrounded by barbed wire and concrete and are locked up from 8pm to 8am every day.

During the strike their health worsened. Lorraine Greenwood who began the strike lost 5 stone and was put in the punishment cell which doubles as the hospital in 'H' wing. Judith Ward, the longest serving prisoner, who has been ten years on the wing, now weighs less than seven stone and suffers severe attacks of bronchitis and collapse. The women were taunted throughout the strike with patronising gibes from the staff such as 'all this dieting and staying in your rooms is not good for you'.

At the end of the strike Judith and Lorraine were not charged with any offence but were put on Rule 43 for a '28 day rest'. Judith was transferred to Rislely remand centre and Lorraine to Styal prison. Their families were not told of these moves and Lorraine's mother continued sending parcels to 'H' wing. Both women were denied radios and Lorraine had no springs on her bed. Ten days later they were returned to Durham and the Home Office gave no reason for the moves that were clearly designed to cause more pain for the women. Between them they weighed less than 14 stone and they were escorted on their moves

by three male and three female prison officers, four patrol cars with flashing lights and sirens blaring all the way, and eight motorcyclists.

As usual the prison department has shown its callous lack of care for the dignity and basic human rights of prisoners and has paid no attention to the brave protest of the women in 'H' wing. It is vital that these prisoners are given solidarity and support and we urge all readers to send cards, flowers and greetings to the women at the address below. Solidarity between prisoners has again been demonstrated by the flowers sent from men in Winchester prison to the women in 'H' wing.

Close 'H' wing Now! Victory to the prisoners!

Alexa Byrne

Send greetings to Lorraine Greenwood and Judith Ward, H wing, HM Prison Durham, Old Elvet, Durham City.

For more information on the Campaign to Close 'H' Wing contact: Women in Prison, Unit 3, Cockpit Yard, Northington Street, London, WC1 2NP (tel: 01 430 0767/8)

Write letters of protest to: The Prison Department, 89 Eccleston Square, London SW1

The Parkhurst siege trial

On Friday 18 May John Bowden and Jimmy McCaig were found guilty of falsely imprisoning Parkhurst assistant governor Gerry Scholfield and threatening to murder him. Their trial had lasted nearly three weeks. Despite the best efforts of John Bowden, his barrister Dora Belford and of Jimmy McCaig, the reality of the murderous British prison system was not brought home to the jury. For that reality is one in which prisoners are continually subjected to 'false' imprisonment, official violence and, indeed, death.

The Parkhurst prison siege began at 10.30am 4 January 1983 when John Bowden and Jimmy McCaig, armed only with Stanley knives, took assistant governor Gerry Scholfield hostage in his own office. Their demands were few and simple: an interview with a barrister, Mike Mansfield, a journalist, Roger Beam, and, in the case of Jimmy McCaig, a meeting with his wife. These simple demands took over 28 hours to accomplish because of the deliberate obstruction and stalling of the prison authorities. Obstruction and stalling that threatened the lives of both prison-

ers and of their hostage. As soon as all these demands had been satisfied, the prisoners handed out their weapons and the siege ended peacefully at about 2.30pm 5 January. At no time was Scholfield physically harmed by the prisoners. In fact, when he came out of the office, Scholfield ignored his own colleagues and insisted on accompanying the two to the hospital in order to assure himself that they were properly treated.

The background to the action taken by John and Jimmy is a typical story of prison barbarity and cruelty. John Bow-

den was subjected to conspiracy by prison officers to incite a violent attack on him. In Albany prison, prior to the siege, prison officers were showing photographs from John Bowden's original trial around the prison and making remarks such as 'Bowden should have been topped [hung]' and that he should be put through 'a mincing machine'. John was told of this by prisoners who had seen the photos - described in court as 'horrific'. John feared that he would be put in a situation where he would have to 'kill or be killed'. Such techniques are frequently used by prison officers. In the early 70s Irish POWs were repeatedly the target of such machinations and were often assaulted. Since then the powerful solidarity forged between Irish POWs and other prisoners has put a stop to this.

Jimmy McCaig too was the target of British prison barbarity. A young Scottish prisoner doing 4 years for robbery, he was refused transfer to Scotland and refused accumulated visits in a Scottish prison. As a result his family could not see him. Immediately prior to the siege he was threatened with being 'sectioned' and transferred to Broadmoor or Rampton. The reason? The fact that in Albany he had smashed up a wing landing in retaliation for the vicious destruction of his cell by prison officers. He returned to his cell to find it wrecked and his personal possessions, including a photo of his ten year old child, destroyed. This cruel act was the reason for his attack on the fittings on the wing landing. For this defence of his own humanity and rights Jimmy McCaig found himself, within 14 months of release, being threatened with indefinite detention in a mental hospital.

The transfer to Parkhurst only heightened his fears. He stated in court that the prison doctor, Dr Cooper, was known as 'Doctor Death' and that the practice of 'nutting off' ('sectioning' prisoners) was so common that such prisoners were called 'Cooper's troopers'. He therefore joined with John in taking 'extreme action' to draw attention to his position.

James Costello attacked

On Tuesday 14 April James Costello was brought to this prison (Gartree) it is believed from Lincoln prison for the purpose of appearing before a BOV (Board of Visitors) on a disciplinary charge (the result of which is unknown). At 1.55 he was seen being taken from the control unit and brought towards the reception area. He was with 2 screws one of which he was handcuffed to and a PO. His manner was normal and he waved to some prisoners who shouted him a greeting from a cell window. He was then put into a taxi. We assume to take him back to Lincoln.

Whilst in the taxi a struggle took place and the left side back window was smashed. An alarm bell was pressed and upwards of 20 screws ran to reception. JC was dragged from the taxi and beaten, punched and kicked into the reception. The doors were closed and moaning could be heard coming from inside. A screw ran to the hospital and ran back with a body belt. Seconds later he emerged again and ran to the punishment block carrying a black dustbin liner the contents of which are unknown. It is thought to be a strait jacket. The taxi was moved away and a yellow van was backed up to the doors of re-

ception. JC was then carried out in a body belt moaning in pain and thrown bodily into the back. He landed on the floor and was walked over by the screws who got into the van with him. This entire episode was watched throughout by a Chief PO and a Gov grade 4. The names of all involved are known by the inmates who witnessed this.

We would be pleased if enquiries could be made by any concerned body as to the well being of JC now (we are not sure if he has any family) as we fear he will be in some local prison. Either in a strip cell or a padded cell. This attack on JC is no surprise, as prison staff have been waiting for some time for such a chance, since his attack on the Yorkshire Ripper when the gutter press portrayed him as a violent maniac. The fact of the matter is JC has simply refused to be broken by this brutal system. A system which has reverted to the boot and the cosh!! When they attacked JC they attacked each and every prisoner they hold. They do not see a human being, they see a threat to their whole corrupt system. Today it is us!! Tomorrow it will be you!! And to do nothing is to allow everything. Gartree

Both prisoners made it clear that the hostage taking was a planned and calculated act to draw public attention to the terror conducted against prisoners by the prison regime. The protest was intended to be peaceful. And, apart from a brief scuffle when Scholfield was first taken prisoner, it was. Yet the prison authorities did everything to make it a violent incident.

It was they who deliberately delayed the arrival of Mike Mansfield on the scene. It was they who brought in heavily armed police and trained guns on the office. These armed thugs were aptly described by Jimmy McCaig as 'paramilitary gunslingers'. It was they who endangered the life of Scholfield when the prisoners overheard someone outside the door saying 'get that hardware out of sight of the inmates' and then talk about 'guns'. The prison authorities wanted to lengthen the siege. They wanted the opportunity to provide a pretext for using armed thugs against prisoners and for introducing even more repressive regimes in the prisons. They cared nothing for the demands or lives of John and Jimmy. They cared nothing, if need be, for the life of their own employee Scholfield.

John Bowden turned the trial into a political trial. Both John and Jimmy in their evidence cited the frequency of brutal attacks on prisoners; the use of forcible drugging; the intervention of armed paramilitary squads; the use of constant transfer and solitary confinement against protesting prisoners. Jimmy McCaig gave a demonstration of the use of body belts and described how he was beaten whilst in a body belt. He also referred to the use of 'hot and cold bath' torture in Wandsworth. All this material was brought out in court. And

all this material was ignored by the media. The British media once again acted as another arm of the British imperialist state protecting it against public exposure of its brutal prison system.

One moment of stark reality did occur in the trial. John Bowden had been asked about the consequences of his actions and pointed out that if he had done nothing and behaved 'I would be out in the year 2006.' The court froze for some 45 seconds in the face of this cold statement of the lifetime behind bars stretching ahead of John Bowden. Jimmy McCaig too summed up the experience of prison and who it is aimed at:

'I've been battered, beaten and suppressed for 16 months in solitary. But I'm only growing stronger because I refuse to submit to a bunch of thugs... I'm an ordinary man, a working class man. That's what I am... I was not seeking revenge, I was seeking justice.'

None of this, of course, had any impact on the judge, Mr 'Justice' McCullough. In his summing up he said that John and Jimmy's indictment of the prison system had 'nothing to do with' him. Quite so. Justice has nothing to do with bourgeois courts. John Bowden got 10 years and two five years sentences to run alongside his life sentence. Jimmy McCaig got 7 years and two 3 year sentences plus 9 months for escaping from Canterbury prison. John Bowden and Jimmy McCaig's protest was a justified response to a barbaric prison system. FRFI sends its solidarity to the two comrades knowing that this farcical trial and its vicious sentences will not stop the growing resistance in the prisons.

Terry O'Halloran

PERSONAL STATEMENT OF JOHN BOWDEN

Society, through its legal and judicial apparatus, has condemned me to spend the rest of my natural life in a prison system that regularly violates every single concept of basic natural justice. I was banished from open society for a serious infringement of criminal law - yet here I am deprived of any legal or civil protection from the murderous intentions and actions of a barbaric and antiquated penal system.

How can any so-called open and 'democratic' society justify the savage and inhumane treatment of any section of its population, within closed and secretive institutions? How can a society supposedly based on constitutional legal foundations tolerate the complete non-existence of legal or civil protections in relation to such a large group of its members?

If open society, through its relevant 'democratic' and legal agencies, refuses to effectively intervene in the treatment of prisoners then only prisoners themselves can and should use whatever methods are necessary to safeguard and protect their human rights - their very human and physical

survival.

My action at Parkhurst, I believe I can speak for James McCaig also, was not an act of overt, senseless aggression directed against a defenceless prison governor. My life, and the lives of many other long term prisoners, is under constant threat from a penal administration based on the worst and most inhuman methods of repression and control. In the absence of any official means of personal protection, I shall continue to protect my life and sanity in whatever way I believe necessary and most effective.

I am guilty of no crime. I simply responded in a perfectly natural and human way to a set of horrific circumstances that would outrage and greatly disturb a society completely conversant with the real facts and reality of the British prison system - a system carefully shrouded and concealed behind a thick cloak of sinister official secrecy.

I shall continue the struggle in every way possible to tear down that cloak of state secrecy and reveal the gross inhumanity that it seeks to hide. John Bowden

FRFI FOR PRISONERS

British prisons hold over 44,000 prisoners in squalid conditions amongst the worst in the world.

●696 prisoners died in prison from 1969 - 1980 - 42% from 'unnatural causes' in 1980 ●The list of black people dying in prison in suspicious circumstances is growing fast ●5 Irish political prisoners have been murdered by the prison authorities since 1974.

In the face of this repression prisoners have fought back and won significant victories. FRFI has consistently publicised and supported prisoners' struggles for their rights.

Help us to build on this work by giving a donation to our prison fund. Anything however small, is welcome. £4 pays for a year's cost of sending FRFI to a prisoner. 70 prisoners already receive FRFI free. A regular donation will help us to put this vital work on a firm basis. £10, £5 or whatever you can afford will contribute to the books, pamphlets and other necessities we send to prisoners.

We often receive donations from prisoners for political campaigns. Return this solidarity - support our Prisoners' Fightback Fund. Donations, cheques/POs (payable to Larkin Publications) should be sent to: FRFI, BCM Box 5909, London WC1N 3XX



IRA ATTACKS

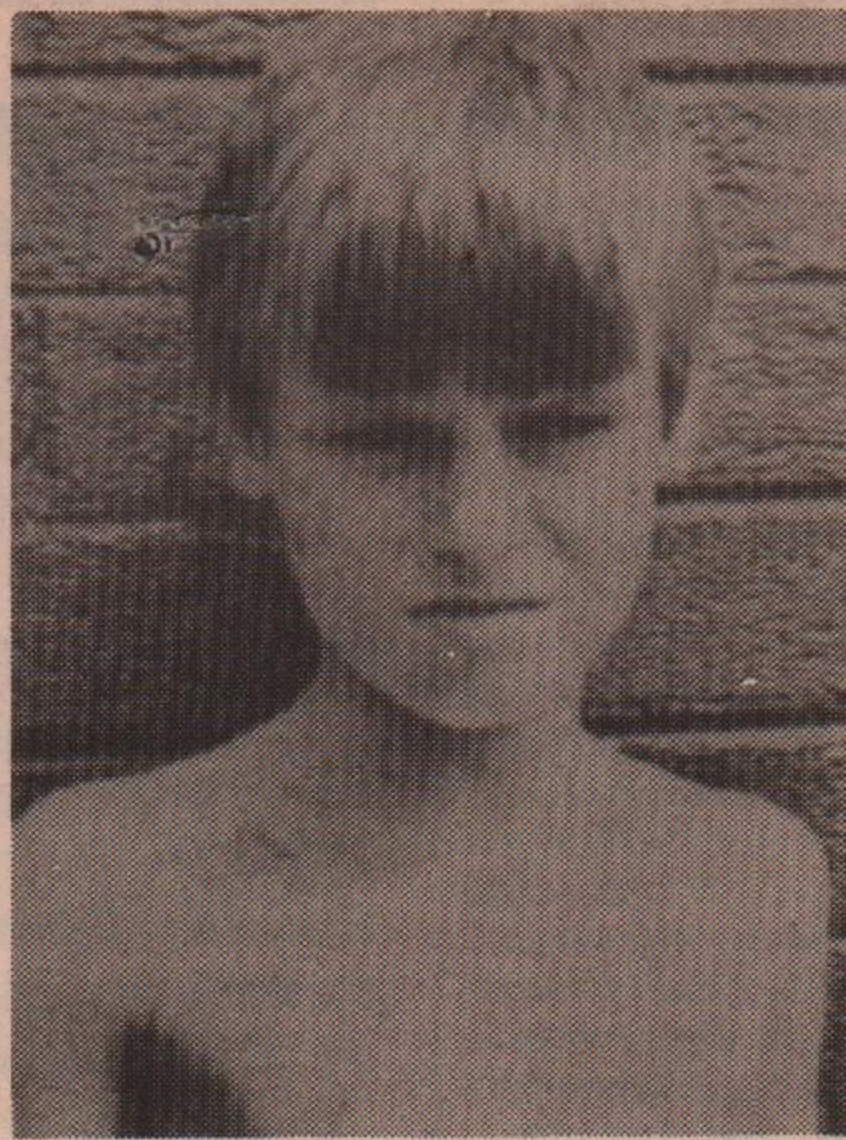
During May IRA volunteers carried out attacks which wounded 18 and killed 8 members of the British forces.

Booby-trap car bombs killed one and injured two Territorial Army in Newry on 9 May and killed 2 and injured 2 British soldiers at the Lakeland Forum, Enniskillen on 18 May.

In County Tyrone 2 UDR soldiers were shot dead on 8 and 12 May while on 5 May all four members of a UDR foot pat-

rol were wounded by a landmine at Six Milecross.

The Crossmaglen area of South Armagh once again lived up to its reputation of 'bandit country' for British forces. A 10 minute gunbattle with the IRA on 19 May left one soldier wounded. Culvert mines on 18 and 29 May killed two and critically injured a second British soldier as a 6-man Brit/RUC patrol crossed a field at Mounthill. Frank Coughlan



The home of 16 year old Aidan Shannon, a witness to a British army assault on his Lenadoon Estate in February, was raided in a vindictive attack by the RUC on his family. Aidan was arrested on suspicion of rioting, and when his widowed mother, Mary, attempted to accompany him to Woodbourne Barracks, she was thrown to the ground by the RUC. The RUC thugs set upon five of her children, all required medical treatment.

Not content with assaulting and terrorising children, the British imperialist forces have no mercy for pregnant women. On Thursday 26 April, the home of 20 year old, Mary McCann was raided, she was arrested, taken to Gough Barracks and held for six days. She is six months pregnant. Her home was raided twice whilst she was being interrogated. On Thursday 3 May, at 5.30am, a large British army force invaded the Twinbrook home of the McCormicks. Mrs McCormick, several months pregnant, began suffering severe pains, yet the British forces would not let her out of the kitchen and only after repeated demands by the family did they call a doctor. Mrs McCormick

In late April and early May the forces of the British army and RUC resorted to cowardly and vindictive attacks on young children and women. On Thursday 3 May, the RUC seized 12 year old Jimmy Allsopp, took him, alone, to Belfast's North Queen Street Barracks, illegally questioned him, assaulted him and threatened him with a Juvenile Detention Centre. In another case that day, British army and RUC stopped school children, searched their bags and demanded their names and addresses. Seven year old Gerard Rice had his school books thrown onto the road and was then illegally interrogated by British soldiers. The soldiers only stopped when local women intervened.

British troops terrorise women and children

had to be rushed to hospital with a threatened miscarriage.

In Dungannon town centre, on Saturday 5 May, expectant mother, Eileen Hughes, refused to allow her bag to be searched by a ten-man British army foot patrol. She was held for over 20 minutes by the soldiers; Sinn Fein member Frances Molloy arrived and demanded she be released. A crowd of 100 angry people gathered when the foot patrol tried to block the path of Eileen and Molloy. In the face of a hostile crowd chanting 'Brits out!' the British soldiers disappeared.

RUC blackmail

The RUC unsuccessfully attempted to blackmail two nationalists into supplying them with information: Sean Hughes, of Hilltown, was told if he gave information on Hilltown Sinn Fein they would forget about a £400 fine for

painting Republican slogans on a wall; Brian McNally, of Warrenpoint, was beaten and threatened with the UVF in an attempt to force him to sign self-incriminating statements and give information. Both men resisted these attempts by the RUC to intimidate them into turning informer.

British Terror Continues

The harassment, arrests, beatings and intimidation of the nationalist people of the Six Counties continue: RUC/British army roadblocks of towns and villages; a 77 year old man held under house arrest; harassing Mass aitenders and AP/RN paper sellers. These attacks, however, have only served to strengthen the resolve of the nationalist people against the British occupying forces.

Pauline Sellars

STATEMENT FROM SINN FEIN (BRITAIN) N.E.C. CONCERNING THE BANNING OF THE ANNUAL BLOODY SUNDAY COMMEMORATION MARCH BY SHEFFIELD COUNCIL

FRFI HAS RECEIVED THE STATEMENT PUBLISHED BELOW FROM SINN FEIN

On January 29th Leon Brittan banned all demonstrations in Sheffield, Bradford and Chesterfield in order to prevent the annual commemoration of Bloody Sunday which was organised, as usual, by Sinn Fein (Britain). Whilst on other occasions marches have been banned this is the first occasion when a ban has been generalised in order to prevent a last minute change of venue. Accordingly our demonstration did not take place this year. Sinn Fein have prepared this statement to clarify issues following the considerable amount of ill-informed comment concerning these events.

On 17th December a mobilising committee was formed in Sheffield and those taking part represented Troops Out Movement (Sheffield and Leeds), Socialist Organiser (Sheffield), Workers Power (Sheffield), Labour Committee on Ireland (Sheffield), Women in Ireland Group, Irish Freedom Movement (London, Sheffield, Leeds, Bradford, Manchester and Birmingham), Sinn Fein Society (Sheffield) and Sinn Fein (Britain). Sinn Fein made it clear at this meeting what its policy on speakers entailed and a platform was agreed which comprised a Labour or Trade Union representative, a Black community representative, an ex Pow, and a Sinn Fein speaker from Ireland. At this stage there were no objections from any quarter. In fact it was only at the next two meetings on 7 and 21 January that TOM and LCI announced their decision to withdraw from the committee. They gave many reasons for this decision including the comments made, during a Radio Sheffield interview, by a local Sinn Fein supporter who is not a member of our organisation. In this interview on 21 December, Tony Kelly said of the Harrods bombing, 'I would support what happened in London but regret the civilian casualties'. It is this comment which certain bodies are claiming provides a justification for the local Labour Council leader's decision to apply for a ban on the march.

We in Sinn Fein totally reject this interpretation on many grounds, the first and foremost being that it is not at all clear that this was the reason for the ban but besides this Sinn Fein (Britain) will not be held responsible for the statements of people who are not members of our organisation, just as we would wish to distance ourselves from statements made by local TOM members which attacked IRA military strategy. At the same time we would not seek to exclude such people from the mobilising committee any more than we would attempt to impose a single viewpoint on all campaign work in this Country and Sinn Fein (Britain) cannot support such a sectarian approach.

To return to the Labour Council decision to seek a ban on the march it is not at all clear that this was a result of Kelly's comments in any case. The first pressures against Irish meetings began with the bombing itself, and in the face of this Blunkett (the local Labour Lea-

der) sought to postpone a TOM/LCI meeting on the use of paid perjurers in the 6 counties. This took place before the Kelly interview and it was this retreat by Blunkett which set the local press and media on the warpath. Blunkett completely caved in before this and banned the rally from the City Hall and eventually applied for and obtained a complete ban on the march itself. In the opinion of Sinn Fein it was this initial prevarication and failure to stand up to and combat press hysteria in defence of free discussion on Ireland which constituted the real threat to the building of a broad-based withdrawal movement rather than a few rash comments by a young fellow on a hostile and high-pressure interview. The recent events in Sheffield bear this out as far as we are concerned.

Sinn Fein intend to march through Sheffield in August of this year to commemorate the 13th anniversary of internment and we are confident that we shall defeat the ban. The controversy surrounding the ban has already led to a heightening of debate in the area and laid a basis for this follow-up march. Indeed within 3 weeks of the ban the Irish freedom movement were permitted to march through Sheffield and managed to mobilise some 800 people for its 'Speak out for Irish Freedom Rally'. The march passed off peacefully and so demonstrated the falsity of many of the claims made about the local atmosphere.

However the real criticism of Sinn Fein marches in Britain which is not discussed publicly but which can be read in a TOM internal letter dated 19 January which accompanies this statement, concerns a decision of the Ard Comhairle not to allow speakers from the IRSP at any of our rallies. This is being presented as a sectarian decision of Sinn Fein (Britain) and we feel that it is totally unfair to use this decision of the movement as a whole against Sinn Fein (Britain). TOM however have launched a considerable campaign against Sinn Fein marches because of this proscription. Their initial opposition to the Sheffield march arose from these considerations and it was only later that the Kelly interview was seized upon by them as an excuse to withdraw from the committee.

Sinn Fein (Britain) feel that the attack on our right to speak to the British people is part of a general campaign to destroy Sinn Fein after our major political success in the 6 Counties. The exclusion of Danny Morrison and Martin McGuinness from Britain, the gun attack on Gerry Adams and his comrades, Section 31 in the 26 Counties, these are all part of an attack on Sinn Fein which here included the ban on the Bloody Sunday march and the arrest of one of our members under the PTA for the sale of Republican literature. It can only be defeated by a strong political response in defence of Sinn Fein and not by attacks on comments made by Sinn Fein supporters. Sinn Fein (Britain) NEC. 8/4/84

Stop the strip searches!

'Eight screws were present, standing silently, waiting to see, hoping to see, another one "break". Then the dreaded words "RIGHT - STRIP"'. (Prisoner recently released from Armagh gaol.)

In November 1982 the barbaric strip-search practice was introduced in Armagh prison. Since then EVERY woman leaving or entering the prison, visiting the prison hospital, and on inter-prison visits, has had to endure this degrading persecution. 1,216 such strip-searches were carried out during 1983. One woman was strip-searched 84 times in that period. Up to 10 screws can be present at the search. If the women do not co-operate their clothes will be forcibly torn off them, sometimes by male prison officers.

When the women are menstruating they are made to remove sanitary towels, then both the sanitary towel and

the woman are searched intimately. A prison officer runs her hands over every part of the woman's body—a 'skin-search'. Remand prisoners have to endure this treatment many times in a week. Even visitors are searched. On 17 March the 18 year-old daughter of Republican remand prisoner Anna Moore was ordered into a cubicle by warders and strip searched.

The prison authorities also use every possible means of petty harassment. Cell switches and searches have been stepped up recently; on 29 April male screws even searched communion hosts being taken into the gaol by a priest; solitary, loss of remission and asso-

ciation are used as punishment for the most trivial 'offences'; warders listen to all conversation between the prisoners. Second-hand books are banned and the women are now not allowed to physically exercise in their cells.

All this is sanctioned at the highest levels in order to break the spirit of resistance and solidarity amongst the women. But the Armagh women will not be broken.

'...They are imprisoned because they denied the British government the right to invade their country. For their audacity, that same government has sought to invade both their bodies and minds. The Armagh women deserve every accolade laid on them.' (Written by recently released prisoner.)

Pauline Sellars

Irish Solidarity Movement News

HUNGER STRIKERS COMMEMORATION

In the absence of a national event to commemorate the hunger strikers local ISCs held commemorative events. Particularly notable was the London ISCs all day street rally at Wood Green. It attracted good support and was attended by FRFI, Ireland's War Support Group, Breakout! Collective and comrades from Manchester Women and Ireland and Northampton TOM. Speeches, songs and attractive displays ensured that a crowd was present and many passers-by gave donations and signed petitions.

Readers will recall that the ISM initiated a call for a united demonstration to commemorate the hunger strikers. This call was rejected most notably by TOM. Yet at the TOM Steering Committee of 7

May 'Members of the Steering Committee who attended (Sinn Fein's commemorative social and rally - FRFI) felt it was shameful that this anniversary was marked only by a social evening with one hour of speeches. Felt that TOM must anticipate this event much better next year...'. What hypocrisy! TOM repeatedly refused to even attend meetings called to initiate a united march. They themselves did nothing to mark the event and by their sectarian refusal to join with others they helped to sabotage the only real possibility of a national event to honour and commemorate the ten hunger strikers murdered in 1981.

DELEGATES MEETING IN MANCHESTER

On 13 May delegates from ISM-affiliated bodies attended the quarterly National Committee meeting in Manchester. Work for the week of action, 4-10 June, is going well, and the importance of a large, militant picket of Gartree Prison (Sunday 10 June) was stressed, given

the recent statement from the PRO for the Republican prisoners at Gartree. The ISM should be contacted now for details of the ISM delegation to Ireland on 11 August and also the national ISM demonstration and conference in October. Proletarian have affiliated to the ISM nationally; they have been active in South London and Southampton ISCs for some time.

AUGUST DEMONSTRATIONS

Sinn Fein (Britain) has called a demonstration in Sheffield on 5 August to mark the anniversary of internment. The ISM is sponsoring the march and joining the mobilising committee. The theme of the march will centre on Irish Prisoners of War in Britain.

A broad-based mobilising committee has been set up to build for a march on 18 August calling for British withdrawal from Ireland. The ISM has sponsored the march and joined the committee.

ROUNDUP

● Non-Stop Picket

On 26 May, City of London Anti-Apartheid Group started a non-stop picket, to mobilise support for the 2 June AAM national demonstration. As we arrived outside South Africa House we were confronted by over 60 police and van loads more waited round the corner. We were faced with an ultimatum from Commander Howlett, under instructions from the Home Office - to move across the road or else face arrest. The excuse he provided was that the 'peace and dignity' of the embassy had been impaired that week by a protest action of red paint being daubed over the gates and pillars of South Africa House.

Undeterred by these attempts to silence our angry voices, the picket throughout was lively, noisy and militant. We attracted hundreds of youth to join the picket, as well as long-standing campaigners. A large number and wide range of organisations and individuals supported the picket: Tony Benn MP, Richard Balfe MEP, Ernie Ross MP, Rodney Bickerstaffe (General Secretary NUPE), Adelaide Tambo, Bill McElroy (Westminster Councillor), Robert Latham (Camden Councillor), Terry Rich (Lambeth Councillor), Mary Nicholas, Paul Dimoldenberg (Westminster Councillors), Kings Cross Womens' Centre, Greenham Common, Stop the City, Gay Black Group, Animal Liberation - BUAV, Labour Movement Lesbians, Westminster NUT, East London Asian Collective, Tower Hamlets Unemployed Action Centre, Students from Middlesex Poly, Leicester Poly, Inquest, Danish Development Aid from People to People, ISM, WRP, Young Liberals, Young Socialists, Westminster North Labour Party and members of other Labour wards, Breakout Collective, FRFI and others.

On Friday afternoon, 1 June, people on the picket witnessed striking Kent NUM miners, linking their own fight for jobs with the struggle against apartheid. 3 miners were arrested for sticking posters on the South African Embassy saying 'Kent NUM says NO TO BOTHA'. Some other miners tipped coal over the embassy steps. Picketers witnessed the brutal way in which the miners were arrested.

The last few hours of the picket saw 200 people joining in singing of the Internationale, accompanied by the Big Red Marching Band, as well as other freedom songs. It was a tremendous, immensely inspiring finish to a picket which informed thousands of people of the AAM demonstration and involved many youth for the first time in the struggle against racism and oppression.

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● Defend the Right to Demonstrate! Drop the Charges Now!

PICKET BOW STREET MAGISTRATES COURT, THURSDAY 12 JULY, 10 am.

The campaign to defend Andy Higginbottom, FRFI supporter and joint secretary of City of London Anti-Apartheid Group, continues.

Andy Higginbottom was approached by police for questioning as soon as he had spoken for City AA at a Youth CND Rally on 4 March. He refused to talk to them and was consequently arrested on his way home for being a 'semi-vagrant' with a stolen bag. The police then charged him with assault - a totally trumped-up charge.

Andy Higginbottom's case has been raised in Parliament by Harry Cohen MP, and sponsors of the campaign include: Jeremy Corbyn MP, Frank Dobson MP, Richard Balfe MEP, Chris Smith MP, Dennis Skinner MP, Westminster Labour Group, Cosmos Desmond, Dave Wetzell (GLC), Councillor Heather Wetzell, Patrick Streeter, Andy Harns (GLC), Mary Cane and Ben Bousquet.

Many donations have been received, including £50 from Greenham Common Peace Camp. However, more donations are needed to cover legal costs, as legal aid is being denied. We urge all readers to support the campaign and attend the picket on 12 July at Bow Street Magistrates Court. This charge carries a possible 6 month prison sentence. Petitions can be obtained from BM City AA, London WC1N 3XX.

Ruby Khan

● Free speech defended

One of the consequences of the police attack on the Edinburgh Irish Solidarity Committee rally at the Mound on 12 May was that the police stole our megaphone.

They said that it was a production and would appear in court along with the user. We pointed out that we were not disputing its use and that it was a hired megaphone. Our Inspector Pollock stood firm. We'd get it back when justice was done.

Over the next week we turned on the heat. EISC members all wrote to the Chief Constable complaining about the police actions and their vindictiveness. Regional and District councillors got onto the police. The Glasgow-based Citizens Against Show Trials (Scotland-Ireland) and the Scottish Republican Socialist Party also protested, as did FRFI.

After sticking to their guns for the first few days, the coppers caved in and 'exercised their discretion'.

The megaphone was returned 10 days after they first took it. It won't be appearing in court after all and neither will the user, by the looks of it. Another success for the EISC! GC

● Stand against loyalists

In Scotland, progressive groups and individuals are continuously harassed and verbally abused by loyalist thugs. The Stand Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism! takes against British imperialism in the North of Ireland and the active support FRFI gives to the anti-imperialist Irish Solidarity Movement arouses both their fear and their hatred. Recently FRFI sellers were attacked by between 15 and 20 Hearts football fans chanting anti-IRA slogans. The paper sellers were left with many cuts and bruises. Hearts football fans have a history of loyalist thuggery, with many of them being members of the bigoted Orange Order. During the assault there were no police to be seen, despite the fact that there is a police box about twenty yards around the corner, and there isn't usually any shortage of police when FRFI are on the streets. The FRFI sellers however were undaunted by their assault and were back out on the streets within an hour, in even greater numbers, standing up for their democratic rights and showing the loyalist thugs that they wouldn't be intimidated.

Loyalism in Ireland is British imperialism's tool to defend their rule. Loyalism is the British brand of fascism. It is sustained through privilege, the privilege or advantage of one section of the population over another. It is anti-democratic and divides the working class. In Ireland, loyalist murder squads carry out attacks and assassinations regardless. The 'security' forces play an active part in these death squads, both in serving them and supplying them with arms and information. This is because the savage sectarianism of the loyalists assists the official agents of terror, the British Army and the RUC in trying to keep the oppressed Nationalist people down and maintaining British imperialist rule. Loyalists in Britain, particularly in Scotland, have the same role, ie to attack progressive and anti-imperialist demonstrations and rallies at will, in an expression of their hatred of those who threaten their privileges as tools of British imperialism.

FRFI will continue to stand up to these loyalist thugs, and will not be denied their democratic right to protest. All communists and progressives everywhere must say no to all forms of loyalist fascism and be fully behind the democratic revolutionary anti-imperialist struggle of the Republican Movement.

Kim Dajiley

EVENTS

JUNE / JULY

Public discussion meetings on

The Revolutionary Road to Communism in Britain: Manifesto of the Revolutionary Communist Group

- 2 The economic and political crisis of imperialism
- 3 The Marxist theory of crisis: capitalism and imperialism
- 4 Imperialism and the split in the working class movement
- 5 British imperialism: parasitic and decaying capitalism
- 6 British imperialism and war

Meetings in your area:

MANCHESTER

- 3 Tuesday 12 June, 7.30pm
 - 4 Tuesday 26 June, 7.30pm
 - 5 Tuesday 10 July, 7.30pm
 - 6 Tuesday 24 July, 7.30pm
- All at Slade Lane Neighbourhood Centre, 642 Stockport Road, Longsight, Manchester 13.

BRADFORD/LEEDS

- 3 Friday 15 June, 7.30pm, Leeds Trades Club, Saville Mount, Leeds 7
- 4 Friday 29 June, 7.30pm, Bradford Central Library, Princes Way, Bradford

DUNDEE

- 3 Thursday 14 June, 7.30pm
 - 4 Thursday 28 June, 7.30pm
- Both at Meeting Room, Wellgate Library, Dundee. Admission 20p

EDINBURGH

- 2 Thursday 14 June, 7pm
 - 3 Thursday 28 June, 7pm
 - 4 Thursday 12 July, 7pm
 - 5 Thursday 26 July, 7pm
- at Cannonball House (top of Royal Mile) above Law Market and immediately before the Castle. Admission 20p

LONDON

- 3 Tuesday 12 June, 7.30pm
 - 4 Tuesday 26 June, 7.30pm
 - 5 Tuesday 10 July, 7.30pm
- All at Freemason's Arms, 81/82 Long Acre, WC1 (nearest tube Covent Garden). Admission 50p waged, 25p unwaged

■ FILM

'Tsamelo: A Place of Goodness' film about the experiences of a black family in apartheid South Africa. Phoenix Cinema, London, Sunday 17 June. Available for hire on 16mm and video from Contemporary Films Ltd, 55 Greek St, London W1V 6DB

10 - 28 JUNE

■ GARTREE PRISON

National Picket of Gartree Prison. Support Irish political prisoners. Sunday 10 June, 1-3pm. London coach leaves Lambeth Town Hall at 9am, York Way (Kings Cross Station) at 9.30am. Tickets cost £5. Organised by Irish Solidarity Movement

■ LIVERPOOL

Picket against Apartheid. Free Nelson Mandela! No to Daily Post racism! Tuesday 12 June Holiday Inn, Paradise St, 7pm. Called by Liverpool FRFI

■ EDINBURGH

12 hour picket. Remember Soweto! Smash Apartheid Now! Saturday 16 June, East End of Princes St, 8am to 8pm. Called by Edinburgh FRFI

■ LONDON

Street Meeting. Remember Soweto! Outside Prince of Wales Pub, Saturday 16 June, 11am to 4pm. Brixton, London SW2. Called by South London FRFI

■ LONDON

Public Meeting Remember Soweto! No British Collaboration with Apartheid! Holborn Library, Theobalds Road, London WC2. Tuesday 19 June, 7.30pm. Called by FRFI

■ BRADFORD

Anti-Apartheid Group meets fortnightly. Next meetings: Tuesday 19 June, Tuesday 3 July, 7.30pm. Venue: Queens Hall Conference Room, Morley St. For further details write to: Bradford AA, c/o The Starry Plough Bookshop, 6 Edmund St, Bradford 5. Join our Mobile Picket - Saturday 23 June. End British Collaboration with Apartheid! Picket: 11am-12 Barclays Bank Market St. Bradford City Centre. 12-1pm The Co-op, Sunwin House, Bradford City Centre. 1pm-2pm Thomas Cook Travel Agency, Market St, Bradford City Centre. 2pm-3pm NEXA, Broadway, Bradford City Centre. 3pm-4pm Yorkshire Electricity Board, Cheapside, Bradford City Centre.

29 JUNE - 6 JULY

■ LIVERPOOL

24 Hour Picket Remember Soweto! Free Nelson Mandela! Free All South African Political Prisoners! Friday 29-Saturday 30 June, Williamson Square, 5.30pm-5.30pm. Called by Liverpool FRFI

■ LEEDS

Street Meeting Hands Off Ireland! Saturday 30 June, Dortmund Square, 11am-1pm. Called by Leeds ISC

■ DUNDEE

Whitfield Peace Festival Saturday 30 June 11am-1pm. Whitfield Labour Club. Organised by Dundee CND. Irish Solidarity Committee Stall

■ LEEDS

Public Meeting Smash the PTA and Police Bill! Fight Police State! Thursday 5 July 7.30pm Leeds Trades Club, Saville Mount, Leeds 7. Called by Leeds ISC

■ READING SERVICE FOR BLIND READERS

Do you or anyone you know want our literature recorded or in Braille? We have found out about a reading service which will provide a recording of FRFI monthly and/or Braille or books, **The Revolutionary Road to Communism in Britain: Manifesto of the RCG and Ireland: the key to the British revolution** by David Reed. They will also provide recordings of any other left literature you want. For more information write to us: FRFI, BCM Box 5909, London WC1N 3XX

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FRFI supporters are active in local campaigns, Irish Solidarity Committees, anti-racist campaigns and other political struggles in DUNDEE, GLASGOW, EDINBURGH, LIVERPOOL, MANCHESTER, LEEDS, BRADFORD, BRISTOL AND LONDON. If you wish to join us in our activities, help us sell FRFI and help build an anti-imperialist movement, contact your local seller or write to FRFI, BCM Box 5909, London WC1N 3XX.

GREETINGS TO IRISH POWS

The following Irish Republican prisoners have forthcoming birthdays. FRFI sends our greetings and asks our readers to send birthday cards, preferably recorded delivery to ensure their arrival.

19 June Con McFadden, 130662, HM Prison Gartree, Market Harborough, Leicestershire, LE16 7RP.
22 June Paul Holmes, 119034, HM Prison Albany, Newport, Isle of Wight.
July Sean Hayes, 341418, HM Prison, Southall St, Manchester 3
12 July Robert Cunningham, 131877, HM Prison Long Lartin, South Littleton, Evesham, Worcestershire
17 July Brian Keenan, B26380, HM Prison, Welford Road, Leicester

IRISH SOLIDARITY MOVEMENT

The Irish Solidarity Movement has affiliated bodies in Dundee, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Manchester, Liverpool, Leeds, Bradford, Southampton, North, South and East London. The ISM can be contacted by writing to ISM, BM Box 1320, London WC1 3XX.

MANCHESTER IRISH SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE

meets fortnightly. For details contact MISC Box 47, 434 Corn Exchange Buildings, Hanging Ditch, Manchester M3 4BN.

DUNDEE

ISC holds regular fortnightly meetings. The next are on Sunday 10 June and 24 June at 7.30pm at Trades Council Club, Rattray Street, Dundee

EDINBURGH

Join the Edinburgh Irish Solidarity Committee! We hold street meetings, rallies and other public events in our work. Weekly planning meetings every Sunday with education and discussion. Write to EISC c/o Box 110, 43 Candlemaker Row, Edinburgh

IRISH SOLIDARITY MOVEMENT

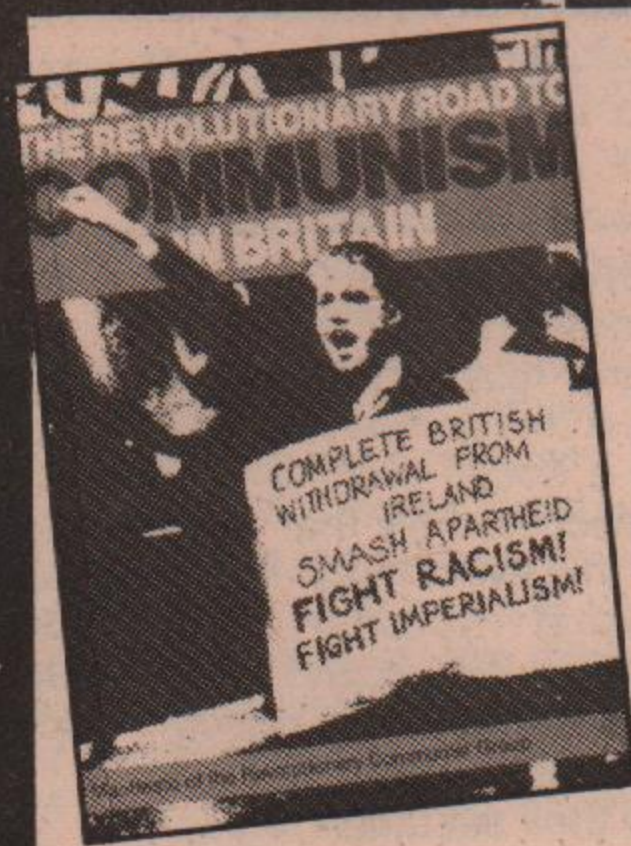
August Delegation to Belfast. Join the Irish Solidarity Committees in this delegation to join the commemoration of the introduction of Internment. Groups leaving from Scotland, Manchester and London. Saturday August 11-Sunday August 12. Contact EISC c/o Box 110, 43 Candlemaker Row, Edinburgh for further details.

MARATHON

Again this year, our two FRFI Runners in the 1984 London Marathon completed the entire 26 miles. David, Runner 1, completed the run in 2 hours 48 minutes and Alan, Runner 2, in just over 3 hours. They made this tremendous effort to raise money for FRFI and so far our supporters have sent in £126.20: from Manchester £46, North London £40.80, Edinburgh £14, South London £13.30, Leeds £5.10, Bradford £5 and Dundee £2. A further £30 has been pledged. Many thanks to all.

If you forgot to send off your sponsorship form or decide in hindsight to sponsor, please feel free to just send us the money saying what it's for and whether you want your name/organisation published in FRFI.

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'David Reed's book gives a detailed account of the last 140 years of the anti-imperialist struggle in Ireland and its effect on the workers' movement in Britain. It is written in a simple and easy to read style and must be of great value to the teenage youth... and also to the adult worker who knows little about the struggle in Ireland or its vital importance to him and his workmates...' Sean Mac Stiofain

Sean Mac Stiofain



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Larkin publications

Letters

Please note our address is, FRFI BCM Box 5909, London WC1N 3XX. SEND US YOUR LETTERS. We welcome letters from readers but please keep them as short as you can.

Budd in Norway

Dear FRFI,
I have received the books, and I'm reading the Manifesto at the moment - it seems an excellent restatement of the Leninist position on imperialism and the possibility of socialism.

The South African runner Zola Budd participated in a major competition in Oslo at the beginning of the month, along with Norwegian runners Grete Waitz and I. Kristiansen (winner of the latest London marathon). Any attempt to ban her from the race in accordance with the international ban on South African sports, was ridiculed by the bourgeois press, although there were doubts about whether she still retained her South African nationality. The arrangers gave her the benefit of the doubt, and only after she left the country did it become clear that she held dual nationality and that the competition was immediately exploited by the South African press. It was also made clear that her South African trainer had been allowed into the country on a visa 'by mistake', as it was admitted by an immigration control famed for its racism and brutality to black people. At the race there was a small demonstration against Budd's participation: 'You can't run away from Apartheid'.

Keep up the good work!

Yours fraternally
E H
Norway

and found me guilty of abusive language. 14 days loss of remission! I am in the process of trying to secure legal aid to enable me to get a Judicial Review on the hearing.

The following Wednesday I was charged with threatening to kill PE officer Huetson, and after a week's remand, and threats by myself to apply for judicial review if he convicted me, the dep gov found me guilty but only gave me a caution.

Last week, Wed 18 May, I was told, along with two other prisoners, to stay off work as we'd be required as witnesses for Pat on the board of visitors. In the event we weren't called, and Pat lost 3 months, 42 days of which was for 'assaulting an officer'. As usual the bastards assault someone, and then say that they were the ones assaulted. They didn't have it all their own way though as Pat threw the contents of his pot (excrement included) over a couple of screws down the block. He lost three weeks for that.

Well we all thought things had calmed down. I received a letter from a college I'd applied to... The college wanted me to go up for an interview... on 23 May... I was told I'd be given two days out. This afternoon, Tuesday 22 May, I was informed that I wouldn't be going as I hadn't turned up to see the chief officer this morning. The fact is, I was in the shower when the screw came in and told me I was required by the chief... I came down five minutes later to be told that I was too late to see the chief. Who decided I wasn't going to get my interview? The chief. The same chief who was chucked out of Brixton when Gerry Tuite escaped. As he knows of my correspondence with a couple of POWs, and with FRFI and An Phoblacht, it's not too surprising that he's done this latest piece of devilry.

I particularly enjoyed the article about Albany and Parkhurst, and the paramilitary squads, as did many other prisoners. Blokes are queuing up to read FRFI before it even arrives! I've started the Ireland book, and it's very informative, and well written.

Death to the fascists!
Smash the system!
Suas an Phoblacht!
Richard J Miles
HM Prison Blundeston
ps:... When I asked the hospital officer what was wrong with my foot, they said I couldn't be told, and that my brief would have to

contact the hospital, or the Home Office himself. So it seems as though we're not allowed to know what's wrong with us here! Regarding the reversal of the decision to allow me to attend the interview, I have informed the screws that I am on hunger-strike.

NOTE: The Home Office has confirmed that Richard Miles refused food on 22, 23 and 24 May. On 25 May the prison authorities agreed to a new date for his college interview. TO'H

US - 'Secure'

Dear FRFI,
What about the Olympics now?

I read a paper today which said, do you remember the hate campaign including calls for murder, under way against President Kennedy in Dallas at the time he was assassinated?

Today in Los Angeles a far more vigorous hate campaign is aimed at the Soviet people. You have, no doubt, heard of the slogan 'Kill a Russian'.

The USA's Security Services couldn't save this President. It is hard to believe that - even if they were trying - they could safeguard the Soviet athletes. Which, perhaps, shows only one thing - that the USA today, unfortunately, is incapable of behaving properly to its guests.
J Mulrennan,
Peterborough

Fight Imperialism

Dear FRFI,
During my trip to London at the anti-Imperialist Rally April 14-15 I really enjoyed the various speeches and activities and most of all the solidarity of all different groups of people who were there. I also learned quite a few revolutionary songs. I believe we must all do our best to fight against racism and imperialism in this country and anywhere in else in the world. In Africa and Palestine and Northern Ireland. British troops should be where they are supposed to be, in England. I believe in the right of repatriation for Irish prisoners of war in England and send my special greetings of support to Stevie Blake, Eddie O'Neill, John McCluskey, Dickie Glenholmes, Stevie Nordonne, Tony Clarke and Paul Hill, whose brother Ben gave a really good speech at a Rally at Strangeways Prison. Although I am only 13 I say: Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism! Victory to the Irish people
Victory to the PLO
Paul
Manchester

Mayday in Moscow

Dear FRFI,
4 of us went to the Soviet Union for a week which included the Mayday celebrations in Moscow. As we travelled into the city centre at 7am on 1 May one of the first sights were workers and their families assembling outside their factories and workplaces. Six miles out in the suburbs, these groups led by huge red banners, begin to join up near the centre. With not one sign of coercion or force (the common descriptions from the imperialist media) 4 million people in Moscow alone converged on Red Square in a sea of red flags. Banners and flags read Cruise Out! Peace Now! For four hours (it seemed like minutes) a million passed our particular vantage

point. We clapped until our hands were sore and our clenched fist salutes were returned by the demonstrators. This was a real celebration of internationalism and on the correct day as well. In fact the people of the Soviet Union get the two days holiday May 1 and 2. This is in contrast to the capitalists who give us the holiday when it suits them, and also in contrast to the British labour and trade union movement which has its Mayday parades on Sundays.

The people on the demonstration sent their kids over with paper roses and balloons for us. One of the central themes of the demonstration was the imperialist 'hot' war and resisting it. Other banners proclaimed solidarity with the peoples of Central and South America. After visiting the mass graves just outside Leningrad where over 500,000 Soviet citizens are buried, I can understand why the question of Peace is a central one for the Soviet Union. The graves are marked only by the years during which people starved resisting the fascist attack on Leningrad; 1941, 1942, 1943; the siege lasted 900 days at the end of which over a million had died. 20 million people in the Soviet Union died during the War and it is surely true to say that this resistance (while the so-called Allies stood by to see whether Socialism would be defeated) with the downfall of fascism. This victory is actually celebrated on 9 May when the parade is the arms and military forces. May 1 is just people. But what real determination and internationalism!

GC
Edinburgh

Letter from Japan

Dear FRFI,
I went to Derry to join the 'Bloody Sunday' march from the end of last January for four days. This was my first stay in Ireland. There the activists are not separate from the people. This is why the British government has never defeated the Irish people.

As I wanted to see more, I decided to visit and stay there from the end of last February for one month. I did so with my comrade. In Derry I stayed with Jim whose younger brother had been shot dead just one year before by SAS. At a field near his house Neil was shot dead by ambushing SAS men. Did those who condemn the 'violence' of the Irish freedom fighters condemn the Army for murder?

In Derry on 10 March I happened to see a march organised by Ian Paisley campaigning against the council's name change from Londonderry to Derry. Lots of soldiers and RUC officers with rifles and guns excluded people on the road before the loyalists' march came. Many young people attacked the armed cars throwing stones, bottles and bricks. In the crowd I met one youth whom I made friends with. He and his friends waved tri-colour flags. Then one middle-aged lady approached us and said 'Be careful. Many soldiers on the roof are aiming at you'. I saw many soldiers and RUC officers on the roof aiming at us with their rifles. I saw many people, particularly young people, waving the flags and hiding them in their pockets when soldiers approached. The Loyalists marched, after soldiers and RUC forced people out of the road.

The government while it makes it a rule to prohibit nationalist marches in mixed areas,

permitted Loyalists to march in a mixed area. It's natural that the nationalists were angry.

Before I went to Ireland, I met a couple of Irish people whom my English conversation teachers introduced to me. They all were members of the Labour Party. They told me that they NEVER supported the armed struggle, because it led to people's death and that Sinn Fein was fascist because it used violence to persuade people whose opinions were different from it.

About their definition of Sinn Fein I asked, according to their definition, was Mrs Thatcher also a fascist? Their answer was 'no'. Why, I asked, 'Because she NEVER used VIOLENCE'... I found it a waste of time to speak with them. By the way the couple were a teacher and a librarian IN LONDON. They told me that I was just a foreigner; so I could not understand the Irish Question while they had lived there for many years. They seemed to say that to understand the Irish Question it is necessary to live in Ireland. I must say to them that I have imagination. According to their 'logic' they can't understand the threat of nuclear weapons.

In Derry I attended a meeting of teenagers. Sean who was 11 years old took me there and spoke his own opinion clearly. A member of Sinn Fein, he was said to be an organiser, but he was very democratic. To all the teenagers, he tried to be just a chairperson. And I joined the disco for boys and girls organised by the community. All was managed by the youth. In this way the youth learn what democracy is like.

Many liberals in London who say they support the Irish struggle condemn the nationalists for their 'backwardness', for example in their thinking about communism, marriage and so on. I heard some say that they believed in socialism but not in communism because it destroyed religion. When I heard this, I felt sad. But in the course of my stay in Derry and Belfast I found that, although they surely SAID so, they were IN DEED true socialists and that their deeds

would lead them to understand what communism was like for them. To explain, I would like to give you an example. As stated above, I stayed at Jim's home in Derry twice. Both Jim and his wife Ann work. In the morning I sometimes saw Jim get up earlier than Ann and prepare breakfast for the family. Not only breakfast but also lunch and supper. As I had heard that Catholics were very conservative I was surprised at Jim's cooking and looking after the children. So I asked Jim and Ann 'Is it usual for you to share housework?'. 'Isn't it natural to share?' - this was their answer. I found that they learned much not from knowledge but from their daily lives. At first they might be forced to share the housework. But in the course of doing so they understood it to be reasonable. When the couple shared their work, their children also began to learn it. Indeed four boys and a girl helped their parents every day, washing dishes and serving teas. It is very important to see that, although they may not know what communism is like, they feel it. They said to me that in church when bishop or priest condemned freedom fighters for violence they ignored the establishment. By seeing them I learned that it was very dangerous to judge what liberation is like on the basis of books written by 'liberals' and 'academics'.

In Belfast we stayed at the Roddy McCorley Society. As there was a pub in the building, we could meet many people in the community every night there. When I was asked in Ireland and London about my impressions of Ireland, I answered, 'Of course I had read many books about Ireland before I came to Ireland. But here in Ireland I could FEEL something in addition to my knowledge.' One Irish person told me, 'Only one who can feel it can understand it.'

Another told me in Ireland, 'You are Japanese and you speak Japanese. We are Irish but we speak English.' It is very simple and important to understand the 'Irish Question'.
Seijyu Nakajima

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FUND DRIVE

MAY: £554.03

Colossal amounts of money are being spent to prop up Apartheid in South Africa. The racist *Daily Mail* spent £250,000 to import Zola 'white trash' Budd in the hope of getting her into the Olympics - that's more than many workers can hope to earn in a lifetime. Every day South Africa spends \$3 million to carry out its war against the people of Namibia. This is the sort of money imperialism splashes out to keep its grip on power.

FRFI needs a much smaller amount - £500 a month - to continue exposing and opposing imperialist collaboration with apartheid, injustice and oppression. Last month we managed to raise more than that. This shows that with your help we can carry on our work and continue to keep the price of the paper down to 20 pence so that everybody can afford to buy it.

With FRFI 39 the collective effort of our supporters raised £498.03: in South London £183.16, North London £126.06, Edinburgh £77.98, Manchester £61.80, Leeds £35, Dundee £7.50, Bradford £5.48 and Liverpool £1.05. Individual supporters sent in £56. We thank you all.

We will publish all contributions in this column. If you want your name or your organisation mentioned alongside the donation please say so.

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HANDS OFF IRELAND



REPUBLICAN NEWS

Perjury and injustice

Closely following the gaoling of ten Derrymen on the evidence of paid perjurer Robert Quigley, the next and biggest show trial began in Belfast. 39 men and women stand accused on the sole evidence of Raymond Gilmour. It is estimated that this trial will cost £4¼m and Gilmour has already received money, holidays, immunity and two years coaching at the hands of the RUC.

The trial had no sooner begun than it had to be first adjourned and then stopped altogether. The prosecution had opened it by claiming that Gilmour was not a conventional informer or 'converted terrorist' but that he had been a paid police agent since 1978. They claim he was recruited by the RUC and then used to infiltrate first INLA and then the IRA. The defence barristers successfully objected to this on the obvious grounds that these claims were made solely to bolstering the credibility of Gilmour and could not be tested in the court case. The Judge, (for there is no jury) then dismissed himself and ordered a fresh trial. All this means is that another judge who will know all about the evidence given will now take over the trial. He will warn *himself* to forget all this and will then go on to be the sole arbiter of the fate of those accused by Gilmour. What a farce!

In the run-up to another show trial Harry Kirkpatrick has implicated 31 people including his sister and her husband. His behaviour at the preliminary

enquiry has been bizarre – making V signs at his victims and smiling and laughing as he identified them. The RUC are going to great lengths to control the proceedings. RUC men have been spotted sketching the position of the defendants in the dock in order to ensure that Kirkpatrick gets their names right. They also unlawfully detained and searched two defendants, Kirkpatrick's sister and her husband, during a lunch break. Finally on 24 May the RUC brutally beat defendants in the dock when a struggle broke out in the court. Members of the public gallery had begun singing 'We'll meet again' and the RUC tried to clear the gallery. After the struggle ended blood could be seen pouring from the wounds of people in the dock.

Another informer Kevin McGrady has been described by a Judge as 'unpersuasive and quite incredible'. The reason for this unusual description? This time McGrady was giving evidence in order to free his brother Sean, currently serving a life sentence. The

Judges rejected the appeal. Yet last year the 'unpersuasive' evidence of Kevin McGrady was quite sufficient to convict and gaol seven Republicans.

The informer strategy must be fought. The Derry 10 have shown the spirit needed when in the dock they raised their clenched fists and shouted 'Tiofaidh ar la' (Our day will come)

**No to Informers!
Smash the Show Trials!**

Veronica F

ANOTHER SHOW TRIAL

On Tuesday 29 May committal proceedings against Tommy Quigley and Paul Kavanagh began at Lambeth Magistrates Court. Both men are charged with a series of bombings from 1982 and 1983. South London Irish Solidarity Committee joined the 60-strong picket called by the Irish Freedom Movement.

The two comrades were snatched in Ireland to be sent to London for yet another show trial. The whole of the street was sealed off for their committal proceedings. Both men have been committed for trial and both are remanded in custody.

**Free Tommy Quigley!
Free Paul Kavanagh!
Terry Marlowe**

TORTURE IN PORTLAOISE

On Thursday 3 May ten Republican prisoners attempted to escape from Portlaoise prison. They were met with what one prisoner described as 'an orgy of violence' from the screws. The prison system in the Twenty Six Counties repeatedly attacks and intimidates the incarcerated Republican Prisoners of War. Frequent cell searches, strip searches, beatings, solitary confinement and closely supervised visits are the routine. The Twenty Six County state is a neo-colonial terror machine designed to crush the Republican Movement. The prison system attempts to criminalise those who have been incarcerated for fighting for a united Ireland and beat them into submission.

The attempted escape by ten INLA/IRSP prisoners led to a 'riot' by the warders, inflicting serious injuries. The ten prisoners attempted to escape from the prison yard during their exercise period using ladders left in the yard by builders. In the ensuing attack by the warders, Dessie O'Hare was knocked unconscious, Eddie Hogan sustained a suspected broken leg and Gregory Carroll was also seriously injured. Such was the brutality of the attack that the screams of the prisoners were heard throughout the prison. Those who had been beaten were then strip searched and thrown into cells where they were kept for 24 hours without medical treatment.

This brutal treatment of POWs in

Portlaoise is not a new thing. In 1977 the POWs went on hungerstrike in protest at the conditions. In February 1983 Angelo Fusco was given two months solitary confinement for being assaulted during a strip search. Earlier this year as a result of this same strip search policy, Tommy McMahon appeared before the Special Court at an appeal hearing with two broken wrists. He had refused to co-operate with a strip search and was then hung up by his arms. Further reports are coming out of Portlaoise of beatings and assaults.

A recent letter from the PRO of the Republican Movement in Portlaoise highlights the intensified attacks on the POWs and their families. The POWs, as political prisoners, as he states have:

'no 'rights', only privileges which can be withdrawn at any time and frequently are. In the absence of any written regulations the rules are constantly changing and amount to no more than the day to day whims and fancies of Governor Reilly.'

Visits to the prisoners by families and friends are held under appalling conditions. Prisoners and visitors are separated by two wire mesh screens with dirty perspex in between from table top to ceiling. A warden sits in a wire cage overlooking and overhearing everything. All visitors including little children are searched and babies are not even allowed to take their rattles into the visit! The POWs in the Twenty Six Counties face the same brutal and barbaric conditions as in the Six Counties. The political nature of the POWs' imprisonment is not recognised as by the Twenty Six Counties government because to do so would mean recognition of the Republican Movement and its aim to unite Ireland. Instead the Twenty Six County State has instituted a criminal policy of repression against the prisoners, a policy which is being resisted.

Chas Millington

JAN TAYLOR – HARSH FINE

On Wednesday 9 May I appeared in court facing charges under the Prevention of Terrorism Act. My 'crime' was to display for sale the 1984 Republican Resistance calendar in a West London pub last year. According to the authorities it may have given people in an Irish pub which I have frequented for 8 years, grounds to believe that I was a member or supporter of a proscribed organisation, that is the Irish Republican Army. I was greeted outside the courtroom by a 30 strong picket consisting of Sinn Fein, ISM and IFM members.

Unfortunately, not all of them could get into the small courtroom to witness British justice in action. The section I was charged under, 2(j)b, is the only section of the Act that has to be tried before a magistrate and I found myself in a catch 22 situation. The case hinged on whether the calendar indicates support for the IRA, so I had put forward a political defence and admitted I supported the IRA then I would in effect be pleading guilty.

So it was decided to base the defence on the legal supposition that as I had been selling AP/IRN and other Republican literature in the West London area for the last 8 years and the particular pub in question was well known as a place where anti-imperialists frequently gathered on a Friday night, it would hardly have aroused apprehension in anyone when they saw me displaying the calendar. After one and a half hours, the magistrate hastily announced that the calendar was quite explicit in its support for the IRA and fined me £150.

It was obvious from this undue haste to find me guilty that his mind was made up as soon as he saw the calendar. There will be an appeal, and regardless of the outcome and the continuing harassment in West London of AP/IRN papersellers by Special Branch bully boys, Sinn Fein members will continue to disseminate the truth about Britain's military occupation of the Six Counties and the armed resistance to that occupation.

Funds are urgently needed to help towards the legal costs and the fine. Please send all contributions to: Box 6191, London WC1 3XX. Please make cheques payable to J Taylor. Jan Taylor



STATEMENT FROM GARTREE POWS

A chara

Following the riot and rooftop protest at Albany prison – a protest in which Republican POWs participated – there were calls from the Prison Officers Association for the isolation of Republican POWs under regimes of strict discipline and isolation ie control units.

Recently three of the Republican POWs involved in the Albany disturbances were transferred, after long periods of solitary in various prisons, to this prison – Gartree. A number of other POWs, who have been labelled as 'subversive' by the prison authorities, have also recently arrived here.

Other new arrivals here are members of the screws MUFTI squad from Wormwood Scrubs – six have so far been identified. These screws attacked and savagely beat prisoners, including Republican POWs, who were holding a peaceful sit-down protest in the Scrubs in August 1979 and, more recently, attacked prisoners who demonstrated in the Scrubs on hearing that inmates, including Republican POWs, had been beaten in the aftermath of the Albany demonstrations.

Gartree prison has also had its riots, the most recent of which occurred in 1978; included Republican POWs; and was sparked off by the forced drugging of prisoners as a means of control. Since that riot a 'tougher' regime has been established, a regime designed, it is believed by us, to either 'break' prisoners or, on failing in this aim, to create enough tension within the prison that another riot becomes inevitable and the opportunity thus presented for the MUFTI, strengthened by 'experienced' members from the Scrubs, to physically 'break' prisoners.

The outbreak of more trouble in a prison which holds 'subversive' POWs will add weight to the calls from the POA for the isolation of Republican POWs in specially designed control units; it would also enable the Brit Home Office to hide the true causes of tension and trouble within Brit prisons – the oppressive surroundings and atmosphere of Victorian built and regime run prisons –

by claiming that Republican POWs are the instigators behind all trouble within the Brit prison system.

To indicate the fragility of the situation here is a description of the regime in operation is necessary – exercise periods are restricted to 35 mins – prisoners are entitled, under prison rules, to a 60 minute exercise period daily; if a prisoner wishes to attend the prison gymnasium he must forfeit his daily exercise period; only two of the four wings are permitted to exercise at any one time; a mailbag workshop has been opened up (such a shop sparked off the riot at Albany) and all prisoners must pass through this shop – it is an induction shop (all POWs have refused to sew mailbags and the prison authorities have, so far, backed down. However, three POWs remain in this workshop long after the initial induction period (of one week)). The type of material used in this shop – canvas – was condemned three years ago as a health risk and the Brit Home Office was forced at that time to issue instructions for all such shops to be closed; a control unit has existed in this prison for a number of years, last year it was modified at a cost of approximately £250,000 only to undergo further re-modification when a prisoner escaped through one of the cell block windows and staged a rooftop protest. An ominous aspect of the design of this control unit is that a special door leads off it to the prison hospital; association has been cut from 3 hours nightly to 2 hours; time spent in workshops has been extended to reduce the time spent on the wing landings before meals; when prisoners complain of the restrictions they are told, unofficially, that if there were no IRA prisoners conditions could be improved for other inmates.

We think it is necessary that the situation here and the above details are made known publicly so as to counter moves to isolate Republican POWs in conditions of solitary.

**PRO Republican prisoners
Gartree**